

Agricultural Roundup

August 19 [IPS] — This is the second IPS "Agricultural Roundup," a series of brief reports on the international agriculture situation. These items are telexed at least three times a week to our telex subscribers on the dates indicated. The Roundup will be reproduced in full as a regular feature of the weekly printed IPS. For more information on the IPS Agriculture Brief we service by telex, contact IPS.

WORLD AGRICULTURE COLLAPSING; LABOR PARTY FORGES FARMER-WORKER ALLIANCE

August 15 (IPS) — This week Nelson Rockefeller coalesced his international forces for an all-out genocidal assault on world agriculture. With the ouster of Richard Nixon and the elevation of figurehead Gerald Ford, Rockefeller intends to move full speed ahead to implement fascist economic and political programs in this country — and around the world. The U.S. Labor Party is channeling the rage of North American workers, farmers, and unemployed into a continental Stop Rockefeller campaign — before the international working class is destroyed by slave labor, famine, death.

This report — the fifth in an ongoing series of International Press Service reports on the world agricultural crisis — outlines Rockefeller's moves to depopulate the world through starvation, and the U.S. Labor Party/International Caucus of Labor Committees drive to stop him.

As thoroughly documented in *New Solidarity*, Rockefeller is behind the current dismantling of world food production. He is plotting and carrying out the forced deindustrialization of Western Europe and the United States; he is setting up the slave-labor camps mushrooming in the underdeveloped countries and the advanced sector, where dispossessed farmers and workers will work until they drop to maintain Rockefeller's paper empire. Rockefeller is responsible for bankrupting growing numbers of farmers — in the U.S., Europe, Asia, Africa. He bears the guilt for the spread of medieval plagues and the catastrophic drop in food consumption throughout the world. And Rockefeller plans to create massive food shortages and

starvation to bring humanity's food supply under his thumb — under the cover of a "World Food Bank."

Our Counteroffensive

Thousands of farmers and workers across the country are in motion around the U.S. Labor Party, coming forward to join the only classwide fighting force that can defeat Rockefeller and his plans for a Fascist World Order.

Workers and farmers are giving money so the Labor Party can expand the fight. They are selling *New Solidarity*, setting up scores of briefing networks to develop the working-class political machine. They are spreading the campaign: **organize to stop Rockefeller now!**

An upstate New York farmer, a member of the North American Unemployed and Welfare Rights Organization (NUWRO), is circulating among farmers in the region a telegram to be sent to Fred Stover of the National Farmers Association. The telegram reads:

"Farmers of Saratoga County demand a moratorium on all farm debt and call for support of all workers."



Farmer-Labor Alliance

The first serious farmer-labor alliance in the history of North America is being born — pulled together by the Labor Party in the past weeks, surging forward under the impetus of the dramatic political changes of the past days. The trickle of support between farmers and workers initiated by the Labor Party — exemplified by the 30-plus telegrams which local trade-union bureaucrats sent to leaders of the nation's farm organizations — is now a steady stream with immediate potential for overwhelming Rockefeller and his co-conspirators.

Trade-union leaders from the Teamsters, 1199, United Auto Workers, Electrical Workers, postal unions, service employees unions have sent or expect to send messages of support to leaders of the National Farmers Organization and National Farmers Alliance.

At the annual convention of the National Association of Letter Carriers now being held in Seattle, Don Taylor, Labor Party candidate for president of the union, introduced a resolution for postal and other workers to support farmers in their struggle against Rockefeller's ravages of their crops and land.

As the *New Solidarity* briefing network among farmers expands, as farmers recognize the urgent necessity of organizing each other to stop Rockefeller, the possibility of dealing the Rockefeller forces a resounding defeat is closer to realization. With the Labor Party uniting farmers and workers to defend their common food supply against controlled collapse, Rockefeller will be beaten.

ADDITIONAL INTELLIGENCE ON U.S. AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

CIA IN PRESS AND GOVERNMENT CLAMORS FOR STARVATION

August 15 (IPS) — At the same time as Rockefeller moved into the open this week, his operatives in the media and government stepped up their propaganda on behalf of his program for mass starvation, now being promoted by John D. Rockefeller at the World Population Conference in Bucharest, Romania. The *New York Times*' August 10 article entitled "Computer Model of World Sought to Cope With Food Shortage," neatly sums up Rockefeller's "solution" to "over-population": kill off 500,000 million people by 1980. Isn't it immoral, the article inquires, to encourage people to overpopulate by giving them food aid? The *Times* is silent on the fact that the manipulated fertilizer shortage is depriving the human race of food, that Rockefeller's sabotage of nuclear fusion power is depriving human beings of productive employment and an adequate diet!

