

state of agriculture

Agricultural Roundup

BUCHAREST A BUST FOR ZERO GROWTH

Aug. 26 (IPS) — Confusion, despair, and rage have characterized press coverage of the UN-sponsored World Population Conference held this past week in Bucharest, Romania. The World Population Conference was organized by the Rockefeller forces to galvanize support among international delegates for a fascist starvation program: a world food reserve, zero population growth, de-industrialization, and extreme reduction in consumption.

But as today's *New York Times* coverage revealed, the conference has been transformed into a factional debate. Headlined "Malthus vs. Marx" the *Times* article confirms that any hope for a strong pro-genocide policy statement coming out of the conference is now dashed. This is a direct result of the International Caucus of Labor Committees' organizing presence — particularly its role in coalescing third world and Eastern European opposition to Rockefeller's starvation policies. [For a full report on the Bucharest Conference, see this week's IPS.]

Meanwhile, attention now is being shifted to Rockefeller's next world forum the United Nations World Food Conference to be held in Rome next November 5-16. Rockefeller's agent Henry Kissinger, in an article in today's *Journal of Commerce*, complains that the U.S. delegation to Rome is too large. In actuality, with the Bucharest Zero Growth fiasco in mind, he is worried that many of the delegates are not directly under his control. Kissinger's concerns are intensified greatly by the realization that the Labor Committees will be present in Rome with even stronger forces.

EUROPEAN FARM REVOLT INTENSIFIES

Aug. 26 (IPA) — The farmer revolt in Europe continues to spread. Peasants in Belgium recently blocked off all roads in Brabant Province (which includes Brussels and Louvain) and Dutch farmers prepared for a nationwide demonstration at the Hague. European farmers, caught in an ever-tightening cost-price squeeze, face massive liquidation. Even the concessions European peasants recently won — such as special subsidies in France and Value Added Tax exemptions in the Netherlands — have not eased the situation. For example,

livestock prices have declined to the point that the drop in prices now outstrips the subsidy.

All eyes are on the emergency EEC (European Economic Community) meeting of the Agricultural Council scheduled for September 3. This meeting, requested by the Netherlands government, will focus on: (1) the cost-price squeeze; and (2) the harmonization of national aid measures, i.e., special concessions to farmers. All signs point the meeting's ending in absolute turmoil.

Peasant organizations are demanding that the meeting continue the national aid measures as well as raise support prices. National governments have various positions. Some knowing that opposition to concessional subsidies will touch off a massive peasant revolt, favor retaining national subsidies; others are opposed, knowing that such subsidies wreck the Common Agricultural Policy of the EEC. Countries like West Germany, which would have to bear the greatest financial brunt, are opposed to price increases. It is clear that the EEC's existence — of which the Common Agricultural Policy was the strongest feature — stands in danger of total collapse.

U.S. LIVESTOCK LIQUIDATION PREDICTED

Aug. 26 (IPS) — With the price of corn and feed prohibitively expensive, cattle producers now have turned largely to marketing grass-fed beef. During the Fall, at the very point that most bank debts come due, most livestock farmers will begin large-scale herd liquidation. The *Wall Street Journal* is predicting a huge glut of beef, which will precipitate further sharp price declines. A similar situation is predicted for hog producers — citing government estimates of a 10 per cent immediate increase in slaughtering and 15 per cent drop in prices during the Fall. The actual extent of the seriousness of the situation, however, is more accurately reflected in the *Wall Street Journal's* statement that "other farmers are getting out of the hog business altogether and are sending all their hogs — including pregnant sows — to market."

All of this means that prices — once the glut evaporates — will skyrocket as meat begins to disappear from the market. Already, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has predicted increases in food prices of 3-4 per cent for the second half of 1974.

All of the press accounts — in the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post* — attempt to pin the blame for projected livestock liquidation and higher prices on the drought. In fact, even taking into consideration the ravages of the drought, the world grain picture is better than ever! The real problem as IPS has documented in the past, results directly from Rockefeller's credit and price manipulations.

IPS BRIEFS PRESS AND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN WASHINGTON D.C.

