

prices which all farmers receive and adopting special measures to help out those of the poor farmers that governments want to survive.

Similar sentiments were expressed by the West German *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*.

Recycling Planned

In an updated version of the Mansholt plan, the mass of "expendable" smaller farmers (particularly in France) are to be bankrupted, driven off the land, and recycled along with unemployed industrial workers into the labor-intensive slave projects of the North Sea oil wells or the Fos-Sur-Mer regional development project in France. Although not spelled out in this article, the *Times* proposal fits in neatly with Rockefeller's plans for the UN-sponsored World Food Conference in Rome: These bankrupted European and North American farmers are to be replaced with the labor-intensive plantations of undeveloped, third world countries.

The reason for these farmers' plight has little to do with the usual "cost-price squeeze" explanation provided by the capitalist press: last year's Rockefeller-engineered World Oil Shortage boosted fertilizer prices 300 per cent. Small farmers, already heavily indebted to Rockefeller-linked banks, were caught in the middle (as were workers with declining real wages).

ELC ORGANIZES FOR FARMER-WORKER ALLIANCE

Sept. 18 (IPS) — This week European Labor Committee (ELC) organizers intervened into eight farmers' events in France, West Germany, and Luxemburg around the need for a farmer-worker alliance based on the farm debt

moratorium demand. Organizers were received most enthusiastically in Luxemburg, where a single organizer sold a record 350 copies of *New Solidarity* (in German and French) within two hours! The only hostile responses occurred in some areas of West Germany where supporters of fascist Franz Josef Strauss collaborated with Maoist "leftists" to incite farmers against ELC organizers.

At Auxeres near Paris, a local official of the CNJA, a Gaullist-based peasants' organization, invited the ELC to speak before a regional meeting. Lower-level peasant leaders are desperate for a solution as widespread peasant discontent discredits their national leadership, to the point that the heads of CNJA and FNSEA are booed as "Giscard collaborators."

FORD'S UN SPEECH: ROCKY'S NEXT FOOD AND ENERGY HOAX

Sept. 19 (IPS) — President Ford's Sept. 18 speech to the United Nations General Assembly signaled the start of a new Rockefeller offensive leading into the Rome World Food Conference in November. With Rockefeller's oil sheikhs scheduled to begin the second Oil Hoax within weeks, a controlled environment will be produced in which the following "trade-offs" are planned: The Arabs will invest their surplus oil dollars in massive labor-intensive agricultural "development projects" in the underdeveloped countries, while the U.S. is drained of its grain production to maintain third world slave laborers on a 1,000 calories-a-day ration. A Rockefeller-dominated superagency known as the World Food Authority with a \$5 billion-a-year capital will supervise this transfer of production to the Southern Hemisphere,



1931 all over again — only this time bankrupted farmers will be herded into slave labor "redevelopment" projects.

alongside the World Bank's new five-year plan to double investments for third world agriculture.

Ford's speech was a major feat for the Rockefeller cabal, requiring the removal of certain bureaucratic obstacles within the Ford administration and the Department of Agriculture. Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz, previously an opponent of the Rockefeller-backed "world food reserves," understands full well that agricultural production can be expanded. Butz, however, like many farmers, was easily manipulated by the Rockefeller faction into a phony debate over whether reserves should be held privately or by the government — instead of exposing the destruction of advanced sector agriculture upon which the cabal's argument of "scarcity" is based.

During the last week, the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and other CIA press have led the way for the cabal, maintaining a constant barrage of scare stories on the "world grain shortage," designed to work up popular support for the establishment of "world food reserves."

"Grim Reaping"

A Sept. 15 article in the *New York Times* entitled "Grim Reaping" was written by chief Zero-Growth promoter Lester Brown and Erik P. Eckholm of the Rockefeller-funded Overseas Development Council. Purposely exaggerating the extent of the grain shortage (this year's U.S. wheat and rice production are at record levels), the article decries the lack of reserves. It ends with a call for self-starvation on the part of "affluent" Western workers: "*If those in the affluent countries, especially in North America, were asked to do the food equivalent of turning thermostats down 6 degrees, large quantities of grain could be freed for emergency relief in threatened countries. The 'sacrifice' might involve abstaining from meat consumption one day a week, or reducing consumption of livestock products by 10 per cent.*"

Two days later, the *Times* stepped up its pressure on Ford with an editorial "Crops and Credibility" threatening him with his "first diplomatic disaster" if he did not increase U.S. food aid. The food aid issue initially was created by McGovern's Select Senate Committee on Nutrition which released a report "exposing" how food aid is used for political aims, going primarily to the post-Allende Chile regime and to Egypt. This report then was used by the *New York Times* to create an artificial "debate" between the two factions: the conservatives led by Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz, who oppose government-held food reserves because (according to the *Times*) they want to "keep the food at home," and the liberal "humanitarians" who support food reserves under the cover of their concern for the starving third world peoples.

