

The Wall Street Journal pointed to the inevitability of Butz' ouster in a front page article Oct. 8. Other Rockefeller lackeys have joined in this campaign. But Butz, as his previously militant anti-control stance demonstrates, agreed to export controls only under Rockefeller-induced duress. The real reason for Butz' removal, however, is that as Secretary of Agriculture, he heads up the U.S. delegation to the World Food Conference. Refusing to go along fully with a fascist starvation program, Butz is not "safe" enough for such a sensitive job. Butz is an obstacle to the implementation of a "world food bank" and the rest of Rockefeller's world food program. Butz' well known position is that "International dialogue. . . centers too much on aid and reserve programs and not enough on opportunities to enhance production."

The Wall Street Journal complained that, as a result of Butz' attitudes, the "world food bank" is not even being considered seriously except in watered-down versions. The Journal also expressed concern that the Administration will not allocate sufficient funds for the proposed "agricultural development fund" which is to build the minimum infrastructure necessary for labor-intensive third world agriculture.

#### PRESS WATERGATES FARM CO-OPS

Oct. 10 (IPS)--Farmer-owned cooperatives recently have been besieged by a barrage of adverse press publicity led by the New York Times and Washington Post. These exposes of "powerful" coops date back at least to the Watergate investigator's "discovery" that three major milk cooperatives had contributed to Nixon's campaign, allegedly as a bribe to raise milk support prices.

Recently the New York Times revived the month-old milk adulteration case involving the Dairylea coop. The Times' "watergating" of Dairylea is aimed at a thorough housecleaning of the New York Agriculture Department and removal of remaining farmer influence. Although Dairylea already had paid a \$150,000 fine, a Times editorial indignantly demanded a criminal investigation and used the issue to put State Attorney General Lefkowitz on the hot seat as well. The upshot of this concerted press campaign is that Lefkowitz has launched a grand jury investigation, which will include an inquiry into the way the case was originally handled by state agriculture officials. Meanwhile, Lefkowitz' Democratic opponent, Robert Abrams, has jumped into the fray screaming "coverup" and demanding exposure of an "apparent conflict of interest" in the Department of Agriculture and Marketing. State Commissioner of Agriculture Frank Walkley is a former dairy farmer who once belonged to the Dairylea coop.

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The Washington Post Oct. 6 blamed the widespread failure of New York dairy farms on the "heavy" payments farmers make to coops for lobbying and mild promotion campaigns. The Post article coincided with investigations by a Republican "Anti-trust Task Force" led by Representative John Hynes of Pittsburgh. The task force recommendations would prevent the merger of cooperatives or the joining of corporations with coops to process food. The Post's insidious article is the latest in an ongoing press campaign to force the liquidation of co-ops by weakening or replacing the Copper-Volstead Act of 1922, which provides co-ops with a special anti-trust exemption.

Historically, farmer coops have represented a minimal defense institution where farmers can band together to protect their prices. The dismantling of coops only would facilitate the wiping out of individual farmers, which already has led to a decline of national milk production to the lowest levels since 1948. Even the Washington Post admits that according to New York State Agriculture Department statistics, dairy farm production costs rose 79% since 1967, while milk prices paid the farmer rose only 53%.

The Rockefeller-directed credit squeeze not only has made it impossible for dairy farmers to stay in business; many farmers cannot find a buyer to take the farm off their hands. Labor Committee organizers recently discovered that Chase Manhattan was buying up dairy herds from cash-strapped farmers near Albany and leasing them out!

Farm coops have not fared any better than their members. For example, Dairylea may lose up to \$900,000 owed to it by the bankrupt Bohack food chain, which was forced out of business when Morgan Guaranty snapped up its deposits. It is also rumored that dairies have not been able to keep up with their payments to Dairylea for raw milk.

#### NEW SOUTHERN RICE BOWL IN U.S.

Oct. 8 (IPS)--Among President Ford's ten "anti-inflationary" proposals in his speech to Congress today was the elimination of remaining acreage limitations on rice production. This seemingly harmless proposal already exists in the form of legislation in the House of Representatives under the title "Rice Act of 1974". The aim of the bill is to allow the extension of rice production to the more impoverished regions of the U.S. South, such as Arkansas and Mississippi, turning this area into an Asian-style Rice Bowl.

The new rice bill has received the backing of such unlikely allies as the New York Times, Washington Post, Mississippi Congressmen, and Charles Rangel, U.S. Congressman from Harlem, New York City. The New York Times asserts that the coalition formed because the bill will