

## Agriculture by Suzanne Rose

### Usury against farmers exposed

*Hearings set for North Dakota and South Dakota on human rights violations against family farmers.*

**T**he Committee to Investigate Human Rights Violations will hold public hearings Dec. 1-10 in North and South Dakota to investigate human rights violations against family farmers. The hearings will be held in Mott, Bismarck, and Fargo, North Dakota; and Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Farmers will testify about human rights violations perpetrated against them by government agencies, banks, and credit agencies during the 1980s. During this period, approximately half of the family farms in the United States were liquidated. The methods used were often brutal. Some were starved off the farm when the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) seized their milk revenue checks; some were removed from the farm at gunpoint; others took jobs off the farm, in futile attempts to pay mounting debts.

Hundreds of Dakota farmers are in receipt of dispossession notices from the Farmers Home Mortgage Administration, an agency run by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which is mandated to be a supporter of last resort to the farmer.

Testimony will be taken by Justice William C. Goodloe, a retired judge of the Washington State Supreme Court, and Rev. Wade Watts, who served for 16 years as Oklahoma state president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and served as a member of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission.

The hearings were initiated by the Rev. James Bevel, former vice presidential running mate of presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche. During

a tour of the Dakotas, Bevel visited victimized farm families and heard shocking stories. He called for an investigation following the election.

At a campaign event in Sioux Falls on Oct. 19, the human rights violations rampant in this grain-belt region were discussed. One speaker, *EIR* reporter Leo Scanlon, described the nature of usury behind the persecution of farmers.

"The Wall Street financial establishment has a very clear policy that they have been systematically carrying out against farmers," Scanlon said. "They look at family farming as an inefficient use of resources. If you are a farmer, you take the product of your labor and you reinvest it into the future, so that you can grow more food, raise more cattle, and feed more people. In the eyes of the cartels and the financial institutions that control them, that is inefficient. If you do that, you are a bad farmer.

"They developed a monetary policy that would allow them to identify this inefficiency and systematically eliminate it. They developed a scheme to force the farmer to mortgage his equity and his ability to invest in the future, to a piece of paper that was not involved in a financial cycle in the local community, had nothing to do with a local bank, but was under the control of a federal agency—but which is not in fact a government agency. These are private organizations: the Farmers Home Mortgage Association, the Farm Credit System [FCS], 'Fannie Mae, Jennie Mae.'

"The financial establishment induced a credit crisis in the local banks.

They undermined the basis of the financial existence of the local banks at the same time that they wrecked the commodity price support of the local farmer. Around 1980, the federal government said that they were going to change the credit policy, and thereby attack this cycle of investment and production. The FmHA and the FCS came along and said to the local banker and the local farmer, 'If you wish to continue investing in the expansion of food production, you have to borrow from us on our terms.'

"The FmHA, the FCS, or the local bank which was being looted by the international banks wrote up a piece of paper which said, 'We, who have nothing to do with the cycle of production, own the future outcome of that production, and we can do with it what we will.'

"Now, what they don't want is cattle, food, grain, and other things. What they want is the right to dictate whether or not there is a future in food production. They want the right to sell that to any power that wishes to engage in this activity with them. This is what the FmHA and the FCS have been doing. They've been taking the paper that they've attached to the production of the farmer and selling it on the international financial markets.

"This is now called efficiency, because the labor of the farmer is not locked up in South Dakota, where it is only producing food. Now it is available to expand the debt of the United States, or to expand the financial operations of conglomerates that wish to buy up corporations and run up massive swindles on Wall Street. . . .

"They have taken the productive labor of the farmers of the United States and turned it into a negotiable piece of paper, which has become part of the biggest financial bubble in human history."