

support all legislation for emergency agricultural expansion." "If we do this," he concluded dramatically, "the eyes of the world's working class will be on us."

Kammerer received a standing ovation, led by the South Dakota delegation. Aided by the cumulative effect of intensive Labor Party organizing, he was able to bust through the controlled atmosphere created by Staley's monotonously long agenda of suicidal, anti-working class resolutions, including one lifted directly from Rockefeller's Trilateral program: selective fuel rationing and a call to establish an independent agency to direct a full rationing program.

It is now up to the Labor Party to consolidate a worker-farmer movement based on these resolutions. The hundreds of workers and farmers organized last week around the developments at the NFO convention and the thousands more who will be organized in weeks ahead will make sure that the "eyes of the working class" stay focused on the farm debt moratorium and the U.S. Labor Party's Emergency Food and Energy Program. Staley and the NFO leadership will not be allowed to bury these demands under the rug.

MILK DRIVERS STRIKE USED TO BUST UNION, PREPARE POPULATION FOR FOOD RATIONING

NEW YORK, N.Y., Dec. 8 (IPS)--Three-thousand milk drivers, members of Teamster Local 584, were forced out on strike here this week when milk dealers demanded a productivity agreement which would effectively cut the workforce by 20 per cent. The New York Times and other Rockefeller-allied press have used the strike to play on the urban population's sense of helplessness in the face of food shortages, softening them up for food rationing. On the first day of the strike, scare headlines provoked housewives' panic buying which emptied stores of milk within hours.

The Teamsters are the latest casualty of Rockefeller's financial squeeze on the farmer-owned Dairylea Cooperative and independent food processors generally. Last month, 8,000 farmer-members of the Dairylea Co-op were saddled with an \$18.6 million assessment demanded by banks to pay off the co-operative's debt. Dairy farmers are now offered the milk drivers' union as the target for their rage--a classic splitting device aimed at sabotaging the worker-farmer alliance inspired by the Labor Party which emerged at this week's National Farmers Organization convention.

Although there are more than 100 milk processors, distributors and dealers in New York City, the Dairylea Cooperative and Dellwood Dairy are the drivers' chief employers, together accounting for 80 per cent of the milk market. Dairylea's near-bankrupt condition was aggravated by this summer's forced collapse

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of the Bohack food chain engineered by Rockefeller's Manufacturers' Hanover, in which the co-op lost \$1 million. Under pressure from the Springfield Bank for Co-ops, the Dairylea executive recently decided on the multi-million dollar assessment which threatens to bankrupt 10 per cent of the co-op's membership. Dellwood has also been squeezed by the fuel hoax and the rising cost of electricity and paper containers.

The milk dealers are now resorting to union-busting in an effort to keep themselves afloat. After three days on strike, Teamsters officials have agreed on a contract differing little from the employers' original "offer," effectively signing the drivers' death warrant. The drivers have lost heavily on the key issue of the strike: the dealers' demand that they be allowed to use 27-foot trucks instead of 20-foot ones, a "productivity" scheme which would eliminate at least 20 per cent of the drivers. The union agreed on a "compromise" of 24-feet, while also conceding that employers could place some daily deliveries on an alternate-day basis. Drivers' commissions will now be based on volume sold rather than the dollar value of the milk in a period of declining milk production.

Suit Against Dairylea

Meanwhile, farmers' desperation with the Dairylea assessment grows, exemplified by widespread support for a legal suit which Representative Benjamin Gilman is preparing against the co-op's executive. Farmers have mistakenly fixated on the "mismanagement" issue rather than joining with workers to fight for a debt moratorium. U.S. Labor Party organizers who raised the debt moratorium question at Dairylea meetings in upstate New York were twice ejected by goons under the orders of the Dairylea leadership, who are hysterically "protecting" their members from the only kind of organizing which can halt the collapse of dairy farming. At a Nov. 25 meeting in Middleburg, N.Y., some farmers voiced swinish, anti-labor sentiments, "How much will a worker pay for my milk?", while others eagerly bought copies of New Solidarity after being briefed on Rockefeller's control of farm credit.

Chase Pushes "Lease-A-Cow"

The need for a debt moratorium is increasingly clear as cash-strapped farmers are entrapped in a "lease-a-cow" scheme pushed by the Chase Manhattan Bank and advertised in the Dairylea newspaper. Under one version of this program, a farmer auctions off his herd at today's depressed market price in exchange for production credit. He then leases the cows under a three-year contract paying 15 per cent of the cows' price per year. Should the farmer wish to repurchase the herd, he would have to pay the full price with at least 15 per cent interest.

Operating under various fronts, Rockefeller's Chase Manhattan could conceivably use the "lease-a-cow" scheme to buy up

directly the nation's entire dairy herd while effectively transforming farmers into mere docile serfs. Chase has already admitted its intentions to reduce the total U.S. farm population from the present 2.5 million to only 300,000. With the credit squeeze forcing the rationalization of milk processing and distribution, Rockefeller will have come several steps closer to complete, centralized control over the nation's food production.

FARM ADVOCATE REP PROPOSES LOW-KEY FAMINE RELIEF ACT

Dec. 7 (IPS)--Responding to pressure from his base amongst Texas livestock producers, Rep. Wright Patman (D.-Tex.) has introduced a number of proposals before this Congressional session to put some props under farmers' declining income.

This bill calls for an amendment to the Agriculture Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 which will allow the Secretary of Agriculture to purchase live beef for shipment to famine stricken countries such as Honduras, Cyprus and the Sahel. Not more than \$100 million is to be appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1974, but since this figure represents about 9 per cent of total beef supplies, it would permit livestock prices to rise slightly.

In spite of the fact that this bill would not accomplish much in terms of farm price supports or food relief and does absolutely nothing to provide cheap food for U.S. workers and their families, even this "modest proposal" is certain to receive firm opposition from the "mod" social fascists now proliferating the Congress. The bill is a feeble attempt to keep farmers alive, along with the millions who are now starving to death because of Rockefeller's contrived famine.

The entire package of bills sponsored by Patman is a hodgepodge of contradictory populist measures and for that reason is very dangerous. Two of the bills would allow the Secretary of Agriculture to buy feedgrain for dairy and beef cattle to resell to farmers at reduced prices. However, once Rockefeller has control over feedgrain he can just as easily withhold it from cattle producers, thereby collapsing livestock production in the advanced sector: exactly his policy. Other bills call for import restrictions which, again, would simply place the whole internal (closed) market under Rockefeller's complete control.

However, Patman is already slated to be dumped through the abolition of the seniority system now being pushed as a part of the Rockefeller demolition of Congress. One of the "grandfathers" of the House and head of both the House Banking and Currency Committee and the Congressional Joint Economic Committee, he is about to receive his retirement papers by a new ruling which will no longer permit these traditional politicians to hold more than