

TEXAS FARMERS RESORT TO FOOD DESTRUCTION

Oct. 4 (IPS)--Two-hundred Stephenville, Texas beef and dairy farmers, driven to desperation by the credit squeeze, have threatened to slaughter 1,000 calves as a public protest against low prices. These farmers are being manipulated by Texas Agriculture Minister John White who promises to arrange a special meeting for them with Washington officials. White led a previous farmer demonstration in support of protectionist demands for feed-grain "export controls."

When farmers resort to destruction or withholding of essential food supplies, they not only deny their essential role in the world productive process, but they cut themselves off from their only ally: the working class. As yet unconfirmed reports of Great Plains farmers withholding wheat from the market are part of the same suicidal pattern.

NATIONAL FARMERS UNION PROMOTES SELF-STARVATION

Oct. 2 (IPS)--A group appropriately-named "World Hunger Action Coalition" (WHAC) has organized a series of conferences on "food scarcity" to be held this month in several U.S. cities. WHAC's campaign, which enjoys the full support and participation of the National Farmers Union, is designed to whip up hysteria, to convince American workers that reductions in their food consumption are necessary to "feed the hungry."

WHAC's main activity is the circulation of a petition addressed to the President and Congress urging that the U.S. delegates to the World Food Conference adopt the three-pronged Rockefeller program: (1) Increase "food aid" contributions by developed countries; (2) Set up a food control super-agency, known alternatively as a world food reserve or world food security system, to regulate the flow of food aid to "deserving" third world countries; and (3) Expand labor-intensive agricultural production in the third world.

Recalling the degrading self-policing of last year's phony oil shortage, WHAC demands yet another round of working-class sacrifice: "Just as we turned down our thermostats to conserve energy, we are willing to eat less in order to feed the hungry and undernourished and to prevent starvation. We support setting aside a percentage of our exportable agricultural production for these purposes. Though we cannot feed the whole world, what we do will make a difference. We dare not become an island of plenty on an increasingly hungry planet." (emphasis theirs)

10/10/74

IPS 9

"Hunger Banquets"

WHAC agents are now touring the country setting up "Hunger Banquets," defined as dinners to which one invites several guests and either does not serve food; serves rice, roots, and berries; or serves some guests an opulent meal and others little or nothing. Such antics play on the participating liberals' sense of impotence, denying that one can ever break out of these controlled "choices" actually to eliminate starvation through expanding food production.

In an interview with IPS, a WHAC spokesman revealed that Pennsylvania Governor Shapp founded the group out of a "small, initiating core" meeting in Hershey, Pennsylvania last March. The founding core included representatives of the Rockefeller Foundation-funded Overseas Development Council, the National Farmers Union, and several church groups. The coalition later picked up the endorsement of Rockefeller Trilateral Commission member and United Auto Worker president Leonard Woodcock.

WHAC's second-in-command Martin McLaughlin is "on loan" from the Overseas Development Council. Its chairman Herbert Waters is a former AID official, former aide to Senator Hubert Humphrey, and in "private life" doubles as a "consultant to agribusiness."

The National Farmers Union's role in the coalition is to sell the idea of a "world food reserve" to reluctant farmers. Many farmers oppose the reserve from a purely nationalist "feed ourselves first" standpoint, rather than understanding its food control implications. A source close to former NFU president James G. Patton recently admitted to IPS that Patton was involved with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRAA) following World War II. UNRAA's policy of cutting off food supplies to European populations to break their spirit and abort the post-revolutionary upsurge is well-documented. (See the March-April issue of the Campaigner on the "Tavistock Grin.") - Both Patton and the present NFU president Tony Dechant have a long history of involvement with the UN's other major food control agency, the Food and Agriculture Organization. Dechant heads an Advisory Commission to starvation "expert" Lester Brown's Overseas Development Council, an organization openly funded by the Rockefellers.

The NFU's collaboration with Shapp is also nothing new: Shapp drafted NFU member James McHale as his Secretary of Agriculture, placing Patton in an advisory capacity. When Bernie Salera, U.S. Labor Party candidate for Congress in Pennsylvania's Third District intervened in a WHAC-sponsored conference in Philadelphia