

## state of agriculture

# Agricultural Roundup

### UN OFFICIAL BACKS MC NAMARA PLAN

Sept. 5 (IPS) — An official of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) — a division within the United Nations — proposed Monday that livestock production be shifted to underdeveloped countries in Africa and Asia as a way of insuring a “cheap meat supply” for the advanced countries. The FAO official Dr. H. A. Jasiorowski, director of the Animal Production and Health Division, put forward this idea at the International Conference on Beef Production in Edinburgh, Scotland.

“This situation must be exploited for the benefit of mankind,” stated Jasiorowski. “They [underdeveloped nations] can make use of their natural resources to increase production so as to be able to compete in the international meat market,” he said. Jasiorowski also claimed that 70 per cent of the world’s cattle supply is located in the third world — an outright lie. Any statistical source book demonstrates that the U.S. alone has over 50 per cent of the cattle supply. What this UN official does not mention, is that half of the third world’s cattle is in India where they are used as draft animals. Without cattle-drawn plowing, Indian farmers would be reduced to using sticks, an even more primitive means of cultivation.

Jasiorowski is putting forward the fascist scheme which the Labor Committee has identified as the McNamara plan. Basically, the McNamara plan would shift world agriculture to the underdeveloped sector where food will be produced under labor-intensive conditions using agricultural workers and displaced industrial workers as slave laborers on 1000 calories a day wages — including workers resettled from advanced countries. The scheme initially was developed by Robert McNamara, chief Rockefeller strategist and President of the World Bank.

### FURTHER LIQUIDATION OF LIVESTOCK AND GRAINS

Sept. 5 (IPS) — In the U.S., liquidation of livestock and grains have begun. The high cost of feedgrain is hitting pork and poultry farmers first. Yesterday, on the Commodities Market where farm products are traded, the highest number of hogs were put on the market in a single day for the last several years.

In Great Britain, farmers warn that their incomes will be reduced by as much as 50 per cent if present conditions continue.



Ireland is the leading example of the worst that is still to come. According to the British *Financial Times*, the "beef market has been reduced to chaos." The Irish Farmers Association warns that one-third of their seven million cattle will be subjected to starvation conditions this winter in Ireland. Animal feedstuff supplies — necessary to get livestock through the winter months — are at an all time low. Only a year ago, conditions were favorable in the livestock sector; and Ireland, encouraged by the Common Market, greatly expanded its cattle herds. Now such a glut of cattle exists that slaughter houses are open only for an hour-and-a-half in the morning. Farmers arrive early in the morning with their cattle, hoping to market them before the prices entirely collapse; but each day most are turned away in an ironical version of the soup line common in past depressions. The situation will worsen unless a market can be found for an additional 400,000 to 500,000 prime cattle. Even with this glut, the Irish working class hardly is eating meat; they can't afford the high retail prices.

When the livestock sector completely collapses, Rockefeller's agents most likely will turn to Uruguay's solution: the government there is planning to ban domestic beef consumption — a move they made last summer for three months to insure earning exchange credits.

#### **FOOD AN "OBSESSION" CLAIMS THE N.Y. TIMES**

Sept. 6 (IPS) — The *New York Times* continued its campaign on world starvation, for which they and the Rockefeller family are criminally responsible, headlining a two-page article yesterday "Food an Obsession in Misery-Ridden Calcutta." These tear-jerking reports of millions starving are designed to sucker workers into feeling guilty about luxury and overconsumption in the advanced countries.

#### **CABAL PREPARES TO DUMP BUTZ**

Sept. 6 (IPS) — The Rockefeller cabal is preparing the way for the imminent exit of Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz, a conservative who is too closely allied with the interests of farmer organizations to carry out the cabal's planned destruction of agriculture. Butz had called a conference Sept. 4 for 400 farm and food-related organizations to work out the United States' position for the World Food Conference in Rome next November. Staunchly opposing the Rockefeller World Food Bank proposal — which would implement Rockefeller's food control plans — Butz has favored reserves to be held by farmers instead.

Butz's honest view of the need to expand world food production upsets the Rockefeller "Big Lie" about food shortages. According to Butz, "If you don't produce more, all the debate in the world won't divide it satis-

factorily." Butz' pragmatic view — that farmers can produce more through increased technology — was censored from the *New York Times* account of the meeting. The *Times* played Butz up as a cruel protectionist, keeping U.S. grain from the starving third world.

Two Rockefeller-style humanitarians were counterposed to the "reactionary" Butz: John Hannah, Deputy Secretary General of the World Food Conference, trained in the CIA's AID program; and James P. Grant, president of the Overseas Development Council, a fascist planning agency. Grant led the assault to dump Butz and clear away any remaining resistance from conservative bureaucrats in the Department of Agriculture too tightly allied with farm interests. "In the absence of a more positive program than Secretary Butz has put out thus far, the World Food Conference will be judged a failure," said Grant. "I cannot believe that President Ford would intend this result."

