FOOD is one of man's basic needs. Hendrick Van Loon tells us that "history is the record of man in quest of his daily bread." Many of the 53 past presidents of our Society have had much to say about food, and right they should have, for food is our business. The first president of this society, M. A. Carleton, defined the science of agronomy as "a study of field crops and their relations to the environment." This all-inclusive definition still stands and the field crops to which he referred include the cereals, sugar plants, and forages that directly or through animal products supply most of man's food.

But, how are food and peace related? Unfortunately, food does not guarantee freedom from war, either hot or cold. Some aggressor nations "in our time" were not hungry; but, lack of food as much as any other one thing brought them to their knees and has no doubt deterred others from going to war. Much of the international unrest and tension in the world today reflects the strain between the availability of and the need for food. A starving man knows no law and has no peace. He is ready prey to any idea that promises escape from his misery and is usually incapable of weighing the consequences of his decisions.

Recent studies reported in "The World Food Budget" reveal that "diets in 1962 are inadequate in much of Latin America and West Asia, and in most of Africa, the Far East, and Communist Asia. By far the most serious shortages are in the Far East and Communist Asia where consumption of all nutrients is below levels needed for desirable health and activity. Population growth in underdeveloped regions will continue to offset increases in food production, and shortages in 1966 will remain at about 1962 levels." An exploding world population threatens to double the number of mouths to be fed before the year 2000. The current rate of growth continued for 600 years would leave every inhabitant of the world with only one square yard of land to live on. Although, undoubtedly, man will solve the population problem long before that time, the fact remains that two-thirds of the people in the world receive an

1 Principal Geneticist, Crops Research Division, ARS, USDA, and the University of Georgia, College of Agriculture Experiment Stations, Coastal Plain Exp. Sta., Tifton, Ga., and President, American Society of Agronomy, 1962.