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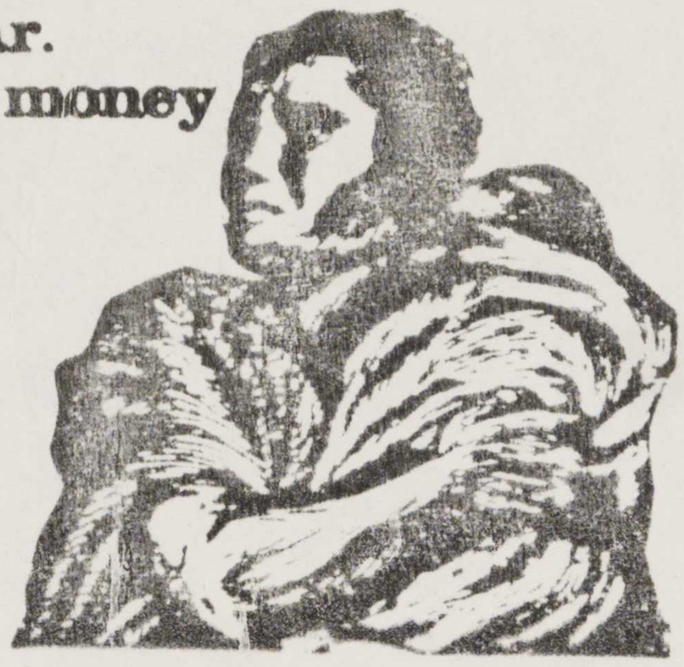
The money required to provide adequate food, water, education, health and housing for everyone in the world has been estimated at $17 billion a year. It is a huge sum of money

...about as much as the world spends on arms every two weeks.



Hunger is epidemic in U.S., study finds

BOSTON — Hunger has reached "epidemic proportions" throughout the nation, affecting up to 20 million people, a group of doctors and public health experts said today. The report, prepared by the Physician Task Force on Hunger in America headed by J. Larry Brown of the Harvard School of Public Health, follows a year-long study by researchers who traveled back roads in search of "the human face of hunger." They found growing lines at soup kitchens, surges in infant mortality and widespread malnutrition among the elderly, infants and the unemployed, and concluded that "hunger is getting worse." The report — "Hunger in America: The Growing Epidemic" — said hunger in the U.S. is due to the lingering effects of recession and Reagan administration cutbacks.

MYTH 2
Over-population

(For a copy of all 10 hunger myths write to us-Artists for Oxfam.)

Hunger exists where there are too many people to feed.

Countries with large amounts of agricultural land per person have some of the most severe and chronic hunger in the world. Brazil has more cultivated acreage per person than the U.S., yet in recent years the percent of the people undernourished has increased from 45% to 72%. In Africa, south of the Sahara, where we find some of the worst and most chronic hunger in the world, there are almost two and one-half cultivated acres per person, more than in the U.S. or the Soviet Union. In countries like Haiti and the Dominican Republic, with a high population density and widespread hunger, much of the land which is uncultivated is officially classified as "permanent pasture" simply because the well-off owners choose to graze livestock on it.

No one should discount the long-term consequences of rapid population growth. The error, however, is to transform the problem of population into the cause of hunger. Getting to the solution of any problem hinges on how well one can pinpoint its root cause. The root cause of hunger has to do with the relationships of people to each other and to their control over resources. As long as people think the fundamental cause is elsewhere, the hungry will in fact be made hungrier. Indeed, to attack high birth rates without attacking the causes of poverty and the powerlessness of women is fruitless.