

one in ten, the NFU is known as the most outspoken and militant farm organization. The NFU's present "cause" is to push a nationwide boycott of Kraft products--an impotent protest of multinational food corporations.

Ironically, Atkinson was once thrown in jail during a 1971 traffic-blocking protest on Prince Edward Island, where farmers were protesting a new government land assembly scheme. The farmers claimed that the program would reduce them to the level of feudal serfs in a government-controlled system.

MILITARY MOBILIZED FOR HARVEST IN EUROPEAN FLOODING

Dec. 7 (IPS)--Unusually heavy rains and flooding have destroyed much of the sugar beets, potatoes, and feedgrains crops in northern France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Britain. This catastrophe has provided the pretext for military mobilizations to "aid" the farmers in completing their harvest--an exercise in psychologically preparing the population for military rule.

The French daily Le Monde reported that French peasants are complaining that only 200 soldiers were sent, compared to 8,000 mobilized in Belgium and the Netherlands. Because of the flooding, the peasants' work is more labor-intensive; their machines cannot work in the mud. One peasant cites the soldiers' work approvingly: "We are digging up potatoes. We work crawling around on all fours....Soldiers have given me a helpful hand. I gave them food and 10 francs [\$2] a day on a hand-to-hand basis. Hard workers, considering they never tilled the land before."

According to the Rockefeller cabal script, next time the peasants will request military help rather than merely accept it. In Britain, already bordering on police-state rule, farm laborers are reportedly protesting their displacement by the military in harvesting sugar beets.

Crop Losses

In the northern departments in France, peasants have lost \$300 million in potato sales. Potato production will about equal the 1973 crop despite expanded cultivation. The corn crop will be only seven million tons, down from the previously expected 10 million tons. Forty per cent of the sugar beet crop has not yet been harvested. Even worse, the fall sowings have been delayed, all but eliminating spring crops.

The Belgium press reports even greater farmer losses. Only 30 to 40 per cent of crops have been harvested, and it is expected that up to one-third of the value of the total agricultural production has been lost. Losses of 2-4,000 Belgian francs per hectare are reported for potatoes and 5-10,000 Belgian francs per hectare for sugar beets.

Feedgrains, such as corn and winter wheat, have also been effected, resulting in skyrocketing costs for animal raisers. The lack of adequate fodder for animals is putting the finishing touch on the collapsed livestock industry. Unable to feed their animals over the winter, farmers are selling them for slaughter at bottom level prices. Milk production is reported down by 5-10 per cent.

FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION HALTS DISASTER LOANS

WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 6 (IPS)--New York State vegetable growers warned today of farm bankruptcies should the Farmers Home Administration fail to renew the disaster loans farmers received after Hurricane Agnes hit in 1972. It is traditional FHA practice to extend disaster loans for three to five years to allow farmers a chance to readjust.

Under questioning here from Representatives Benjamin A. Gilman (R.-N.Y.) and Peter Peyser (R.-N.Y.), FHA Assistant Administrator Lucius Dickerson said, "The FHA legal division has determined that we have no authority to refinance these [disaster] loans any longer."

If the FHA does not renew the loans, the farmers say, there is no way to obtain seeds, make repairs and purchase equipment for the 1975 crop. Anthony J. Lascala, president of the Goshen area "Sleepy Hollow Producers Growers Inc.," says if the farmers, himself included, don't receive the money by April there will be no new crop. Lascala insisted that the growers have tied up all their investment security, including their property, in FHA disaster loans. With no security, they are unable to get loans through local banks.

The above comments were made in a special meeting of farmers and FHA officials organized by Rep. Gilman who is presently active in efforts to coopt farmer ferment. Gilman reports little hope of obtaining legislation to change FHA policy.

NFO DEBT MORATORIUM

Dec. 5 (IPS)--The text of the debt moratorium resolution passed overwhelmingly by the National Farmers Organization convention today in Memphis is as follows:

"The National Farmers Organization urges the Governors and the President of the United States of America to declare that a State of Emergency exists