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Economics And 7 Nobel Laureates

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Seven Nobel laureates called yesterday for immediate "exploration of alternatives to the Western economic systems."

A statement circulated by Swedish economist Gunnar Myrdal and signed by six other Nobel Prize winners blamed the oil crisis in the United States on "a generation of government policy following private corporate interests without regard to the real energy needs of the United States."

"The wastefulness of the Western economies — in energy, in food and in the despoiling of the environment — is not an oversight, but an inherent trend in a system which still produces primarily for corporate profit," it said.

The world food crisis, it said, derives from political limitations on American agricultural resources "serving the interests of agribusiness."

The statement said the economic crisis in industrial democracies "raises serious questions about the very nature of the economic systems in these societies."

The statement was circulated by Myrdal on behalf of Michael Harrington, Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee chairman. The committee was formed in 1973 to work within the Democratic party to achieve Socialist goals.

Those signing the statement besides Myrdal were Maurice H. F. Wilkins of London, winner of the 1962 prize in medicine; Jan Tinbergen of Rotterdam, winner of the 1969 prize in economics; Alfred Kastler of Paris, winner of the 1966 prize in physics; Max Delbruck of the California Institute of Technology, winner of the 1969 prize in medicine; Kenneth Arrow of Harvard, winner of the 1972 economics prize, and Heinrich Boll of Cologne, Germany, winner of the 1972 literature prize. Myrdal won the 1974 prize in economics.

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