

To make matters worse, Long is even embracing his long-time rival on the Finance Committee, Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass). To the amazement of the *Wall Street Journal* and business community, Kennedy has reversed his perennial opposition to industry investment tax credits and is now even advocating Long's position of investment tax credit refunds. Long is reported to have "greeted Kennedy like the prodigal son" — while he is endorsing Carter's and Kennedy's proposal for a labor-intensive investment tax credit.

Striking a deal with the devil, however, is not going to work. Deregulation with sharply rising taxes — leading

to a minimum five-fold increase in fuel prices — is precisely the Trilateral Commission policy to destroy U.S. industry. While Long plays games with the Carter camp, he is increasingly undermining his committee's and his own ability to block Carter's anti-industrial economic legislation.

There are indications, however, that other conservatives are not taking kindly to the Senator's machinations. A sampling of southern congressional offices showed shocked surprise and denials that they too were considering his proposals.

## Farmers' Organizations Join For Debt Moratorium Call

The South Dakota Farmers Union (NFU) 5th District and the National Farmers Organization (NFO) 2nd District passed a joint resolution Feb. 26 calling for "the President of the United States to immediately declare a moratorium on all farm-ranch loan foreclosures and evictions." The resolution emphasizes that "the banks no longer make up the difference to agriculture in the form of extended credit between what the agriculture receives for its products in the marketplace and what is necessary to keep on producing the vital necessities of life."

The Kansas City Federal Reserve reports that over 65 percent of the farmers and ranchers in the drought-stricken Great Plains are seeking loan rescheduling. 711,000 acres of crop and range land have already lost precious topsoil in windstorms. An additional 7.8 million acres are so dry and overgrazed that a dust bowl condition is eminent. In California, the nation's largest producer of fruits and vegetables, over 40 percent of the crop may be lost.

The South Dakota farmers are in a confrontation with

both the Carter Administration and the hierarchy of the NFO and NFU represented by NFO Chairman Oren Lee Staley and ex-NFU official and present Secretary of Agriculture Robert Bergland. In this disaster situation the Carter Administration is advocating formation of a "water bank" which would militarily control diminishing supplies of water and eliminate 19 water development projects.

The resolution reprinted below from the March 2, *Sturgis Tribune*, is similar to one which was unanimously passed by 16,000 member NFO at the Dec. 1974 national conference in Memphis. That resolution was submitted by Malcolm "Bud" Cooper and Marvin Kammerer of Sturgis, S.D. Cooper is a founding member of the NFO and a member of the U.S. Labor Party. Immediately after the resolution was passed NFO President Staley began a successful expulsion action against Cooper because the debt moratorium resolution represented "communistic and fascistic ideas" and was therefore in violation of the organization's constitution.

## Farmers Union And NFO Ask For Stop To Farm Foreclosures

*A RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT A JOINT MEETING OF THE FIFTH DISTRICT OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA FARMERS UNION AND THE SECOND DISTRICT OF THE NATIONAL FARM ORGANIZATION(NFO), February 26, 1977 at Box Elder, S.D. It is directed to President Carter and Governor Richard Knelp.*

*WHEREAS: agricultural producers now face a real danger of foreclosures and evictions because of long-time low farm prices and lack of further credit to make up the agricultural deficit (which is the difference between production costs and the price of the farmer's and rancher's products.*

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this joint meeting of members of the Farmers Union Fifth District and the NFO Second District for South Dakota ask the President of the United States to immediately declare a moratorium on all farm-ranch loan foreclosures and evictions, until such time as conditions prevail so that ranchers and farmers receive their fair return for what they produce, and,*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that Governor*

*Richard Knelp to use his influence to get President Carter to enact the moratorium.*

### *A RESOLUTION*

*This resolution, adopted at a joint meeting of the Farmers Union, Fifth District, and the National Farm Organization, Second District, is directed to the Legislature of the State of South Dakota, to memorialize Congress to enact the suggested legislation:*

*WHEREAS: The raw food materials produced on our farms and ranches are a vital necessity to human life; and*

*WHEREAS, for several years below cost of production prices for agricultural products in the marketplace has resulted in the elimination of over four million agricultural units and a farm debt of over \$100 billion; and*

*WHEREAS, the theories advanced in the past twenty years, that the so-called farm problem could be solved by the "elimination of the boys to save the men" has been smashed upon the rocks of reality, and*

*WHEREAS: the banks can no longer make up the difference to agriculture in the form of extended credit*

*between what agriculture receives for its products in the marketplace and what is necessary to keep on producing the vital necessities of life; and*

*WHEREAS: the present situation seriously threatens our national food supply, something that makes our farm problem a national, social problem.*

*NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of South Dakota, that the Congress of the United States be memorialized to enact any legislation necessary to raise the income of farmers and ranchers to the point where the sale of their agricultural commodities will be sufficient to pay all operating costs, taxes, depreciation, labor, including family labor, management and interest on capital outlay, and in lieu of sufficient capital, low-interest, long-term loans be pro-*

*vided so farmers and ranchers of this country can keep on producing and not be compelled to quit business because there is no longer any way of making up the agricultural deficit.*

*Yours truly  
George Levin, President  
South Dakota Farmers Union, Fifth  
District, Hereford, S.D.*

*Irvin Evans, Chairman  
National Farm Organization, Second  
District, Hermosa, S.D.*

*Homer Ayres, Reporter  
Sturgis, S.D.*