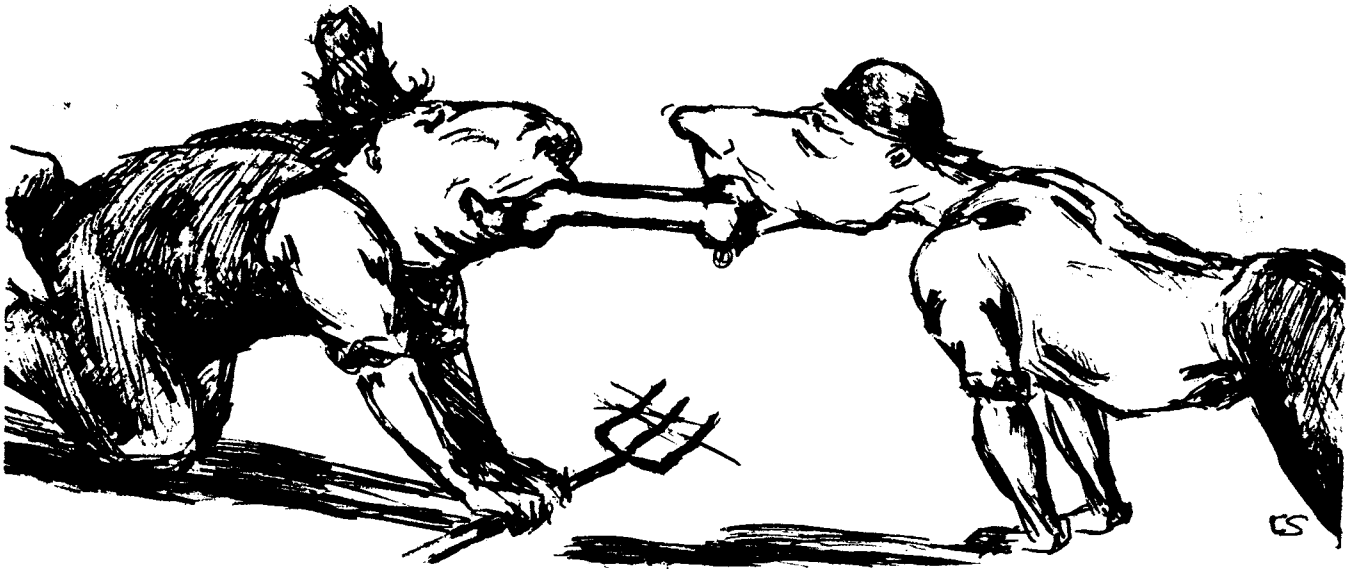
#### **EEC, COUNTERGANGS ATTEMPTS TO SABOTAGE WORKER-FARMER ALLIANCE**

Sept. 6 (IPS) — The Sept. 4 Common Market Agriculture Ministers' meeting, called to bandy about proposals for the coming Sept. 17 three-day session, released news that a four per cent price rise for the Common Market would be likely. This decision met with the coordinated agitation of peasant countergangs for "unprecedented violence to win an eight per cent price increase," in the words of French FNSEA (peasant federation) head Guy Debatisse.

Up to now, the small peasants in all the European countries spontaneously have sought sympathy from workers by demanding lower prices to increase demand. The EEC ministers' meetings, however, are designed to stop this nascent classwide movement by narrowing their debate to how much a price increase will cool off the peasants at workers' expense. Their aim is to funnel rage from both sides away from programmatic classwide fighting alliances and into self-destructive confrontation.

The FNSEA held a Paris meeting of 14 European peasant organizations Sept. 4 to plan chaotic confrontations between now and the Sept. 17 EEC session. Sept. 16 is their target date for a Europe-wide demonstration for an eight per cent rise in prices. The French Communist Party-allied peasant organization MODEF, was not invited to the FNSEA-called meeting in another effort to keep any debate about common interests with consumers from fueling further movement of peasants toward working-class alliances. Meanwhile in West Germany, Franz Josef Strauss of the rightwing Christian Social Union (CSU) is recruiting a fascist peasant movement around country gentleman Freiherr von Heereman, to pit farmers against consumers — particularly workers in the SPD-allied trade unions.

If the EEC-FNSEA-Strauss strategy unwinds without



commitment by the Communist Parties and the SPD to end their spineless capitulation to this "me first" sentiment — consciously spurred by the capitalists — large sectors of the small peasantry, crucial to a strategy for working-class victory in this period, will swing behind fascist demagogues like Strauss.

#### **ANGRY PEASANTS TO CONFRONT EEC AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS**

Sept. 5 (IPS) — Thousands of peasants throughout Europe will be mobilized over the next two weeks to demand that the Ministers in the Agricultural Commission of the European Economic Community (EEC) take steps to stave off the complete destruction of their livelihoods. At the opening session of the Ministers meeting in Brussels Sept. 4, the participants were greeted with the news that 20,000 Belgian peasants were slowly moving towards Brussels in their tractors, blocking traffic along the way.

At the head of this mass mobilization are the small peasants, like those in West Germany, Holland, and Belgium, who are demanding not just a self-interested price increase to cover their own costs of production, but a general lowering of consumer prices.

The Council of Agricultural Ministers has directed the talks very carefully in terms of what percentage increase in agricultural prices they will allow. This is a conscious move to undermine this demand, which could become key in linking up peasant ferment with that developing within the industrial working class which will intensify when contracts come up for negotiation later in the Fall.

The purpose of the bickering now playing in the talks is to enrage the peasants further and, by forcing them to look at the agricultural crisis in terms of their own selfish interests, to set them up as cannon fodder against European industrial workers.

This manipulation, referred to in the German press as "Common Agricultural Chaos" [a pun on the EEC's Common Agricultural Policy], will be used to inflame the hysteria among the peasantry. For their part, the major peasant organizations meeting Sept. 4 have guaranteed that the demonstrations will continue. They have designated Sept. 16, the day before the next session of Ministerial talks, as the date for continentwide peasant demonstrations. Without socialist programmatic intervention around the development of a peasant-worker alliance in support of expanding agricultural production, these demonstrations can only degenerate, as the European ministers hope, into peasants fighting their working-class allies for scraps and bones.