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## Nature Note

### 'China Cow'

Ever seen a green cow that couldn't walk and grew green leaves? That's no cow, it's a soybean—a plant that produces so much protein that it frequently has taken the place of milk in China. Hence the nickname, "China cow."

The soybean, *Glycine max*, is an erect branching plant that grows from one foot to six feet high and is covered with fine tawny brown or gray hairs. These ordinary looking plants produce pods like a peapod, within which are the round nutritious seeds, produced in assorted colors—black, brown, gray, green, olive, greenish yellow, pale and straw yellow.

The most extraordinary thing about these soybeans is the very high quantities of protein they contain—essential for growth and survival of men and animals. The soybean protein contains more of the eight essential amino acids than the proteins of wheat, corn or rice. The bean can be ground up to make soy flour containing about 20 percent fat and 40 percent protein. This flour is used in such things as macaroni, crackers, sauces, soups, baby and diabetic diets, and beverages. The versatile bean is also high in vegetable oils which

go into shortening, margarine, salad oil, paints, soaps, rubber, textiles, gasoline and an odd assortment of other things.

The soybean has an ancient history. It was first cultivated in China and Japan more than 4,000 years ago, and was considered one of the five sacred grains, along with rice, wheat, barley and millet.

The first soybeans were brought to the United States in 1804 in a few sacks used as ballast by a Yankee Clipper ship returning from China. A few curious people planted the seeds and perpetuated the plant, but without much enthusiasm. For almost a century the plant remained obscure and unappreciated. Not until the demands of World War II did people realize the full potentials of the plant. Farmers throughout the country began to grow the bean in increasing numbers. In the past decade, soybean acreage has almost doubled. Last year, in his Food for Freedom message, President Johnson asked for more soybean production, and the farmers responded. More than 931 million bushels were grown in the United States—an increase of about 85 million bushels over the 1965 crop.

### PUBLIC POLICY

## A Response to Crime

President Johnson is asking Congress to infuse several millions of dollars into local systems of criminal justice in an effort to reform and upgrade police forces, courts and correctional programs.

He says the National Crime Commission, whose findings are not yet public, reveals that the country's entire criminal justice system is in need of "profound self-analysis." It requires "massive effort," says Mr. Johnson, to improve the caliber of police, courts and corrections officials, strengthen their techniques of crime control, upgrade the quality of rehabilitation, provide better counsel for juveniles and adults, and apply scientific technology to the courts.

But the system is essentially a local one, which the Federal Government has no intension of dominating, the President says. It must, however, help to encourage the kind of innovations needed to respond to crime in America, which has become a "public malady."

Thus, his proposed Safe Streets and Crime Control Act of 1967 offered to Congress last week would in its first

year provide \$50 million in planning funds to local agencies. For 1969, the President estimates \$300 million would be needed to implement the local plans, which could be anything from a computer system for police communications to a rehabilitation program to a new civil tack on alcoholism.

States and cities would have to come up with 10 percent of the cost of planning and 40 percent of the operational costs. In addition, Mr. Johnson asks for Federal grants of up to 50 percent of the cost of new construction—crime laboratories, new types of prisons located close to communities and police academies.

In his message to the Congress, Mr. Johnson unveiled some of the Commission's findings. For example: More than seven million people come in contact with criminal justice every year. Crime cost \$3 billion yearly in property losses alone. Young people under 21, specifically 15-year-olds, commit more serious crimes than any other age group. Much crime is never reported to the police; in some communities the actual figure may be ten times as high as is reported.