

state of agriculture

Agriculture Round-Up

McGovern Backs Rockefeller's World Food Bank; Sets Butz Up for Ouster

Sept. 12 (IPS) — Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz came under heavy attack this week from "liberal" fascist Senator George McGovern, who called into question his capacity to lead the U.S. delegation to the UN's upcoming World Food Conference in Rome. McGovern cited Butz's continued "unyielding opposition" to the Rockefeller faction's World Food Bank proposal. Placing maximum pressure on Butz, McGovern announced he will submit a resolution to the Senate urging the Administration to "adopt a posture at the World Food Conference worthy of the moral and economic position of our nation in the community of the nations."

A World Food Bank would allow the Rockefeller forces to maintain centralized finger-tip control over world food supplies. As advanced-sector agricultural production is allowed to collapse, the World Food Bank would ration out food only to those countries willing to discipline their workforce.

McGovern, in the recently released report of the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs which he chaired, came out in support of the full Rockefeller starvation program — ranging from centrally controlled food reserves to the shifting of agricultural production to labor-intensive third world *latifundias*. "Prairie Reverend" McGovern covers for this fascist economics with a series of exhortations to "greedy" Western workers to reduce their consumption for the "humanitarian" purpose of sharing shrinking food supplies with the starving people of the Sahel, Bangladesh, and other third world areas destroyed by Rockefeller.

Secretary of Agriculture Butz and the U.S. Department

of Agriculture bureaucracy generally have drawn the fire of Rockefeller forces because of their oversusceptibility to farmers' influence. Butz insists that food reserves be held in the hands of individual farmers — reflecting farmers' legitimate fear that the dumping of reserves will be used to drive down prices and drive them into bankruptcy. Butz also points out the obvious need for expanded production. Says Butz: "If you don't produce more, all the debate in the world won't divide it more satisfactorily." Ironically, some farmers' organizations like the National Farmer Union have been suckered into supporting the World Food Bank, not realizing that Rockefeller has targeted the entire advanced-sector production for liquidation.

Butz's continued intransigence towards Zero Growth policies compels the Rockefeller faction to carry out a thorough house-cleaning of the Department of Agriculture and any other governmental bureaucracy still vulnerable to the interests of farmers and consumers. As reported previously in IPS, Butz has been set up for an early "retirement."

McGovern's attack was preceded by an anti-Butz article in the *New York Times*, quoting Rockefeller men John Hannah, and James P. Grant, former head of AID and president of the Overseas Development Council. Said Grant, in a threat directed also at President Ford: "In the absence of a more positive program than Secretary Butz has put out thus far, the World Food Conference will be judged a failure and the public consensus will be that the U.S. was the primary reason for the failure. I cannot believe that President Ford would intend that result"

New Commodity Markets Regulatory Commission to Eliminate USDA Role

Sept. 11 (IPS) — In another attack on the Department of Agriculture, McGovern, with the help of Senators Humphrey and Talmadge (who also sat on the Senate Nutrition Committee), has authored a bill to create an independent five-man commission to regulate commodity futures trading. The legislation excludes the Secretary of Agriculture from the commission,

preventing any USDA intervention in the interest of farmers. Thus the commodity futures market will be at the complete mercy of such Rockefeller-linked speculators as Cargill and Continental Grain. This "regulatory" commission is merely one of many corporatist super-agencies on the Rockefeller agenda for the present round of the Oil Hoax.

Toronto Industrialists' Conference Plans International Fertilizer Rationing

Sept. 13 (IPS) — In a little-publicized pre-World Food Conference meeting in Toronto of "major international agricultural firms" (Rockefeller multinationals), capitalists discussed plans for the establishment of a

world fertilizer pool (to be funded with recycled oil dollars) similar to the proposal for a World Food Bank. The Rockefeller plan, as first elaborated by Robert Strange McNamara, is to abandon the highly

Just as a Rockefeller-controlled World Food Bank is necessary to control the flow of food rations to the human race, so is a fertilizer pool which will divert fertilizer and even the production of fertilizer from the advanced sector to selected investment zones in the third world. Similar plans for creating pesticide stocks and for lending out "managerial skills" to the third world were also discussed at the conference.

