

Commending the Academy for its "carefully considered opinions on a matter of highest importance to meeting the nutritional problems of the world, Secretary Udall said:

"The United States, through research conducted by the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries has assumed leadership in providing this lifeline of the future to the world's undernourished. It is estimated that in the United States coastal waters alone, fishermen could harvest for fish protein concentrate purposes over 7 billion pounds of fish annually without disturbing the brood stock necessary to assure continued harvests. Many of these fish today have little or no commercial value."

The "desperate need" for a low cost source of animal protein is evidenced, Secretary Udall said, in the fact that studies show "approximately two billion of the world's population now suffer from protein lack."

"FPC, which keeps indefinitely and is easily transportable to the most remote areas, can meet this need and at the same time provide limitless economic benefits to the commercial fishing industry," he added.

Secretary Udall said that he would give "the highest priority" to a program of accelerated research on FPC. Legislation providing about \$500,000 for such a program was lost when the supplemental appropriations bill was not enacted.

The National Academy of Sciences panel conducting the survey included:

W. H. Sebrell, Jr., M.D.
Institute of Nutrition Sciences
Columbia University

H. S. Olcott, Ph.D.
Institute of Marine Resources
University of Calif., Berkeley

James B. Allison, Ph.D.
Bureau of Biological Research
Rutgers University

M. B. Schaefer, Ph.D.
Institute of Marine Resources
Scripps Institution of Oceanography
La Jolla

Grace A. Goldsmith, M.D.
School of Medicine
Tulane University

R. E. Shank, M.D.
School of Medicine
Washington University

Harold Humphrey, B.S.
Consultant in Food Technology
UNICEF

The report concluded:

"Until a suitable and acceptable fish protein concentrate product can be made available commercially, the committee is of the opinion that there should be no consideration of a definition and standard of identity under the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and that the postponement of public hearings in the matter should be

continued indefinitely. Unduly restrictive regulations and judgments as to the wholesomeness, safety and nutritive value should not be made during the period of research on and development of new and possibly valuable food products, such as fish protein concentrates. Such actions constitute a serious handicap tending to discourage research and development initiative.

"The committee recommends that government agencies as well as private industries be encouraged to pursue basic and developmental research with the assurance that new wholesome, safe and nutritious food products resulting therefrom will be made available to consumers without prejudice:

"The United States is blessed with an abundance of food and, through research, has attained preeminence in food production and technology. In order to maintain leadership, broadly based and continuing research, with the freedom essential thereto, is an absolute necessity. Although there may be no demonstrable nutritional or economic need at the present time by the people of the United States for a fish protein concentrate, the committee reemphasizes its opinion that the public should not be denied the availability of safe and nutritious new products, and American industry should not be deterred from the research necessary to making such products available. The production of good foods economically should be encouraged by all means, and especially the development of procedures for the most complete and effective use of protein resources should be commended."

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