

AGRICULTURAL REPORT

PROTEIN CONSUMPTION CUT BACK THROUGH BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION

Dec. 15 (IPS)--The Wall Street Journal reported Dec. 12 the success of a Stanford Food Research Institute behavior modification program aimed at reducing protein consumption. Residents of Watsonville, California were subjected to an intensive "anti-heart disease" program, allegedly to get them to cut their weight, smoking, blood pressure, and cholesterol levels. As a result, egg eating dropped dramatically to 1.9 eggs per person weekly from 5.

In Norway, such anti-consumption behavior modification is a national campaign. Recently, both the New York Times and Washington Post have covered a program launched by the Norwegian Institute of Nutrition to scare Norwegians out of eating meat and other protein. This major publicity drive warns of dangerous high-cholesterol levels. Actually, its aim is to get consumers voluntarily to cut their necessary consumption of protein--just the opposite of improving their health.

USURY MADE LEGAL

Dec. 14 (IPS)--Recent federal legislation overrides state usury laws and lifts the usury ceiling on large agricultural loans. The new legislation allows commercial banks, savings and loan institutions, and small business investment companies to charge interest on business and agricultural loans over \$25,000 up to five points over the FED's discount rate on 90-day commercial paper; for most states this would be 13 per cent.

The legislation is supposedly designed to permit farmers to compete for funds. The real effect, however, will be to open the farmers up to even more severe looting by the banks. Farmers not yet bankrupt will compete for loans at usurious rates, while bankers soak up their dwindling cash.

NFO BUREAUCRATS THREATEN USLP COLLABORERS

BUFFALO, N.Y., Dec. 11 (IPS)--Three directors of the National Farmers Organization reportedly have threatened NFO county heads with expulsion if they work with the U.S. Labor Party.

According to a delegate to last week's NFO conference in Memphis, the threat came at a closed meeting at the conference

12/15/74

IPS AR1

of county heads and directors. One county leader raised the question, "What is our relationship to the U.S. Labor Party?" He was answered by an NFO director who stated that "the NFO has nothing to do with communists or the U.S. Labor Party." "The Labor Party proposes collectivism--getting rid of the small farms," he continued. "Any county head who meets with the Labor Party will be expelled from the NFO."

He was backed up by two other directors. Witnesses have identified these directors as Don Rottoro, Ron Boehlke, and Bill Sellhurst.

The expulsion threat has been only partially effective in keeping NFO leaders away from the Labor Party. Several delegates from New York State who previously had expressed interest in the Labor Party's food and fusion programs have backed off, despite the conference's unanimous approval of a resolution calling for a moratorium on farm debt. One delegate did a complete about-face last week, telling Labor Party organizers that "there is much disagreement about the debt moratorium."

Another contact from New York gave evidence, however, of ferment with the NFO that had forced the expulsion threat. He told organizers that everyone at the conference had exchanged views on the Labor Party, a mass-based farmer-worker group, asking whether "you've got them in your state, too?"

LABOR PARTY ORGANIZERS REFOCUS FARM BUREAU CONFERENCE

DURHAM, N.C., Dec. 10 (IPS)--The U.S. Labor Party once again out-maneuvered Rockefeller's agents at a statewide North Carolina Farm Bureau conference which opened here today. All discussion inside the conference was tightly controlled by B. C. Magnum, who had just returned from John D. Rockefeller's World Food Conference in Rome, and another slick operative, Assistant State Director John Sledge. Sledge prevented all resolutions except pre-planned motions to "raise food prices" from reaching the floor. In spite of this, Labor Party organizers successfully turned the attention of the 350 delegates from Rockefeller's starvation program to expanded food production by the time the conference broke for lunch. Farmers want to produce.

On their way into the conference, all of the delegates received a leaflet on the Labor Party's Emergency Food Program. By noon-time, the morning cries of "Get that communist crap out of here" had given way to serious questions about socialism and fusion power development. One farmer asked, "How can you run a tractor with fusion power?" Another county delegate bought three papers and agreed to contact his national and state representatives on the Labor Party food and fusion bills, saying, "This is something everybody should know about." When a tobacco farmer