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The Americans' thirst for information is insatiable. As collectors and purveyors of facts, newspapermen are properly grateful, if not surprised, to be reminded of this circumstance. Unfortunately, even the simplest fact never stands alone, nor would any reader allow it to. In addition to those relationships it may possess legitimately, the fact is given additional ones usually of a gaudier, more appealing nature in the context of the reader's prejudices. And this is where newspapermen -- and speakers -- get into trouble. No newspaper should ever be judged by the prejudices of its readers, nor should a speaker.

Few topics indeed are as emotion-charged as a discussion of the next hundred years in the Ninth Federal Reserve District -- unless perhaps it would be the significance of the major happenings of the past hundred years in this great region -- assuming general agreement on what those major happenings were.

But we are better prepared at least to speculate about the years ahead of us than our great grandparents were. Thanks to the Upper Midwest Research and Development Council, we have a defensible base in the optimistically termed neutral projections. These are logical extensions of trends that, unless interrupted, will deliver us to certain goals by 1975. I thought a few of these might sketch an outline of one of the possibilities -- and then it might be instructive to speculate a little about some of the exogenous variables that might change this picture.

Exogenous variables

Disintermediation

Population (updated projections--greater birthrate decline than nation)

1960	6,288,257
1975	6,988,878

Net out migration and below average population growth. (Have to do double service in-migration did not continue.)

Where will they be?

Urban	1960	52.8
	1975	59.9

North Dakota is least urbanized in U.S. Four of the six areas will still be less than 50% urban.

What will they be doing?

Retail trade	425,000
Service	402,000
Manufacturing	397,000
Govt., Fed-State-local	392,000
Agriculture	278,000

There will be 295,000 more jobs.

How much will they be making?

Total personal income (1960 dollars) - \$20,000,000,000. The rate was 2.7% against national rate of 2.5%. The data published in 1966 by the Census Bureau indicates that the national rate is now 3.10%, with South Dakota and Montana substantially below this figure and the rest of the District about on a par. The income increase is significantly attributed to the low starting point of agricultural income. These words are ominous--

"The productivity dilemma is evident again and again throughout the analysis of the Upper Midwest economies. Real income increases and real cost reductions are desirable, but the cost of economic progress is sometimes high in terms of displaced workers and shrinking employment opportunities in particular areas."

Natural resource orientation

Water

Fuel

Space - { clean air }

raw materials food, ores, lumber,
petroleum

Agriculture -

It is hardly news that ~~natural resource utilization~~ ^{agriculture} is the main thrust ^{one of} of our economy outside the Twin Cities. And will continue to be so. Both encouragement and dismay are inherent in this. Encouragement certainly for personal income will rise -- discouragement, though, for at first examination the decline in numbers of people involved would seem certain. But does this latter follow necessarily? ^{for all categories?} A close look at one of these, agriculture, shows some of the exogenous variables at work already.

Decline in farm numbers showing up.

Intensive rather than extensive or expansive.

Capital costs.

Managerial labor.

Technology.

Farming is now only a step between manufacture of inputs to the land to manufacture of inputs to the consumer. It is a process that starts and ends at the laboratory -- whether it be for the conditioning of the agricultural environment or the improvement of the human digestion, there is now a developing spectrum of specifics. The service industry to primary agriculture is growing enormously. And it takes people dispersed in service centers reasonably convenient to the farm. The farmer cannot afford the time or the equipment to transport many of these supplies. The trip to town for supplies has always been time consuming -- and with the enforced down time it implies for high cost equipment on the farm, he can no longer afford it as a business necessity.

equipment
1, 2, 3, 4
to 5000

~~What~~

Will these resources — water & power — be used ^{to ~~be~~ in the mfg of new materials} here or will they be shipped elsewhere? While present technology makes the shipment of electrical power very far impractical, this will not always be so. Instant power with nuclear energy may diminish the importance of both hydro and ~~conventional~~ ^{conventional} thermal generation — and improvements in electrical transmission ^{such as the laser} will make shipment of power easier. If they are shipped elsewhere, certainly our advantages will diminish. I would guess fewer than 2000 men are employed on the great hydro projects along the entire Missouri. Centralized computer control both public & private, makes the regional administration of power pools a present reality. Generators, gates — all the complicated apparatus of hydro generation is now centrally controlled for the ~~the~~ ^{for} most part.

Space has been ~~referred to~~ ^{referred to} as the third ^{ly} of our future. Certainly this country will need room to accommodate the burgeoning population — But where? and how soon? Population densities on the west coast and the east coast and the ~~Chicago~~ ^{midwest} are oppressive to us. But I suspect they are something less so

to ~~the~~ most of the people living there. There are not nearly as many people yearning ~~for the simple life of the~~ to hunt and fish and enjoy the ^{other} country pleasures as our chambers of commerce would have us believe - nor in absolute numbers are these ^{great urban} areas saturated. There is room still for continued expansion of megalopolis in most parts of the U.S.

Recreation and agriculture ~~may well~~ ^{will} probably remain the major land uses in most of our districts for many years to come. Certainly it is true many of our raw materials must undergo ~~within~~ a part of the manufacturing processes here because of the volume of material that must be handled. Taconite is a major example of this. The enormous lignite fields of the Dakotas and Montana are waiting for exploitation -- whether for ~~the~~ extraction of fuels, manufacture of fertilizers, -- these deposits are going to shape the future of these areas -- and it may be that ^{final} processing & manufacture will occur within the district -- although this is by no means a certainty.

~~dependent we are on predictable supplies for all processes of life~~ -- Much of
our national effort has been directed to creating predictable supplies. An
estimated 2.7 billion has already been spent ~~in this district~~. Of all the
projects which may alter the face of not only our district but the whole of
our continent, highest on the list perhaps is NAWAPA, the North America
Water and Power Alliance. This project, or one as daring, will come in our
fight to reshape our environment. Water transportation across the United
States, restoration of the level of the Great Lakes, and pollution control
of mid-American rivers would be only side benefits of this tremendous
project designed to distribute water throughout the western side of our
continent -- with a price tag of 100 billion -- chosen, I suspect, because
it seems such a good round number.

WINGSPREAD

computers =
resources =
water
air
space.

Agriculture
numbers
intensive cultivation
numbers decline may be abating
capital costs
profit margins
management skill

government
larger complexities
duplication of units with little
management functions - from Chinese ^{economies}
environmental control
political }
social }
physical }
economic }

Per sepe ad actus

Don't judge a newspaper by its
reader's preferences