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America and many hungry people have benefitted from the low-cost, abundant food supply generated by American farmers. The research that has generated the technology base for U. S. food production has benefitted every man, woman and child in this country. The American public must realize the importance of continued support of agricultural research, because the years ahead are filled with new challenges that will take the best trained men and women that this country has to offer. We can't rest on our past achievements and hope the future will care for itself. care for itself.

By the year 2000 the present world population of four billion will have grown to nearly seven billion. Before 2050 it will double to 14 billion. Will we be able to feed and clothe the increased billions? Of course we can, if we have the courage and foresight to produce the technology base to get the job done. This represents an enormous challenge to train enough young scientists, provide them with the necessary resources to do the basic research, build the applied links to agricultural production, and provide the education to insure timely adoption of the evolving technologies.

We know the land-grant university system of teaching, research and extension has brought American agriculture far beyond many production systems throughout the world. It is our challenge to continue to build on the institutions that men like Fred Taylor have developed to help insure the future growth of U. S. agriculture. The job of generating the support needed to provide growth in agriculture becomes harder and harder as farm numbers decline, causing a smaller portion of the electorate to be informed of the needs of agricultural research institutions. It is therefore vitally important that the "agriculture story" be told well and often if we are to continue the needed flow of new technology into the U. S. agricultural production plant. It is men like Fred Taylor who have led the way. We must work long and hard to fill his shoes.