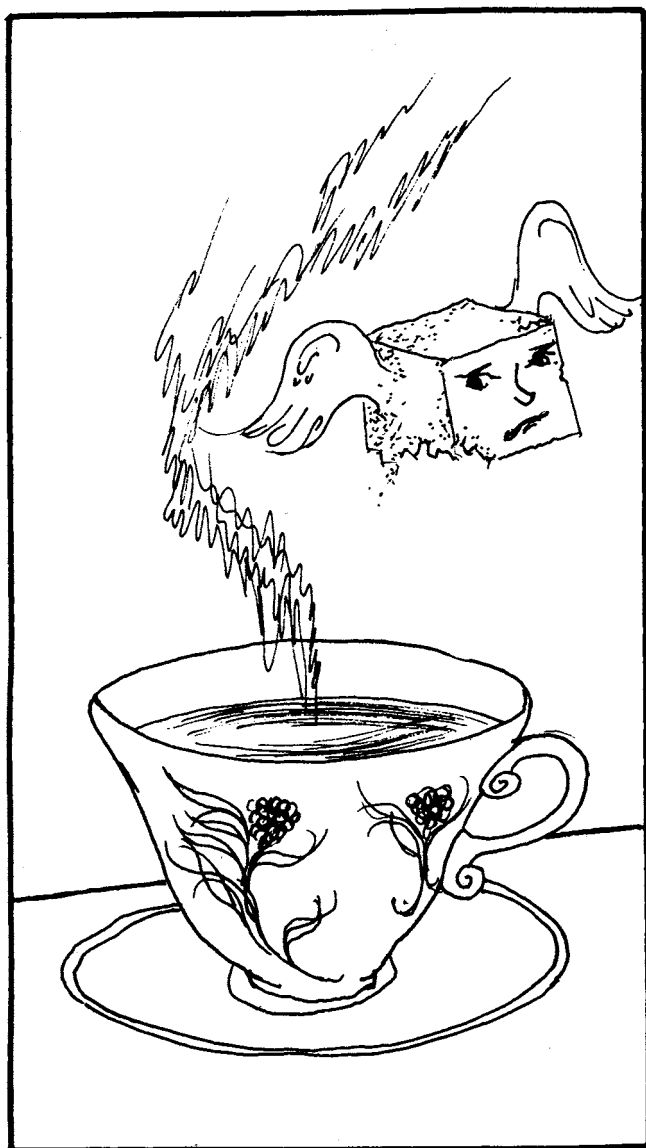


World Sugar Disappears — Embargo in the Works



August 11 (IPS) — Sudden shortages of sugar touched off panic and near-rioting among British housewives last week. Britons, proud of their world reputation for civility and polite queuing, nevertheless abandoned tradition in a mad scramble to get whatever sugar was left on store shelves, ignoring storekeepers' attempts to ration the supply. In several stores, sugar recently was bought up at the rate of 28 pounds a minute, while customers shouted and scuffled with each other.

The British government already is predicting shortages of dairy and poultry products to follow. Until this outbreak of panic the Labour Party Government had convinced the British working class to swallow Rockefeller-dictated austerity calmly. The next step will be food and fuel rationing in the "old war-time spirit," pushed through either by the Labour Party or a successor military government.

The explanation in the press of the sugar shortage is that the sudden sharp rise in world sugar prices is due to tight supply conditions and the reduction of the British sugar-beet crop by bad weather. In fact, U.S. refiners with Rockefeller financial backing have pushed raw prices up 100 per cent since July and 300 per cent since last summer, in order to carry out the well-planned embargo. Buying up all raw sugar supplies from major producers — Brazil, Argentina, and India — U.S. refiners are hoarding this year's **record** crop, which is expected to be followed by an even **larger** crop next year.

The purpose of this hoarding is clear. Its primary victim will be U.S. and European sugarbeet growers.

U.S. refiners are forcing a cut in world sugar consumption, and now will refuse to buy sugarbeets from European and U.S. farmers because of the tremendous "surplus." Whatever sugar production is permitted will come from Brazil and other Latin American countries operating on the Brazil model, and the "excess" farmers in the advanced sector then can be recruited into Brazil-style work camps in their own countries.