Bringing the psywar back home, the *Times* declared August 12 that President Ford faces only one immediate economic problem: agriculture. Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz piped up for Rockefeller this week by saying that, because of the Midwest drought, food prices would rise 14 per cent this year. In a move to bust the Amalgamated Meatcutters strike on the East Coast, Butz lied that food prices would depend on wage rates in the food-processing industry. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) chimed in, predicting that the drought would cause a 12 per cent drop in corn production and lower production for all grains. In response to this news, commodity future for wheat, corn, and soybeans, as well as live hogs and cattle, hit their daily maximum limit on the Chicago Board of Trade. Senator Talmadge used the opportunity to call for import bans on grain — a classic protectionist appeal.

The USDA also said that livestock quality would decline significantly because grain prices are so high. The drought is being played up by the press and the USDA as the cause of projected food shortages and price rises. While the drought (which could have been alleviated had Rockefeller banks released credit to fund adequate irrigation) will certainly contribute to the food crisis, the press is trying to cloak the fact that many farmers face bankruptcy this fall when their yearly loans fall due. With so many farmers deliberately wiped out, little food will be available. In one of its most brazen attempts to divide workers against farmers, the August 12 *Times* announced: "By going out of business, farmers ultimately control supply"!

CREDIT-SQUEEZE CRUSHING FARMERS

August 15 (IPS) — At the Wisconsin State Fair this week, farmers told Labor Party organizers that bankruptcies among dairy and cattle farmers are a daily occurrence. In response to a briefing on the Labor Party's drive for a farmer-labor alliance, one farmer declared: "It's about time some-body cared about farmers... If we can't stay on our farms, workers will starve." In San Francisco *New Solidarity* salesmen met farmers on the unemployment lines for the first time.

CROP OUTLOOK GLOOMIER

August 15 (IPS) — The National Corn Growers' Association estimates corn production down 2 billion bushels (to 5.04 billion bushels) from original estimates. Estimated production will plunge further if soaking rains don't come to areas now rated in "fair and good condition."

With 1974 usage at 5.5 billion bushels, corn consumption will have to be rationed. Food and industrial use is expected to rise as corn sugar is used increasingly as a substitute for sugar.

The U.S. wheat crop is currently estimated at 1,850 bushels — down 75 million from the June estimate. The sorghum crop is devastated — anticipated output is down by 650 million bushels. Seed corn prices will rise by 25 per cent due to limited supply caused by drought.

CREDIT SITUATION UPDATE

August 15 (IPS) — The Federal Reserve Banks of Chicago issued an "Agricultural Letter" August 9 whose basic thrust, based on a July survey of 750 Seventh District agricultural bankers, is that the availability of funds for loans will tighten in the remainder of 1974. The report states that "the inflow of deposits to agricultural banks has leveled off while loan demand remains relatively strong." The report also indicates that farmers are being forced to put up additional collateral, mainly real estate, to obtain much-needed loans. The newsletter concludes by noting that agricultural banks in the areas with high livestock production hit by drought "will face increasing difficulty in acquiring funds to meet the anticipated loan demand during the second half of 1974."

FOOD SHORTAGE PREDICTED FOR GREAT BRITAIN

August 15 (IPS) — British farm leaders and politicians are predicting severe food shortages for Britain this year.

The Conservative Party spokesman on agriculture has warned that declining confidence among farmers will soon lead to a fall in production: "We feel that the danger of all this is a grave shortage of food next year." The newspaper *Express* was less restrained. It carried an article in which Sir Richard Trehane, chairman of the Milk Marketing Board, laid out in grim detail what the cutback in production looks like: (1) Each week, more than 100 dairy farms in England and Wales cease production. (2) Slaughtering of dairy cows has increased by well over 4,000 per week; these animals are not being replaced. (3) In the last three months, 60,000 fewer cows have been put out to calf. Appealing to peoples' fears about food shortages (currently at fever pitch because of a contrived sugar shortage which has erupted in violent confrontations between housewives at supermarkets), Trehane concludes: "Surely housewives will agree that it is better to pay a little more for milk now rather than to face the possibility of chasing round the shops for cream, butter, and cheese later." Intelligence from other sources reveals that dairy farmers' returns have dropped 50 per cent over the last two years.

Leaders of farmer organizations intend to press for emergency government action to avert threatened food shortages this winter. Leaders of the National Farmers Union, meeting with Agriculture Ministry officials August 7, called for an immediate review of farmers'

earnings to prevent shortages of meat, eggs, and dairy products. The Scottish National Party plans to call for food rationing if shortages continue — playing into Rockefeller's strategy of using food control as a means of political control of populations.

