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LETTER OPPOSING FREE LUNCHES FOR THE INCOMPETENTS

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Richard R. Slomon

Letter to the Editor

As usual, the altruist-collectivist dominated University of Washington Daily has demanded individual sacrifice and collective pressure for the needs of others. I refer to the articles in the "Daily Weekly" on famine. In spite of what these articles would have us believe, the solution to world under production of food does not lie in the initiation of a global welfare give-away or in changing consumption patterns of the productive nations. Why reward those who are irrational enough to bear children when the risk is high they will not be able to feed them? Why expropriate and punish those who are able and willing to produce, e.g. the American beef farmer, for those who are not?

I assert we cannot afford to give away our food for the following reasons (1) we must gain a direct economic return for our agricultural production by free market pricing if we are to continue producing; (2) we must not reward economic profligacy in other nations; (3) giving away food assures the rise of domestic food prices i.e. inflation, raising labor costs and lowering productivity this reducing the chance for world industrial development; (4) government supported food give-aways to foreign countries assures higher taxes, and spiralling inflation; (5) bureaucratic-welfare distribution systems are notoriously inefficient -- thousand of tons of grain have rotted on the docks of Calcutta over the years.

The United States government has been giving away food for decades under the P.L. 480 program, much of which has gone to India. Our reward has been the rise of a thoroughly incompetent socialist state which now appears to be developing an atomic arsenal.

The best way to solve the problems of economic incompetence (and let nobody kid you, endemic famine results in countries with little or no respect for the individual's right to life and property i.e. the necessary attitudinal base for laissez-faire capitalism) is by permitting the forces of the free market to operate. Countries attempting to operate on the basis of socialist and mystical rip-offs will have to learn that food production does not come for free, it requires individual incentive and ability to produce and a legal system which defends the absolute right to life and property. They will learn this or starve! An organism must produce to live, it cannot require another to live for it, or somewhere along the line a net loss to life must occur i.e. a sacrifice, this is the way of all life. There are no free lunches in life and it is best we learn these lessons now rather than supporting millions of dependents who grow to maturity believing that food must come free from the United States.\*

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\* This letter was never published, although, numerous letters and articles wailing for sacrifice were printed.