

## Agriculture by Marcia Merry Baker

### Crisis meetings in U.S. farm states

*It's time to bust up the cartel giants dominating the food chain and start producing food again.*

On April 18 in St. Paul, Minnesota, some 600 people from more than a dozen states gathered at the "Midwest Farm Price Crisis Forum," where the main theme was a plea for Federal authorities to enforce action against the cartel companies ruining farming. Stickers were handed out reading, "Enforce the Laws; No Excuses."

Mike Callicrate, head of the Cattlemen's Legal Fund, was one of the most outspoken on the dangers of cartelization of the food system. State Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) said, "There is quite literally a web of interlocked companies that have come to dominate every aspect of agriculture."

Another farm meeting is set for April 27 in St. Louis, billed as a national agriculture summit.

The Clinton administration sent to the event Joel Klein, head of the Anti-Trust Division of the Department of Justice, who has been rubber-stamping commodities cartel mergers and downplaying anti-trust actions, and Michael Dunn, who oversees the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Administration. Klein demurred that he came "to listen" and "to get the facts."

U.S. Sens. Paul Wellstone (D-Minn.) and Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) also attended. Wellstone said that the "triggering event" leading to the meeting, was the proposed merger between the grain company giants Cargill Inc. and Continental Grain. He said that the April 18 event would be "our shot to be there and provide him [Klein] with some evidence" of concentration of corporate control.

The crucial fact about the mega-

companies dominating the food chain, is that they are interlocked with the international power bloc known as the British-American-Commonwealth grouping of individuals, firms, and financial circles, that control key positions in government, intelligence services, banking institutions, and so on. Whole nations are thus in a "them-or-us" situation when it comes to the BAC, which is pursuing a global military policy of "little wars" at strategic locations, along with a grab for global economic control.

The *Feature* of the April 23 *EIR*, a 40-page exposé entitled "Know Your Enemy: The British-American-Commonwealth Bloc," had six pages covering cartel control of agriculture, oil, and strategic metals. Without this overview, activists are hobbled by the thinking that "bigness leads to badness," when the real issue is busting up the BAC power bloc now acting against national interests everywhere, to the point of economic breakdown and war.

The BAC food-chain corporate interconnections are extensive. Of the world's 50 largest food companies, 38 are directly BAC controlled; the nexus of Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), IBP, and BAC intelligence and media operations is one example. Dwayne Andreas of ADM is on the board of Canada-based Hollinger Corp., the media company whose board of directors reads like a Who's Who of evil policy operatives. Hollinger is the successor company to Argus, a World War II British intelligence offshoot. Hollinger, headed by Conrad Black, owns hundreds of newspapers in the U.S.A., such as the Chicago *Sun*

*Times*, as well as the *Jerusalem Post*, the London *Daily Telegraph*, and others. Black's stated policy is to go beyond the North American Free Trade Agreement to a "super-NAFTA," bringing Britain into a North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement.

Hollinger's board includes Baroness Margaret Thatcher, former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, Henry Kissinger (author of the infamous 1974 National Security memorandum calling for food control as a foreign policy weapon), Zbigniew Brzezinski, David Brinkley, and Newt Gingrich.

ADM, in turn, owns 13-20% of IBP, and has joint ventures with the giant Novartis (formed by the 1996 merger of Ciba-Geigy and Sandoz).

The ruinous scope of corporate control and greed, but not the cartels' strategic character, was stressed at the Minnesota meeting. The proceedings were run by the Nebraska Rural Life organization and the Land Stewardship group. People came from the Dakotas, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and other states. Busloads were organized by the National Farmers Union, whose president, Leland Swenson, supports the International Monetary Fund, currently a key instrument of BAC anti-nation-state operations.

Conference organizers erected an exhibit, the "Corporate Hall of Shame," highlighting the mega-profits and executives' pay of Cargill of Minnetonka, Minnesota; ADM of Decatur, Illinois; ConAgra of Omaha, Nebraska; and Land O'Lakes of Arden Hills, Minnesota. They presented Klein and Dunn with a seven-point action list, with the first point being the requirement for meat packers to make public the prices they pay for livestock. The week before, the Clinton administration proposed such a mandatory price-reporting bill.