

ON THIRD WORLD NADA?

CN Layoffs

Strikers On March Again

IRVING WARNS: Home-made Solutions could harm lumber Industry and Jobs in N.B.

WORLD BANK Turns Capitalist

Production Lag Behind Inflation

Struggle For Jobs

100 Donors

Grocery Industry May Win Out Over Wheat Farmers

SALE

CPU Delegates Stand Firm Against FREE TRADE TALKS

Regional Disparity

But we have only begun. All the other houses in the neighborhood have also been removed; our suburb has become a shantytown. Still, our family is fortunate to have a shelter; 250,000 people in Calcutta have none at all and simply live in the streets. Our family is now about on par with the city of Cali in Columbia where, an official of the World Bank writes, "on one hillside alone, the slum population is estimated at 40,000 -- without water, sanitation, or electric light. And not all the poor of Cali are as fortunate as that. Others have built their shacks near the city on land which lies beneath the flood mark. To these people the immediate environment is the open sewer of the city, a sewer which flows through their huts when the river rises."

Now government services must go: no more postman, no more fireman. There is a school, but it is three miles away and consists of two classrooms. They are not too overcrowded since only half the children in the neighborhood go to school. There are of course, no hospitals or doctors

STRIKE!

nearby. The nearest clinic is ten miles away and is tended by a midwife. It can be reached by bicycle, provided that the family has a bicycle, which is unlikely. Or one can go by bus -- not always inside, but there is usually room on top.

Finally, money. We will allow our family a cash hoard of five dollars. This will prevent our breadwinner from experiencing the tragedy of an Iranian peasant who went blind because he could not raise the \$3.94 which he mistakenly thought he needed to secure admission to a hospital where he could have been cured.

Meanwhile the head of our family must earn his keep. As a peasant cultivator with three acres to tend, he may raise the equivalent of \$100 to \$300 worth of crops a year. If he is a tenant farmer, which is more than likely, a third or so of his crop will go to his landlord and probably another 10 percent to the local money-lender. But there will be enough to eat. Or almost enough. The human body requires an input of at least 2,000 calories to replenish the energy consumed by its living cells. If our displaced Canadian fares no better than an Indian peasant, he will average a replenishment of no more than 1,700-1,900 calories. His body, like any insufficiently fueled machine, will run down. That is one reason why life expectancy at birth in India today averages less than forty years.

And so we have brought our typical Canadian family down to the very bottom of the human scale. It is, however, a bottom in which we can find, give or take a hundred million souls, at least a billion people. Of the remaining billion in the backward areas, most are slightly better off, but not much so, a few comfortable, a handful rich.

Of course, this is only an impression of life in the underdeveloped lands. It is not life itself. There are still things that underdevelopment gives as well as those it take away: the urinous smell of poverty, the display of disease, the flies, the open sewers. And there is lacking, too, a softening sense of familiarity. Even in a charnel house life has its passions and pleasures. A tableau, shocking to our eyes, is less shocking to eyes that have never known any other. But it gives one a general idea. It begins to add pictures of reality to the statistics by which underdevelopment is ordinarily measured."

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"You're better off than the Third World"