

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

12/11/74

IPS B3

carried out by non-Arab foreigners with passports from four different countries. Both the Lebanese Prime Minister and official spokesmen for the PLO attributed the attacks to Israel, and the official PLO news agency Wafa said the attacks were in revenge for Palestinian commando raids into Israel.

The Associated Press, however, quoted other unidentified sources claiming that dissident groups such as the Iraq-allied Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) were behind the attack. PLO head Yasser Arafat's CIA faction of the Palestinians has steadily been attacking both Iraq and the Iraqi-allied Palestinian groups as "Zionist agents of American intelligence," so that the rocket attacks now give Arafat additional cover as a militant guerilla.

Press Psywar

Today, the Washington Post reported from Beirut that according to "highly reliable sources," the Soviets urged Arafat to adopt peaceful procedures with Israel, arguing that the latter "would count on Palestinian extremists and their intransigence to block the PLO's participation in peace-making efforts." The Post leak and that of the Associated Press are designed to set up the PFLP for elimination in a civil war. This will remove a major roadblock to finishing off Iraq, the only remaining opposition to Rockefeller in the Mideast. Other terrorism, including the recent hijacking of a British plane, has been pinned on the pro-Iraq guerilla organizations.

The half-hearted Soviet support for Arafat is providing him with a left cover for an impending bloody purge of the pro-Iraq Palestinian dissidents. In Baghdad, Iraq, Abu Nidal, the leader of Palestinian groups there, warned this week that Arafat's control of the PLO, in the service of U.S. lackeys Sadat of Egypt and King Faisal of Saudi Arabia, will provoke a civil war.

DEPRESSION HOUSING: SHANTYTOWNS

Dec. 11 (IPS)--Working-class families are now being driven out of their homes by this winter's "Energy Crisis" operation. A grim example is Baltimore, where families are moving out of single- and multiple-family homes because they can't afford skyrocketing energy costs. This winter, for the first time, local landlords and owners will be able to pass fuel costs directly on to tenants; in response, numbers of tenants are vacating their three-decker houses. Some are being converted into one-family homes, aggravating the housing shortage; other houses have been abandoned by tenant and owner alike.

Even more desperate is the situation at Rocky's Athabasca Tar Sands slave-labor project in Alberta, Canada--where workers