"The voice of thy brother's blood crieth from the ground". You'll remember these words as God's answer when Cain asked, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

The brotherhood of man has through the ages been a basic tenet of all great religions; yet in our own day we needn't look beyond our own country or our own communities to see the principle of brotherhood violated and denied. But on the world scene we're faced with a mass denial—from one half to two-thirds of mankind faces permanent hunger and malnutrition. And in this denial you and I are among the culprits.

About half the world's people live in developed countries where years of progress in education, agriculture, industry and trade, have made it possible to fill the needs of the people. We in Canada enjoy one of the highest living standards in the world. Do I say "enjoy" advisedly?—fortunately-born in a developed country, an abandonment to plenty comes easily. Do we forget the other half of mankind?

The other half means nearly 1500 million people who were unfortunate enough to be born in underdeveloped parts of the world—in areas scarcely touched by modern advance in science and technology. In contrast to our spiralling progress they're caught in the cruel circle of under-development—hunger and sickness, poverty and ignorance, low production—round and round. Their standard of living is unbelievably low: the simple right of every human being to enough food is denied them. To compound the felony their scanty ration is largely carbo-hydrate, lacking the elements necessary for normal growth and well-being. So every day millions lie, sick and dying of sickness that's preventable and curable. The dread protein-deficiency disease kwashiorkor attacks the babies when they're weaned and cut off from the protective elements in their mother's milk—the symptoms are languor, deformity, agony, and they die. For this half of the world's people then death walks
close to little children—if they manage to grow up their lives perform
a daily tragedy captioned HUNGER—in it the characters have touse all
their energy just to stay alive, and in the last scene, Death carries
them all off at about age forty.

We who've never known want anything like this shudder at the
thought of our child dying of something that could've been prevented
with proper food. That happy brood of yours around a generous supper
table to-night will be hard to identify as children of the world with
those millions of hungry and ailing ones. You mothers and grandmothers
will find it difficult to class yourselves as mothers of the world with
those others who can only look on helplessly.

But we in the so-called 'have' countries have for some years
possessed the scientific and technological knowledge and the wealth--
to change these conditions...The opening lines of this talk come back--
"The voice of thy brother's blood crieth from the ground".

By now you're saying "But a lot is being done" and you're right.
And perhaps you're asking "What can I do?"

As you know the United Nations and its agencies, our governments,
churches and many other groups have made inroads on world hunger;
through them we've given emergency help, economic and technical aid,
education and welfare services. But this problem of world hunger is
so vast, so complex and so vital to the safety of the world that it
demands an over-all concerted world-wide attack. Fortunately we
have an organization that, since it was formed in 1945, has been
qualifying itself for this sort of generalship—The Food and
Agriculture Organization of United Nations, F. A. O.

Since 1945 F.A.O. has worked intensively and steadily on the world
food problem and in close co-operation with all other groups in the
field. By 1960 F.A.O. had built up an accurate assessment and evaluation
of the total world food situation—it was aware of the magnitude, the
scope, the complexities, and the danger to the world of the resentment and unrest fermenting among the hungry. F.A.O. also knew the many roadblocks—burgeoning populations, rigid tribal and religious customs, limited resources, abject poverty, illiteracy, sickness—and often the dead stop before the widespread inertia. But side by side with these facts, F.A.O. placed the positive resources of the developed countries in wealth and technological and scientific knowledge. It was now in a position to announce a great conclusion and in July 1960 from its headquarters in Rome F.A.O. told the world that it's possible to banish hunger from the face of the earth forever. AND by the year 2000:

What a climax to the century of the common man.

Of course for this stupendous task F.A.O. has to extend its work, needs more funds and qualified staff, and wide gifts of peoples' energy and talent. From 1945 to 1960 it had operated largely on grants from its member governments—for this necessary expansion of its work F.A.O. launched a world-wide campaign, the Freedom from Hunger Campaign to run from 1960-65. This campaign calls on the people of the world to give this additional support by adding their support to that of governments. For its strength and effectiveness, the campaign will depend on individual awareness, individual participation and individual push. You and I and our fortunately born fellow citizens across the world are the heart-beat of the Freedom from Hunger Campaign.

The aim of the campaign is to banish hunger forever from the earth— to help the people in the developing countries to help themselves. They don't want charity forever any more than we do—they want the benefit of our knowledge, our help and co-operation, by which their people can learn to use their own resources to build a better future for themselves—men hunger for dignity and freedom as well as food.
Since F.A.O. launched the Freedom from Hunger Campaign in 1960, 60 countries have Freedom from Hunger Committees in action. At the World Food Congress in Washington last year organized by F.A.O., the duration of these committees was extended indefinitely. The executive officer of the Canadian Committee, a voluntary group, is Dr. Howard Trueman, the eminent Canadian agriculturist. In these first years of his retirement he's giving our committee his experienced leadership.

Nearly 60 organizations are represented on the Canadian committee and many are sponsoring action projects. Canadians are donating to these projects and also to the campaign generally. They're contributing as groups and as individuals. Does this begin to answer your question, "What can I do?"

In succeeding talks I'll speak of activities within the Freedom from Hunger Campaign starting with the major one of the Canadian Committee—the Canada-Mysore Project, to establish a food technology training centre at Mysore in India.

As the philosophy and organization of this universal drive against world hunger becomes clearer—we'll realize more fully that each of us has a moral responsibility AND an effective way of meeting it—we'll see how side participation in this world drive on hunger can put power behind our belief in the brotherhood of man. And we'll realize that we ourselves through knowledge, friendship and action can grow and develop and be enriched.

St. Paul's words seem prophetic to the Freedom from Hunger Campaign: "A great door and effectual is open unto us and there are many barriers".