

City of New York. Under Gotbaum's supervision, the Fund's major target has been the city's sanitation workers, through a program known as Operation Scorecard.

According to New York Sanitation Commissioner Grove, in the past four years, while the workforce has declined from 11,300 to 10,600, productivity has increased 21 per cent. Even Grove was forced to admit to an IPS reporter that the sanitworkers have "reached the peak of human endurance." No further productivity could be squeezed out of them, he said.

Nevertheless, in another interview, John DeLury, President of the Uniformed Sanitationmen's Union, told IPS that he was also a strong advocate of increased productivity for municipal employees. Two hundred and thirty-five of his members will receive pink slips as a result of the latest budget cuts.

Not completely certain that his members are yet willing to knuckle under to the layoffs, pay cuts, and speed-up, Gotbaum is also mooting a general strike--no doubt to save the "virility of the union" as he likes to call it.

#### DAIRY SHAKEDOWN ESCALATES; TEAMSTERS SCAPEGOATED

NEW YORK, N.Y., Dec. 11 (IPS)--The ante has been upped in the now one-week-old strike of 3,000 Teamster milk truckers here, tightening the noose around the necks of the area's dairy farmers and milk processors. On Dec. 9 Teamster Local 584 overwhelmingly rejected the cutthroat "compromise" contract offered by the milk producers, despite the widespread assumption that a quick settlement would be reached. At the same time, New York City Mayor Beame gave a boost to the New York Times' ongoing effort to cultivate hysteria, softening the greater New York urban population up for rationing, with the declaration that he might be "forced" to have the city declare a "health emergency" in the area.

The Teamster drivers have already acceded to the productivity swindle demanded by the producers, which spells a 20 per cent cut in their own numbers, but are unwilling to swallow the demand that their commissions be based on a volume sold basis rather than a dollar value basis. Further, spokesmen at the negotiations said the "health emergency" was "not an issue any longer," confirming the strictly psychological warfare intent behind its wide play in the press. The Teamsters have been committed to maintaining milk deliveries to hospitals and nursing homes from the first.

The striking milk truck drivers are being scapegoated for what is in actuality an across-the-board shakedown of the dairy industry in the Northeast. This shakedown operation was dramat-

ically accelerated by the \$18.6 million assessment levied last month against the 8,000 farmer-members of the Dairylea Cooperative. Together with Dellwood Dairy, Dairylea is responsible for fully 80 per cent of the New York area milk market and is comprised of dairy farmers from western Pennsylvania as well as upstate New York.

It is widely acknowledged by industry spokesmen that the hundreds of small dealers and processors--who together account for the remaining mere 20 per cent of the milk market--face immediate bankruptcy. With fluid milk production shut down, the processors must divert milk into butter and related dairy products which are uncompetitive with Wisconsin products. For these small processors this constitutes an impossible loss.

In any case, the losses of the processors--whether they go under or not--are passed on directly to the dairy farmers themselves. The farmers are already burdened with soaring operating costs, not to mention the multi-million dollar Dairylea assessment, which in itself is expected to bankrupt 10 per cent of the Dairylea farmers, or approximately 800 upstate dairy farmers.

A spokesman for Dairylea today confirmed the desperate situation faced by its member dairy farmers. They are being forced to incur further personal debt, borrowing from wherever they can to meet the monthly payments required by the assessment.

The implications of this thoroughgoing shakedown for the "restructuring" of dairy production can be seen in Chase Manhattan's "lease-a-cow" scheme, recently advertised in Dairylea's house newspaper. It is a looting scheme that is entrapping increasing numbers of cash-strapped farmers. Under one version of this program, a farmer auctions off his herd at today's depressed market price in exchange for production credit. He then leases the cows under a three-year contract, paying 15 per cent of the cows' price per year. Should the farmer wish to repurchase the herd, he would have to pay the full price with at least 15 per cent interest.

Operating under various fronts, Rockefeller's Chase Manhattan could conceivably use the "lease-a-cow" scheme to buy up directly the nation's entire dairy herd. With the credit squeeze strangling farmers across the continent, Rockefeller is poised to take another big step in gaining full and total control of the world's food supply.

#### PRESS BUILDS ATTACKS ON PRO-IRAQ PALESTINIANS

Dec. 11 (IPS)--Three offices of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in Beirut, Lebanon were damaged yesterday morning by delayed action missiles launched from parked cars. The complicated attack, according to Lebanese government sources, was