CHAPTER I

PUZZLING QUESTIONS OF VITAL CONCERN TO 2,155,000,000 INDIVIDUALS

1. "The history of the world has been the story of a struggle for daily bread." This statement is quoted from *Hunger and History* by E. Parmalee Prentice, page 4. Chapter I of this book contains examples in support of the quoted statement. Also, read *The World's Hunger* by Pearson and Harper.

2. Hunger in England was greatly lessened as a result of the repeal of the Corn Laws (1846) and the consequent establishment of a free market. Explain the part played by each of the following in bringing this about: (a) Richard Cobden (b) John Bright (c) failure of the potato crop in Ireland in 1845. Consult *Civilization in Europe* by Schapiro and Morris, or any other modern European or world history book. Also, see *The Power of an Idea* by Raymond Leslie Buell.

3. Man's curiosity causes him to want "to go places and see things." This was as true of the Babylonians in the sixth century B.C. as it is today. In spite of this curiosity man had no faster means of transportation than a horse from the days of Nebuchadnezzar to those of Thomas Jefferson, i.e., for about 2,300 years. Why not?

4. In the relatively short space of 154 years – from Thomas Jefferson's time to the present – man has become able "to go places and see things" by railroad, by automobile, and by airplane. Why? Should you need help thinking about this question, you may find the following references helpful:

   For the Better Economic Life by Crawford H. Greenewalt
   Hunger and History by E. Parmalee Prentice. pp. 2-3; chapter IV
   The Mainspring of Human Progress by Henry Grady Weaver. pp. 12-16
   The Power of an Idea by Raymond Leslie Buell
   That Something by J. Ollie Edmunds

5. Hunger has been an important cause of wars. Discuss hunger as a cause of the Japanese invasion of Manchuria and China in the 1930's.

6. State and explain the Malthusian law of population. Give some examples from history of the operation of this law. What are the implications of this law with respect to (a) hunger (b) war? Are you a Malthusian? Explain your answer. For help in answering these questions consult *Hunger and History* and *Understanding Our Free Economy.*

7. "Women were not freed from their 18th Century servitude by feminist agitation, but by the invention of the sewing machine, the washing machine, the refrigerator, and the dishwasher . . ." This quotation is from *For the Better Economic Life* by Crawford H. Greenewalt. You may want to see this one-page explanation to find out how Mr. Greenewalt explains his assertion.

8. "Why did men die of starvation for 6,000 years?" Page 12.