

AGRICULTURAL REPORT

NATIONAL FARMERS ORGANIZATION DIRECTS FOOD WITHHOLDING

Oct. 15 (IPS)--The National Farmers' Organization (NFO) has launched a frenzied national campaign of food destruction and withholding, which plays directly into Rockefeller's strategy of dismantling world food production. Last night, the NFO leadership held over 160 local meetings around the country calling on farmers to withhold food from the market in order to force up prices. Today, the NFO directed a Wisconsin farmers' slaughtering of over 650 calves, a protest action also threatened by livestock farmers in other states.

The food shortages which could result in U.S. cities this winter will complete the psywar arsenal of energy shortage hoaxes, mass layoffs, and provoked race riots with which Rockefeller intends to terrorize the working class and isolate farmers. Since the NFO top leadership long has been advised and funded by the United Auto Workers, it is possible that the orders for the food destruction drive came from Rockefeller's Trilateral Commission itself--through Leonard Woodcock.

At each NFO meeting, local officials played a tape of NFO president Oren Lee Staley calling for food withholding actions and the establishment of an NFO-controlled national collection, dispatch, and delivery system for farm goods. The NFO already has leased 600 grain hoppers for this purpose. In upstate New York, NFO leaders spoke in terms of consolidating 30 per cent of all beef and dairy production under NFO control.

Stressing the go-it-alone nature of their struggle, Staley said: "We have to do it ourselves, no one else can do it for us." He warned especially against allowing unnamed "non-members" at meetings, ostensibly because the organization is under investigation by the Securities Exchange Commission for fraudulent dues collection.

Labor Party Organizers Warn NFO Against Farmer-Only Struggle

U.S. Labor Party organizers intervened at eight NFO gatherings, including three in upstate New York, two in Michigan, and meetings in Chicago, Denver, and Sacramento. Farmers listened attentively as the socialist organizers briefed them on the Rockefeller-World Bank plan to destroy "non-creditworthy" agriculture and thereby eliminate one billion "useless eaters." The proposed withholding tactic is in line with the Rockefeller gameplan of reducing working class consumption, the organizers warned. Farmers must give up suicidal farmer-only struggles by joining the working class fight for expanded food production based on an emergency farm debt moratorium and development of fusion power as an energy source.

The lively questioning of Labor Party speakers which followed these presentations contrasted sharply with the demoralized response to Staley's speech. In West Branch, Michigan, the meeting of 100 farmers would have adjourned without any discussion if not for Labor Party organizer Wayne Evans' insistence on political discussion. Evans' speech drew out a full range of responses from the swinish "Aren't workers paid too much?" to a clear recognition that Evans had spoken the truth. Evans' proposal for building a farmer-worker alliance impressed farmers as more serious than the NFO officials' windbagging, for despite the NFO pitch for new membership, no one would sign up.

Although NFO executive member Butch Swain and some second-level leaders took some initial steps to organize with the Labor Party this summer, many have held back since. One of the reasons is an organizational financial crisis and threats to place the organization into receivership. It was predictable that, under pressure, these more honest farm leaders would go along with withholding actions, a standard NFO tactic and the way the organization was built. The NFO, already discredited among farmers, must be held responsible for helping whip up hysterical food destruction by farmers around the country, driving one more wedge between farmers and their working class allies.

PROTESTING U.S. FARMERS URGE FOOD DESTRUCTION AND CUTBACKS

Oct. 16 (IPS)--Livestock farmers throughout North America have stepped up their desperate protest actions, destroying their own livestock and threatening to withdraw from production. In most cases, farmers' anger has been diverted by politicians along protectionist lines that remove responsibility for the crisis from the Rockefeller cabal. A few leading examples have been compiled by IPS:

*In Curtis, Wisconsin, Oct. 15, the NFO led about 300 farmers in the slaughter of more than 650 calves and 15 pigs as a protest against rising feed costs and low prices for farm products.

*In Oklahoma, a new group emerged calling itself the "Concerned Cattlemen of Oklahoma." Frank Spagna, the chairman of this self-described "grass-roots group of farmers," has announced an eight-point program, including demands to halt all imports of beef and dairy products and to stop all exports of fertilizers.

*In Southeast Colorado, 250 cattlemen met to discuss the economic crisis. Henry Blackburn, president of the Southern Colorado Cattlemen's Association, voiced these farmers' despair: "The bottom's dropped out of the market and we're at our wits end." The president of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association is leading a delegation to Washington, D.C., to meet with President Ford.