The *Times* warned Ford in its editorial that without an increased budget allocation for food aid, the Administration would stand to lose much of its credibility in winning over other governments at the World Food Conference. The *Times* also admitted piquantly that the Bucharest Population Conference was a failure [See IPS No. 19 for a summary of how the Labor Committee organizing made the conference a failure for Rockefeller]: "*World population keeps growing at an appalling rate, and the emptiness of the talk at the U.N. population conference, just ended in Bucharest, removes any hope of effective international coordination of population policies.*"

By Sept. 18, the day of Ford's speech to the United Nations, Ford, and to a certain extent, Butz were successfully whipped into line, although the *Wall Street Journal* still voiced some uneasy criticisms. While calling for an "international system of food reserves," Ford had acceded to Butz' preference for privately-held reserves saying: "Each nation must determine for itself how it manages its reserves." While Ford promised to increase U.S. spending on food aid, he was vague as to the exact amount. On the other hand, Butz opposes taking more than \$1 billion from his Agriculture Department budget. The Ford Administration is expected to limit its technical assistance to third world agricultural production to the \$675 million originally proposed by Nixon.

The division between the Butz conservatives and the more sophisticated Rockefeller tendency has little practical significance. Butz' resistance to government-held reserves, like that of most farmers, plays into the Rockefeller gameplan by limiting debate to who should store the grain. Butz' opposition avoids the only real concern — a full exposure of how the Rockefeller cabal is



Butz conservatives who want to "keep the food at home" play right into Rockefeller's controlled environment.

planning to destroy agriculture in North America and Europe.

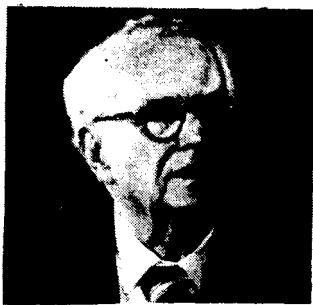
In a recent survey conducted by *Feedlot Management* magazine, a majority of farmers said they opposed U.S. participation in a worldwide food reserve because they feared it would be used to hold down farm prices. However, many farmers oppose the world reserve system simply on the basis of nationalist "we should feed ourselves first" sentiment. Farmers will have to break from this long-standing rural mentality and join with industrial workers in the international fight of the Labor Committees around expanding industrial and agricultural production.

CHICAGO FOOD CONFERENCE MOUNTS ATTACK ON LABOR

Sept. 15 (IPS) — A conference on the food industry held in Chicago Sept. 13 was one among several "mini-summits" called by President Ford allegedly to discuss methods of fighting inflation. While no small farmers were there, the bankers, businessmen, Congressmen, and Administration officials who attended were frank about their true purpose: to launch a crushing attack on unions related to the food industry.

Just to make sure no one missed the point, the Sept. 15 *New York Times* printed an article entitled "Waste in Marketing Lifts Grocery Costs" elaborating on the only concrete "anti-inflationary" proposal to come out of the conference — an increase in labor "productivity." The *Times* enumerates the same "solutions" which Jewel Food Stores and other laid out in Chicago, most of which involve elimination of union work rules and all of which mean loss of jobs.

A few examples: (1) standardization of packaging allowing the automation of warehouse systems; (2) altering Interstate Commerce Commission rules



Labor faker Gorman calls for "public service" slave labor jobs for laid off meatcutters.

preventing truck drivers and railroads from carrying food products on their return-trips; (3) centralized assembly-line cutting and boxing of beef before shipment to retail stores; and (4) electronic check-out stands in stores.

With drastic cuts in U.S. food production scheduled to go into effect, capitalists must implement mass layoffs and rationalization of the food industry. If these cut-backs can take place under the guise of "modernization" and "efficiency," so much the better. At the conference, when a businessman demanded the removal of union work rules, David Conway, the International Bakery and Confectionary Workers Union head, whined: "Only if there are job guarantees."

Labor faker Patrick Gorman, president of the Amalgamated Meatcutters Union, helpfully indicated where his laid-off members will be employed next by calling for "public service" jobs. Gorman's union also was instrumental in supporting the anti-consumer Department of Agriculture revision of beef-grading rules. The new system includes inferior, leaner cuts of meat in the "Prime" and "Choice" categories, encouraging the further reduction of livestock grain-feeding. The grain "saved," according to the *New York Times*, then can be diverted to a [Rockefeller-controlled] World Food Reserve. Grain-fed beef will shortly become a rare luxury: the latest USDA statistics show the number of cattle and calves placed on feed Sept. 1 was down 25 per cent from last year, a downward trend of several months.

"Equal" Sacrifice

Secretary of Agriculture Butz was brazen in his attack on working class diet: "We've got seven million more cows and calves on the farms and ranches right now than a year ago. They'll be coming to market though they won't be fattened to the weights you're used to. It's just another way that everybody, including the farmers, is going to have to tighten his belt in the coming months." Gorman was quick to agree, going so far as to endorse "complete and drastic" wage-price controls, "if they apply to every segment of the population, so that the rich would sacrifice just like the working people and the poor."

Few workers are likely to swallow the lie mouthed by the *Times* (and by implication by Gorman) that workers' wages cause inflation. Last fall, the U.S. Labor Party conducted a study of food prices which determined that at least 59 cents of every consumer's dollar spent on beef can be written off as pure profit and capitalist waste: 37 cents goes to commodity markets speculators; 9.5 cents goes to large capitalist farmers, big ranchers, and feed lot operators; 7.5 cents goes directly to the banks (for example, interest on farm debt); 2.7 cents goes to processor and supermarkets profits; and 2.3 cents goes to landlords.