

Agriculture by Marcia Merry

Food trade war a cartel game plan

A worldwide "free market" enslaved to the food cartel will be the outcome of the Congress's latest food war measures.

A new trade bill containing provisions for food trade warfare passed May 22 by the House of Representatives, along with the bashing of foreign farmers by the State and Agriculture Departments, is all part of a gameplan to reduce independent farm output potential, and consolidate cartel control over food production and trade. Politically, the impact of the unprecedented trade war policies on traditional U.S. allies, especially in Western Europe, is disastrous for the Western Alliance.

Citizens of European nations who are "naturally" pro-American are dumbfounded and outraged at how crazy Washington is behaving.

In the latest round of trade war on May 16, the U.S. announced sanctions against the import of white wine and cheese from Western Europe. This was blamed on the loss U.S. citrus and other exporters will suffer when the citrus-producing nations of Spain and Portugal join the European Community.

The trade policy extends to undercutting Thailand's rice sales, undercutting the European Community's grain sales, and other such maneuvers.

All of these operations are taking place in the context of Washington rhetoric about "benefits" to U.S. farmers from initiation of "a world free market of low, competitive prices." This is a fraud.

Farmers are going under in massive numbers on both sides of the Atlantic, as the cartel shouts "overprod-

uction," and is promptly echoed in Washington, and farmers suffering under massive debt burdens are thereby paid prices below their costs of production by the cartel.

Meanwhile, various "factory farm" ventures are being initiated or consolidated by cartel companies or investment trusts, in which everything from hogs to oranges are being produced under strict, vertical, cartel control and marketing.

The coordinators of this food trade pattern are a network of financial interests including such names as David Rockefeller (Chase Manhattan Bank, and its investments), Dr. Armand Hammer (Occidental, IBP—Iowa Beef Processors), Dwayne Andreas (Archer Daniels Midland), and the famous 5 grain companies (Cargill, Bunge, Continental, Louis-Dreyfus, André), Nestlé, Unilver and a few others.

One example close to home is that of the citrus trade. At a conference May 19 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, called the Louisiana Economic Summit, the director of a Rockefeller-associated organization called the Caribbean/Central American Action Group, shamelessly reported that their organization is encouraging the sale of Brazilian oranges in the United States, with the stamp "Florida" on them. This means the fruit meets Florida standards, but it is designed to fool the public and undercut Florida producers.

This flim-flam is defended by the Rockefeller group director as "com-

petitive free trade," and is typical of the "free market."

The overriding problem needing to be solved, is that under the rule of the International Monetary System, all trade flows

and for productive infrastructure projects has shrunk to the point of disaster. The U.S. agriculture trade surplus fell by 66% between 1981 and 1985—from \$26 billion to \$9 billion. This trade year it is expected to fall farther, to \$7.5 billion. Other nations are being flogged by the IMF to massively export food to the United States, in order to gain dollars to pay their debts (Danish ham, Brazilian citrus, etc.).

The ideas group behind the food-war provisions in the new trade bill is the Commission on Agricultural Trade and Export Policy, controlled by the cartel. This commission will issue its final report this summer, after a series of interventions to impose its policies on current government practices.

One year ago, a cartel policy was legislated, called the "export enhancement program." Under this scam, the food-cartel companies get government-owned grain and other commodities from the Commodity Credit Corp. (CCC) for free, in turn selling these cheaply on the markets of U.S. trade partners, for the purpose of undercutting the trade of European allies. Over \$1 billion of free food has been given to Cargill, Continental, Archer Daniels Midland, and other companies over the last 11 months.

This practice may now be expanded to include even more give-away food, to such importers as the Soviet Union—in the name of helping "traditional customers."

A special conference is being held by the cartel interests May 25-28 in Geneva, Switzerland, hosted by the International Agriculture Forum, to further the process of cartelization and dismemberment of the economy of the West.