

The Washington Post Oct. 6 blamed the widespread failure of New York dairy farms on the "heavy" payments farmers make to coops for lobbying and mild promotion campaigns. The Post article coincided with investigations by a Republican "Anti-trust Task Force" led by Representative John Hynes of Pittsburgh. The task force recommendations would prevent the merger of cooperatives or the joining of corporations with coops to process food. The Post's insidious article is the latest in an ongoing press campaign to force the liquidation of co-ops by weakening or replacing the Copper-Volstead Act of 1922, which provides co-ops with a special anti-trust exemption.

Historically, farmer coops have represented a minimal defense institution where farmers can band together to protect their prices. The dismantling of coops only would facilitate the wiping out of individual farmers, which already has led to a decline of national milk production to the lowest levels since 1948. Even the Washington Post admits that according to New York State Agriculture Department statistics, dairy farm production costs rose 79% since 1967, while milk prices paid the farmer rose only 53%.

The Rockefeller-directed credit squeeze not only has made it impossible for dairy farmers to stay in business; many farmers cannot find a buyer to take the farm off their hands. Labor Committee organizers recently discovered that Chase Manhattan was buying up dairy herds from cash-strapped farmers near Albany and leasing them out!

Farm coops have not fared any better than their members. For example, Dairylea may lose up to \$900,000 owed to it by the bankrupt Bohack food chain, which was forced out of business when Morgan Guaranty snapped up its deposits. It is also rumored that dairies have not been able to keep up with their payments to Dairylea for raw milk.

NEW SOUTHERN RICE BOWL IN U.S.

Oct. 8 (IPS)--Among President Ford's ten "anti-inflationary" proposals in his speech to Congress today was the elimination of remaining acreage limitations on rice production. This seemingly harmless proposal already exists in the form of legislation in the House of Representatives under the title "Rice Act of 1974". The aim of the bill is to allow the extension of rice production to the more impoverished regions of the U.S. South, such as Arkansas and Mississippi, turning this area into an Asian-style Rice Bowl.

The new rice bill has received the backing of such unlikely allies as the New York Times, Washington Post, Mississippi Congressmen, and Charles Rangel, U.S. Congressman from Harlem, New York City. The New York Times asserts that the coalition formed because the bill will

provide cheap food for the urban poor and employment for the small farmers of Arkansas and Mississippi. On the other hand, rice-growers from the chief rice-growing states of California, Texas, and Louisiana are protesting that increased production will drive their prices down and that the proposed minimum price is too low to protect them.

This apparent expansion of rice production can be properly understood only in the context of the forced-collapse of livestock and other grain-farming throughout the advanced sector. Workers who cannot afford increasingly scarce beef or even wholewheat products will have to substitute the relatively protein-deficient rice. Rice produced on labor-intensive Southern farms will provide a cheap food supply necessary to maintain workers who are resettled into "Project Independence" workcamps on a bare subsistence diet.

THE MIDEAST

ROCKEFELLER PLANS "LIMITED NUCLEAR WAR" IN MIDEAST: PRESSURE GROWS FOR SCHLESINGER PRESS CONFERENCE

NEW YORK, Oct. 11 (IPS)--Lane Kirkland, Secretary Treasurer of the AFL-CIO and a member of David Rockefeller's supranational fascist shadow-government, the Trilateral Commission, briefed a gathering of visiting West German trade unionists from the DGB Trade union confederation on the Middle East situation, Oct. 9 in Washington, D.C.

Kirkland told the closed meeting: "This is the most critical situation since World War II. . . We are returning to the days of the Marshall Plan. . . and our view on the Eastern European (Soviet) bloc must be strong. . . The Arabs are trying to start a Middle East war through blackmail and extortion. . . If there is a Middle East war, it will be for keeps."

Kirkland is also a member of Nelson Rockefeller's Commission on Critical Choices for Americans.

Phone calls to representatives of Iran and Kuwait revealed that, in their opinion, the United States would "not allow" a nuclear attack by Israel on an Arab country.

However, this illusion was blasted yesterday, Oct. 10, when, in a development closely related to Kirkland's speech, CENTO Regional Political Division Head for the Indian Ocean, Mr. Grant, told IPS correspondents in Washington that no protective measures were being taken by the U.S. against an Israeli nuclear weapons attack--"none," declared Mr. Grant.

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