The *New York Times* is not alone in its barrage of articles meant to brainwash people for the opening of the World Population Conference in Bucharest next week. The Rockefeller-allied *London Times* will print a special report entitled "A World Enough?" to mark the opening of the conference. Obviously, their answer will be no: the special report will deal with increased pressure on food and energy resources as well as discussing "economic development plannings" — a euphemism for fascist economic policies.



WORLDWIDE SUGAR SHORTAGE; WORLD WHEAT RESERVES LOW

August 15 (IPS) — The Rockefeller-contrived worldwide shortage of sugar has driven London sugar prices up 60 pounds sterling a ton since June. The minimal shortfall has been turned into shortages in the stores as producers hold back supplies from the market for higher prices. An article in the August 9 *Journal of Commerce*, entitled "Warns that Sugar Shortage Could Cause Downfall of Government," quotes a major broker, M. Golodetz, as saying that sugar supplies will be insufficient for the next six months. The article warns that less important issues have brought down governments. Those countries judged to be most hard-hit by the shortage include

Yugoslavia, Africa, the Middle East, Switzerland, Norway, and Greece.

The Philippines is reportedly withholding 300,000 tons of sugar from the market, much of it originally slated for the U.S. domestic market. Rumors are flying that the Philippines is negotiating a sugar deal with Iran, discounted in the press since Iran has no refining capacity. For a full analysis of the world sugar shortage see *New Solidarity*.

World wheat stocks are reported to be at a 20-year low, with reserves held by principal export countries down to 22.6 million tons.

PEASANT FERMENT CONTINUES IN FRANCE

August 15 (IPS) — The two "officially recognized" farm organizations, the CNJA and FNSEA, met with French President and Rockefeller frontman Giscard d'Estaing August 9 to request that the government do something about the agricultural crisis. The government refused to make any definite promises, merely saying that they would discuss with European Economic Community (EEC) officials the farmers' specific requests: that the beef import ban be continued past the November deadline; that farm produce prices be raised. Using the meeting with Giscard as an excuse, the two organizations are trying to quell members' rage at the situation. Continuing peasant demonstrations are either spontaneous or led by the Communist Party-led peasant organization MODEF or the FFA, neither of which was invited to the discussion with Giscard. In an attempt to discredit the peasant demonstrations, Minister of Agriculture Bonnet and Foreign Minister Chirac are trying to isolate the "agitators," whom they refer to as the "non-agricultural elements."

Meanwhile, the French Communist Party is criminally refusing to give political direction to the peasants. Instead, they have openly called for the suicidal, Rockefeller-approved measure of stopping all agricultural imports; saying to hell with farmers outside France!

PEASANT PROTESTS SWELL IN HOLLAND

August 15 (IPS) — Under the intense pressure from farmers (25,000 angry peasants met in Utrecht last weekend), the Dutch government has requested that the EEC agriculture ministers meeting scheduled for September 22 be held August 22 instead. The Utrecht meeting, where organizers from the European Labor Committees met with an intense response from demonstrators to Labor Committee organizing for a farmer-labor alliance, ended, according to *Le Monde's* correspondent, in "total chaos." Peasants prevented two leaders from speaking.

AUSTRALIAN FARMERS STRANGLERD BY GOVERNMENT WHEAT BOARD

August 15 (IPS) — Although Australia could expand wheat production, especially with the fall in world

demand for wools and meat, the Australian Wheat Board is holding back production. Farmers are paid only a percentage of the world price in a first advance, which is now 50 per cent below the world price, and the rest over a 2-4 year period.

CANADIAN STRIKE THREATENS GRAIN DISTRIBUTION

August 15 (IPS) — A provoked strike by employees of Great Lakes shipping companies threatens severe disruption of food (especially grain) transport and distribution in both the U.S. and Canada. Wheat and iron ore shipments will be the worst hit. Grain handlers in Vancouver, who have been without a contract for nine months, also voted to walk off their jobs. The stage for such actions was set when special Canadian federal legislation banning shutdowns at grain facilities expired August 7.

On top of this, the August 9 *Toronto Globe and Mail* reported that the prices of processed fruit and vegetables are expected to increase a whopping 30-40 per cent this year. The processing industry cites rising costs of ingredients, materials, labor, and bank loans as major reasons for the projected prices hikes. The Canadian Department of Agriculture has set average contract prices to vegetable growers at 48 per cent higher than 1973. Fruit price rises are somewhat less (17-29 per cent), but sugar prices have tripled since last summer.