Aug. 26 (IPS) — U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz, at a Department of Agriculture press conference held in Washington D.C. today, emphasized that there was no need for panic on the world food picture. He said that the people who were crying panic were ridiculous, since the world crop situation was "good" and in the U.S., "very good."

Later in the day, at a "Mini-Outlook" conference on the food crisis held at the Department of Agriculture, an IPS representative briefed the 400-member audience on Rockefeller's responsibility for the credit collapse which is beginning to cause farm foreclosures. He also identified Rocky as sowing panic to mobilize support for centralized food reserves at the UN World Food Conference next November in Rome.

Butz Against Zero Growth

Following the meeting, an organizer from the Labor Committees approached Secretary Butz to explain the U.S. Labor Party campaign. When the organizer told Butz that he represented an opposition to the murderous Zero Growth policies of Rockefeller, Butz replied, "Hell yes, I don't want to live in a Zero Growth America and there's no need for it."

A member of the House Agriculture staff interviewed by IPS reported that Butz is not a Rockefeller man. But, he added, "Butz will probably retire in a few months...."

AGRICULTURE CRISIS ACCELERATES

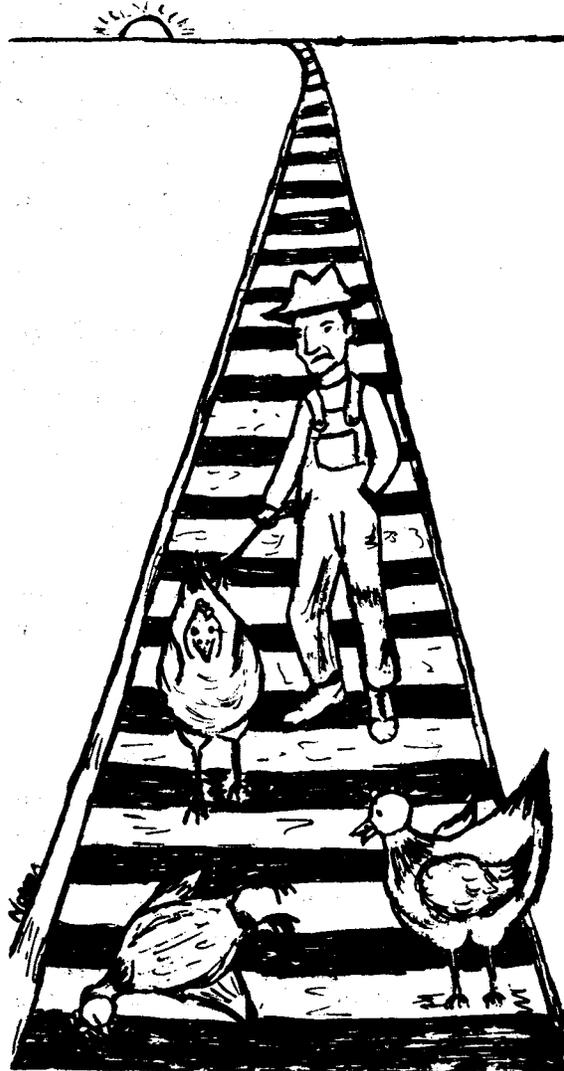
Aug. 28 (IPS) — The intensification of attacks on world agriculture over the past few days points towards accelerating collapse. As International Press Service agricultural briefings have warned, the collapse will peak this Fall. Large numbers of farmers will be wiped out as they are unable to pay off debts that fall due chiefly in the autumn. At the same time, working-class consumers will face exorbitant prices and scarcities in all foods, particularly meat. Taking advantage of the crisis they have created, the Rockefeller forces are building large international superstructures to further their control over the world's food supply. The following reports developed by the International Press Service research staff confirm this analysis.