The rationale for a world fertilizer pool is that last year a world fertilizer shortage boosting prices 300-400 per

cent drastically devastated the food production of countries like India. This shortage stemmed from the Rockefeller Oil Hoax of 1973.

Recently, both the World Food Conference Secretariat and the McGovern Senate Committee on Nutrition have released reports endorsing such a fertilizer pool. McGovern's reports reveals that AID and McNamara's World Bank plan to establish a fertilizer "think-tank" at the Tennessee Valley Authority's fertilizer plant in Muscle Shoals, Tennessee.

New USDA Beef-Grading Swindles Consumer: Cattlemen and Meat Unions Capitulate

Sept. 10 (IPS) — In a transparent consumer swindle, the Department of Agriculture has announced a new beef-grading plan which will allow tons of inferior meat to be sold under "prime" and "choice" labels.

Choicer meats contain "marbling" (fat) which keeps the meat tender and results from grain-feeding the animals. Suddenly, according to the USDA, marbling is less desirable and the "leaner cuts" of meat will be allowed comparable grading.

Behind the beef-grading changes lies the fact that livestock producers, caught in a credit squeeze and unable to afford high grain-feed prices, are being forced to liquidate their herds. USDA figures show that cattle slaughter this July was 15 per cent up from last year and calf slaughter was up 40 per cent. Grain-fed beef will soon be scarce, as producers, needing cash to pay off their debts and unable to maintain the animals on feedlots during the winter, rush their cattle straight from grass-feeding to market. As grass-fed beef replaces the grain-fed — by late 1974 — consumers must be lured into paying the same or higher prices for the inferior meat.

The *New York Times* let slip the nature of the new grading system by making a pitch for working-class self-starvation: According to the *Times* the grain "saved" by reduced livestock consumption can be shipped to the starving third world! Both the National Cattlemen's Association and the Amalgamated Meat Cutters' Union are reported to have pushed similar beef-grading revisions prior to the USDA announcement. The cattlemen hope to save prices; the union hopes to save jobs. With such desperate tactics neither will survive the Rockefeller-directed credit restrictions and forced liquidation of the industry, which will lead to the eventual disappearance of even grass-fed beef.

A *Wall Street Journal* "expose" reprinted in the Sept. 13 *New York Times* as a "consumer service" ad indicates how Rockefeller hopes to prevent the farmer-labor-consumer alliance from taking hold. The expose features an alleged graft practice involving New York City Amalgamated Meatcutters officials which the *Wall Street Journal* uses as the "explanation" for higher meat prices.

Europeanwide Farmers' Demonstrations Held; British Farmers Call for Expanded Food Production

Sept. 12 (IPS) — The British National Farmers' Union (NFU) has released a manifesto entitled *Vote for Food* which calls for government guarantees to increase agricultural production to save farmers' incomes and prevent serious consumer shortages. British farmers are caught in the same credit- and cost-squeeze as North American farmers.

The NFU document predicts the worst shortages in Britain since World War II. Specifically, it predicts a beef shortage within 12 months and shortages of butter, killing poultry at high rates to avoid feed-grain costs, ensuring future shortages.

The NFU proposal is positive insofar as it moves in the direction of an alliance with consumers around expanded production. The NFU will hold demonstrations Sept. 14 coordinated with the Europeanwide peasants demonstrations. British newspapers like the *Financial Times* are moving to isolate the British farmers from British consumers and Common Market farmers by representing the farmers as "protectionists." *Financial Times* coverage of the NFU manifesto was entitled "Farmers Start 'Buy British' Campaign," implying that farmers want merely to keep out lower-priced imports.