LABOR PARTY FARM-BELT TOUR

August 15 (IPS) — Labor Party candidates Ed Waffle of Chicago and Pete Signorelli of Detroit are now on a campaign tour through the American agricultural belt, forging a fighting labor-farmer alliance. Their itinerary follows for the last leg of the tour:

August 16	Des Moines, Iowa	Iowa State Fair
August 17	Des Moines	Iowa State Fair (Press conference and rally at the fair)
August 18	Des Moines	Tentative night for mass meeting
August 19	Corning, Iowa	Labor Party candidates will meet with leaders of the National Farmers Organization
August 20	Quad Cities	Labor Party rallies at Deere plant and Case Tractor
August 21	Chicago	Joint press conference with Fred Stover of the National Farmers Association

PROPOSE BATTLEFIELD METHODS FOR WORLD FOOD PLANNING

Aug. 10 (IPS) — A recent study of world food distribution by the Jay Forrester group at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), authors of previous studies in Zero Population Growth, introduces the concept of “national triage” into world food planning. “Triage” is a military term for a procedure of sorting battlefield casualties — focusing the limited medical resources on those who can be saved by immediate attention and denying it to those fated to die.

The Forrester-MIT study defends the concept of national triage as the ethical solution to food shortages in large sections of the world. The report, entitled “The Ethics of Humanitarian Food Relief,” also supports the World Food Bank scheme of the Rockefeller interests. It links the idea of a food reserve to the slaughter of advanced-sector livestock in order to release feed grains for human consumption.

ROCKEFELLER BUYING UP MIDWESTERN FARMLAND

Aug. 8 (IPS) — Rockefeller-owned oil companies are buying up thousands of acres of U.S. Midwestern farmland under the guise of oil exploration and development, according to a Minnesota-based organizer for the National Farmers Organization.

The oil companies, moving in on bankrupted farmers, are expected to set up vertically-integrated corporations which control the entire food production cycle, like those already established by Greyhound, Purina, and others.

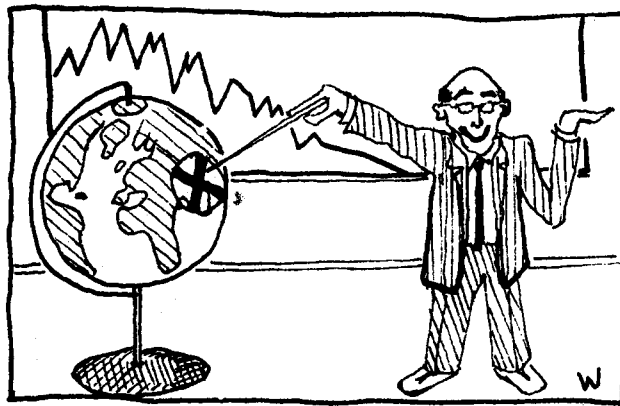
GERMAN FARMERS JOIN DUTCH IN PROTEST

NETHERLANDS, Aug. 3 (IPS) — About 1,500 German and Dutch peasants jointly blocked a half dozen border crossings yesterday at Emsland and Ostfriesland. They were protesting the severe decline in farm income on both sides of the border.

The farmers conducted themselves peacefully throughout the whole affair, and attempted to discuss agricultural problems with the irritated drivers held up at the border crossings.

CREDIT-STARVED U.S. FARM SECTOR SPEEDS TOWARD TOTAL COLLAPSE

Aug. 8 (IPS) — Two dozen New Jersey farmers today protested to Governor Byrne that state agencies were forcing them out of business with harassment based on super-strict enforcement of regulations against torn



MIT's Jay Forrester

screens and the like. New Jersey farmers are selling out or being foreclosed at the rate of two per day.

These farmers' angry feeling that they are being set up as “fall guys” is the sentiment across the continent.

Interviews with five Pennsylvania banks revealed that the poultry sector is at its worst in 20 years, aggravated by the collapse of railroad transport in western Pennsylvania. Trains carrying feed shipments and produce for markets have slowed to five miles an hour over some runs.

Iowa sources report that short-term loans are being rewritten down to thirty days from six months.

Grain Stocks Down, also Livestock

Stocks of all U.S. grains except for soybeans were down 26 per cent from a year ago as of July 1. Wheat is down 43 per cent. Cattle and calves on feed to slaughter in the 23 major U.S. feeding states are down 21 per cent from last year, as of July 1.

Aug. 10 (IPS) — British livestock producers have been hit by feed price increases moving up in tandem with U.S. price hikes. British and European livestock producers can no longer afford to feed their herds expensive grains and compounds.

Pierre Lardinois, Common Market Commissioner in charge of farm policy, warned of an enormous beef shortage in the Common Market in about a year's time. Lardinois advised consumers to buy now and store for later.

In Britain, pork and bacon supplies will be down 100,000 tons this year and could be worse if subsidies are cut further as the government plans. Eggs are also in trouble. During the last price slump, 15,000 farmers went out of business.