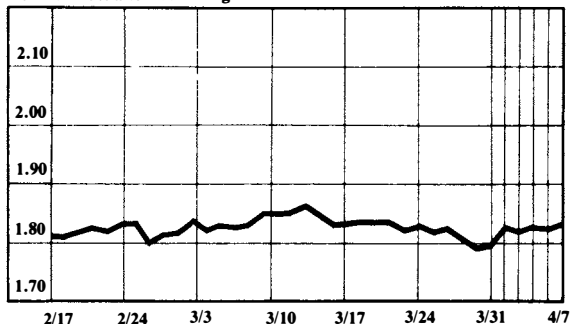


# Currency Rates

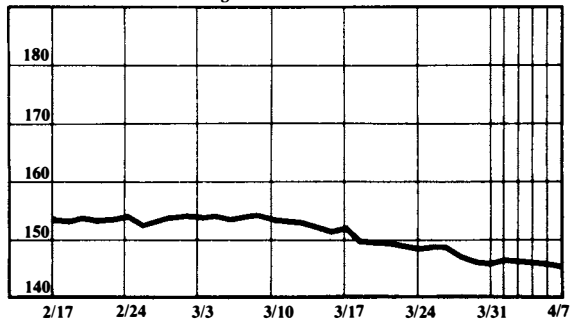
## The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



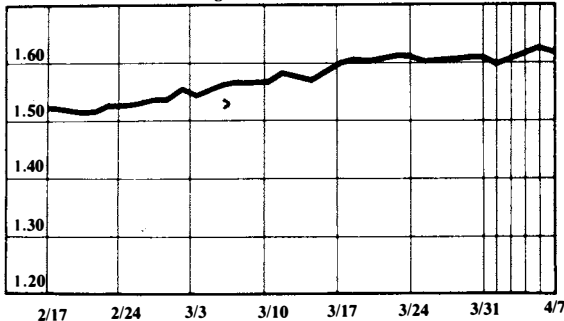
## The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



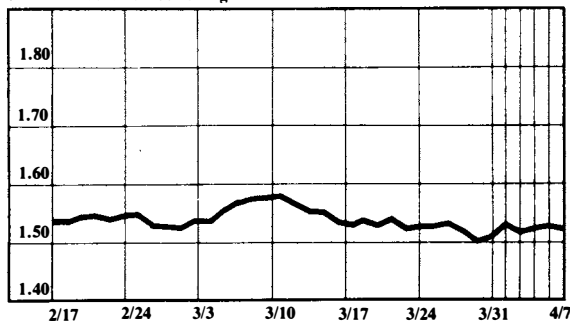
## The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing



## The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing



# Who says there's an

by William Engdahl

Front-page stories in U.S. and European newspapers are reporting on the supposed world food "glut," and how measures must be taken at the June economic summit of Western leaders to reduce food output. For example, the April 6 *Wall Street Journal* ran an article headlined, "Amber Wave—World's Grain Output Surges as Nations Seek Food Self-Sufficiency."

Relative to minimal nutritional and caloric needs, this view is dead wrong. The world farm and food crisis exists because of the lack of expanding farm infrastructure, and the collapse of trade and productivity under the International Monetary Fund's austerity regime.

*EIR's* Wiesbaden bureau has recently completed a study of the food output, reserves, and foreign trade of the European Community (EC) which clearly shows that the much-publicized "mountains" of meat, butter, and grain stocks are a fiction. The myth is propagated by those special financial and food cartel circles which want to justify their own actions to dominate food processing and trade, to the point of near-total strategic control over supplies. We present here a summary of the conclusions of the study.

## Where's the surplus?

At present there are three major areas of "surplus" stocks, termed Intervention Stocks, held by the 12-nation European Community. They are for meat, cereal grains, and butter. Huge export deals, involving low-price acquisition of Intervention Stock foodstuffs for sale at discount prices to the East bloc, have been used to benefit select banking and cartel interests. To the general public, these sweetheart deals are justified by the Brussels EC agriculture bureaucracy, as "necessary to draw down the food surpluses."

These claims ignore, first, the fact that reserve grain is a strategic necessity. The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and most prudent governments adopt a conservative guideline of stocking 25% of any annual crop for an emergency reserve. If this standard is applied to the EC production and consumption of grain, we find that, with the exception of 1984, when the amount reached 28% of that record harvest, the figure has never risen above 26%, with most years from 1979 to 1986 at the dangerously low level of 10-13%.