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## Profile: Clayton Yeutter

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# 'Free trade' agent of the food cartel

by Marcia Merry

When President-elect George Bush announced his nomination of Clayton K. Yeutter for Secretary of Agriculture in mid-December, the media tag-lines called him "over-qualified," or "the most qualified ever," or "maybe too slick." These characterizations are polite reflections of the fact that this man has had a career as a hardened bureaucrat for the global food and commodity cartel. Yeutter is indeed "very experienced" in national and international agriculture—but from the point of view of the cartel interests inimical to the sovereign rights and welfare of the population of the United States.

The record shows that Clayton Yeutter is unfit for public office. Because of the power and influence of the commodities cartel on Congress, and the supposed bi-partisan support for the "free trade" policies associated with his name, Yeutter's confirmation by the Senate is expected to be swift. However, if the full facts come forward at the Senate confirmation hearings and outside the congressional walls, the confirmation could be stopped, and the bandwagon for the "free trade" destruction of American agriculture could be stalled.

The following is a summary picture of the nominee.

The early years of Clayton Yeutter show that he was one of the victims of the cartel company "spotters" in the farm-belt, who scan the scene for young men who stand out as willing to do the bidding of the cartel, and still appear to be "just one of the local hayseeds."

Yeutter, 58, was born in Eustis, Nebraska in 1930. From 1952 to 1966, he farmed and got a bachelor of science degree, then a doctorate in law, at the University of Nebraska. From 1966 to 1968, he was executive assistant to the governor of Nebraska. From 1968 to 1970, he was director of the University of Nebraska mission in Colombia.

Yeutter's career in the Agriculture Department began in 1970, and continued through 1975. From 1975 to 1977, Yeutter served as the Deputy Special Trade Representative in Washington.

From 1978 to 1985, Yeutter went to Illinois to be president of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. He left there in 1985 to take the ambassadorial level position he has occupied to the present—U.S. Trade Representative.

There was a move by the cartel interests to get Yeutter

into the top agriculture position in the first Reagan administration. That was scotched by Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.), among others, who thought that Yeutter's Mercantile Exchange position would make him too "unpopular"—meaning too tainted by association with the commodities cartel in the public view, to be credible to head the USDA. Now, this is no longer considered a liability, since the commodities companies are coming out into the open, demanding national subservience to their own cartel and banking demands, and also because of the increase in public tolerance for the likes of bought-and-paid-for operatives like Yeutter.

While he was playing coy on whether he would be appointed to the USDA, Yeutter was reportedly negotiating a potential top position with ConAgra—the cartel meat processor—or Drexel Burnham Lambert—the indicted junk-bond specialists who copped a plea for insider trading.

Serving as president of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange is like being stickman at a giant crap game. The Chicago Board of Trade functions as a casino where speculators play for food commodities, while a handful of international commodities companies set the prices and export-import patterns for world trade.

After leaving the Merc, Yeutter headed up the U.S. Office of Trade in 1985, and moved into a position from which he could bully whole nations into giving up their right to set farm commodities prices and trade policy. In 1985, he was a special consultant for a Trilateral Commission report, "Agricultural Policy and Trade: Adjusting Domestic Programs in an International Framework," which has served as a cartel blueprint for the last three years.

## The role of GATT

Yeutter used as his big project, as he himself proudly reports, making "free trade" in agriculture the centerpiece of the 1980s General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade multilateral negotiations. In 1986, he was key in starting up the "Uruguay Round" of GATT—a four-year exercise in multilateral negotiations by the 96-member nations, committed to lowering or eliminating farm subsidies and national trade measures such as tariffs, import restrictions, etc. This is the blueprint that the cartel requires.

Yeutter (he pronounces his name to rhyme with "fighter") has distinguished himself as a tireless fighter for the cartel program, and the initiator of rhetoric and threats to make it stick. In 1987, he bullied many nations into trade concessions to the cartels. In 1988, he maneuvered President Reagan to "set forth a bold proposal calling for the removal of all trade-distorting subsidies and market access barriers in agriculture by the year 2000," in his speech to the GATT's Montreal mid-term review session, Dec. 5.

Yeutter commented on his appointment: Bush "did convince me that it was important to have someone of my general background in this position at this particular time in the nation's history."