

of county heads and directors. One county leader raised the question, "What is our relationship to the U.S. Labor Party?" He was answered by an NFO director who stated that "the NFO has nothing to do with communists or the U.S. Labor Party." "The Labor Party proposes collectivism--getting rid of the small farms," he continued. "Any county head who meets with the Labor Party will be expelled from the NFO."

He was backed up by two other directors. Witnesses have identified these directors as Don Rottoro, Ron Boehlke, and Bill Sellhurst.

The expulsion threat has been only partially effective in keeping NFO leaders away from the Labor Party. Several delegates from New York State who previously had expressed interest in the Labor Party's food and fusion programs have backed off, despite the conference's unanimous approval of a resolution calling for a moratorium on farm debt. One delegate did a complete about-face last week, telling Labor Party organizers that "there is much disagreement about the debt moratorium."

Another contact from New York gave evidence, however, of ferment with the NFO that had forced the expulsion threat. He told organizers that everyone at the conference had exchanged views on the Labor Party, a mass-based farmer-worker group, asking whether "you've got them in your state, too?"

LABOR PARTY ORGANIZERS REFOCUS FARM BUREAU CONFERENCE

DURHAM, N.C., Dec. 10 (IPS)--The U.S. Labor Party once again out-maneuvered Rockefeller's agents at a statewide North Carolina Farm Bureau conference which opened here today. All discussion inside the conference was tightly controlled by B. C. Magnum, who had just returned from John D. Rockefeller's World Food Conference in Rome, and another slick operative, Assistant State Director John Sledge. Sledge prevented all resolutions except pre-planned motions to "raise food prices" from reaching the floor. In spite of this, Labor Party organizers successfully turned the attention of the 350 delegates from Rockefeller's starvation program to expanded food production by the time the conference broke for lunch. Farmers want to produce.

On their way into the conference, all of the delegates received a leaflet on the Labor Party's Emergency Food Program. By noon-time, the morning cries of "Get that communist crap out of here" had given way to serious questions about socialism and fusion power development. One farmer asked, "How can you run a tractor with fusion power?" Another county delegate bought three papers and agreed to contact his national and state representatives on the Labor Party food and fusion bills, saying, "This is something everybody should know about." When a tobacco farmer

started to bluster about his prosperity, a friend of his announced to the group of farmers gathered around Labor Party organizers, "He's planning to declare bankruptcy, and listen to him!"

Forty farmers bought copies of New Solidarity, most of them suggesting that the Labor Party present its program at the Farm Bureau's county board meetings. Three of the delegates are now arranging such presentations including one delegate from Mecklenburg County who attempted to raise the Labor Party's Emergency Food Relief bill from the floor at this conference.

These three delegates are being put in touch with Labor Party organizers in the eastern part of North Carolina where they are already in the process of mapping out New Solidarity sales and distributions into the rural areas.