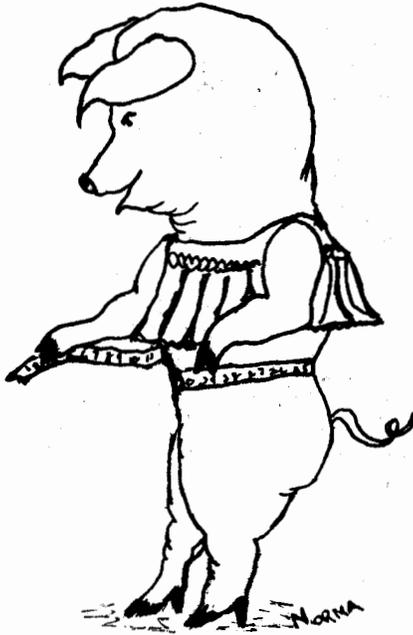
Livestock Industry in Shambles; Protein Consumption to Collapse

Already, meat consumption has declined by about 10 per cent in the U.S. By late Fall of this year, the American worker's diet will begin to resemble that of the famine-stricken third world. While this may appear an extreme statement, it is corroborated by statistics released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Our analysis indicates that within a few months poultry, egg production, and dairy production will be reduced drastically. Lagging only slightly behind these cutbacks will be pork production. Although initially a glut of beef will hit the market — particularly grass-fed beef — by early 1975, scarcities in beef will occur.

Poultry and Eggs

Placements of broilers have been reduced by 30 per cent as compared to 1973 placements; many egg producers are reducing egg settings by as much as 50 per cent below last year's. Feed ingredients are too high relative to finished product prices; this has resulted in desperate measures, like the large-scale destruction of baby chicks.





Pork

Mass liquidation of sows is well under way. For the week ending July 28, 55 per cent more sows were slaughtered than during the same week last year. Additionally, this year's sows were 16 pounds lighter than a year ago. Sow slaughter was up 70 per cent from a year ago during the week of August 5 and up 82 per cent from 1972. Sows were 12 pounds lighter. Farmers are abandoning pig production as quickly as possible. While some will concentrate on grain production, more will head for the unemployment line.

Beef

With cattle inventories high and feedgrain prices higher, the cattle industry is in severe trouble. Cattle raisers have less flexibility than other livestock farmers because the gestation and maturation rate is considerably longer. The next few months will see a glut of beef on the market, mainly grass-fed, as producers seek to avoid winter grain feeding and scramble for cash to pay off their debts. This glut of beef will touch off a complete collapse in prices. By spring, we can anticipate reports of cattle breeders shooting and burning their stocks.

REAL CAUSE BEHIND FERTILIZER SHORTAGE

Aug. 28 (IPS) — A feature editorial in the August 28 *New York Times* put forward Rockefeller's solution to the fertilizer crisis. "Give up fertilizing lawns and gardens as well as cemeteries and golf courses,"

suggested James P. Grant, president of the Overseas Development Council. Grant claims that "greedy" Americans use three million tons — more than the total amount of fertilizer used in India — on pure luxuries.

This is psychological warfare. Grant's Overseas Development Council (ODC) is the leading Rockefeller-controlled organization setting the stage for food control and mass starvation. The ODC peddles the line that "affluent" Americans should give up eating meat for "humanitarian reasons." David Rockefeller sits on the Council's board.

The real cause of the fertilizer crisis has nothing to do with austerity in the garden or on the golf course. Skyrocketing fertilizer prices a direct result of the Rockefeller-engineered oil hoax — the hoax that has forced almost every country in the world into near-bankruptcy in order to pay the exorbitant prices. On the retail level, nitrogenous fertilizer has risen between 86 and 139 per cent and phosphatic fertilizers between 98.8 and 121.4 per cent since October 1973.

India and other underdeveloped countries simply cannot afford fertilizer. Their inability to pay the astronomical prices accounts for the 29.1 per cent decline in U.S. exports. Furthermore, fertilizer production in the U.S., the major world supplier, has increased only 5 per cent in the past year. With acreage increasing by about 20 per cent, this lag has exacerbated the tight situation.

In the U.S. alone, massive untapped reserves of natural gas exist. Fertilizer output easily could be quadrupled by drawing on these reserves. A key component of the U.S. Labor Party's International Food Program calls for the vast expansion of fertilizer production and the rapid development of nuclear fusion power as to provide the energy resource for massive expansion of production.

EUROPE AND JAPAN SUCCUMB TO ROCKEFELLER'S STARVATION POLICIES

Aug. 28 (IPS) — After using threats of export controls on cereal and feedgrains to frighten European and Japanese government officials, the Rockefeller-controlled administration came forward with a plan that will allow the advanced sector "voluntarily" to plan its own starvation.

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz met with Common Market agriculture commissioner Petrus Lardenois August 27, to discuss potential cutbacks in American sales of livestock feedgrain to Western Europe. All indications are that Western Europe, heavily dependent upon the U.S. for feedgrains, will go along with the scheme. Last week, in a similar meeting with Japanese officials, Japan agreed to cut U.S. imports by 10 per cent.

FASCIST WORLD FOOD AUTHORITY IN THE MAKING

Aug. 28 (IPS) — Sayed Ahmed Marei, the United Nation's Secretary-General for the World Food Conference, has called for a World Food Authority. He will make this proposal at the World Food Conference to be held in Rome November 5-16.

Marei, past special assistant to Rockefeller puppet Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, describes this superstructure as follows: (1) an agricultural development fund for which the oil-producing nations have already promised 50 per cent of the funding (2) a committee on food information and stocks; and (3) a committee on food aid. The intent of this scheme — a step beyond international food reserves — is to enable Rockefeller forces to gain absolute control over the world's food supply. This power, particularly the ability to withhold food, is a key component in Rockefeller plans for fascist military dictatorships by the beginning of next year.

The International Caucus of Labor Committees will counterpose this starvation scenario with a strategy for expanding food production and technology throughout the world. At the World Food Conference, the Labor Committees will polarize the delegates and world opinion. Those for Rockefeller's plan will know that it means mankind's death by starvation — a 20th century Malthusian final solution.

AGRICULTURAL DISASTER AREAS IN FRANCE

Aug. 28 (IPS) — As though a 15 per cent (in some cases higher) drop in agricultural income in France were not enough, dry weather conditions have struck major agricultural areas in France this summer. The news of this near-drought, however, is virtually blacked out by the major French newspapers.

Already two departments in the Northwest have been declared disaster areas and two more, in the same region soon will be. In the Maine-et-Loire department only 3 millimeteres of rain fell this July, as compared to last year's 133 millimeteres! Corn and beet crops are seriously threatened. Shortages in drinking water are also reported in poverty-stricken Central France.

Although irrigation could be implemented readily, the French government is permitting the situation to deteriorate, as part of its deliberate policy of driving peasants and farmers off the land.

The August 23 issue of *Le Figaro* unwittingly made this policy clear when it announced that the 1975 agricultural budget, now in preparation, would on the one hand, be increased by 31 per cent for "Social expenses" (i.e., subsistence for the ruined agricultural population) and, on the other, would increase by only 1.3 per cent actual productive investment, credit for equipment, etc. Inflation has already gobbled up 18 per cent!



ROCKY'S CREDIT SQUEEZE: "THE INVESTOR IS GONE"

Aug. 27 (IPS) — The disastrous effects of Rockefeller's credit squeeze on agriculture are now being felt in all parts of that sector of the economy. According to the August 26 issue of the trade newspaper, *Feedstuffs*, poultry and eggs will be in short supply by September and some independent producers will be liquidating their business within the next 30 days. Prices on

poultry will soar, destroying the industry altogether. *Feedstuffs* further predicts that pork production will be cut; and, although, an added quantity of cattle will reach the market up through January of next year, most will be grass, rather than grain-fed, and therefore of inferior quality. The cause of all this is the shortages and higher prices of grain. Grain farmers have been ravaged not by a drought but by a deliberate drying-up of credit and fertilizer flows at the hands of Rockefeller's banks.

One of the largest cattle feeders in the U.S., Kenneth W. Monfort, President of Monfort of Colorado, Inc. is

quoted in the same issue of *Feedstuffs*. He reports that the cattle-feeding industry is in shambles; he predicts that, as trends are going, per capita beef consumption by the latter part of this decade will be only about 90 pounds. (It is now 130 pounds per capita.) Monfort says: *"The investor is gone...his tremendous transfusion of wealth in the industry has done its damage...the liquidity is gone and the \$2 billion in losses have taken \$4 billion in bank credit. The Canadians have weather problems, the African drought worsens, the fertilizer shortage is worldwide. Consumption will drop 25 per cent to 90 pounds per capita....And the industry will once again be profitable....The survivors will be the best operators...."*