

Business Briefs

International Trade

Food crisis boosts Brazil's trade surplus

Carlos Viacava, Brazil's director of exports, announced on Oct. 5 that the country had managed a trade surplus of \$9.6 billion in the first nine months of the year, \$600 million more than they had promised the International Monetary Fund for the entire year.

The biggest gains have been in orange juice. Total Brazilian exports, mostly foods, have increased by 23% compared to the same period last year. This is a result of the food crisis affecting other countries, such as the citrus canker that has hit the citrus crop in Florida. The overall effect of the trade situation is a net drop in world food production.

Dope, Inc.

'Private enterprise' means drug trafficking?

Under the rubric of pushing "private enterprise," a new White House International Task Force on Private Enterprise is organizing for the legalization of drugs and of drug-trafficking in several Ibero-American countries.

The Task Force is run out of the offices of the State Department's Agency for International Development (AID), which has a special Bureau for Private Enterprise. The policies for this office have been drafted both by Walter Mondale's agriculture adviser Orville Freeman and by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), run by Michael Samuels, a former Georgetown University staffer and adviser to Henry Kissinger.

The CIPE's activities include joint conferences organized with the Institute of Liberty and Democracy (ILD) in Peru, a "free-trade" institution tied into the pro-drug networks of the Mont Pelerin Society and Milton Friedman's mentor, Friedrich von Hayek. A CIPE brochure reporting on this joint initiative says that "a large part of the Peruvian economy operates outside the available

legal framework, not because of a desire to avoid the law, but because access to the system is blocked by layers of regulation." Translation: Make Peru's "black economy" legal. A conference in Mexico is being planned to spread the same pro-drug propaganda there.

The same "free-trade" argument has been one of the main entry-points for the pro-drug friends of ex-President López Michelsen in Colombia. A faction inside Colombia's National Association of Manufacturers used such arguments to justify hiring Harvard Medical School's pro-drug fanatic, Dr. Norman Zinberg, as a consultant in the early 1970s. Zinberg was one of the creators of the MK-Ultra LSD proliferation project of the 1960s. He recently told a caller: "Look how prosperous Colombia has become because of its drug trade, in contrast to Argentina and Brazil, where no one sees any alternative."

Technology

Los Alamos announces breakthrough on 'graser'

A Sept. 21, 1984 news release from Los Alamos National Laboratory announces that scientists at the lab have carried out experiments "that could result in the world's first nuclear laser," the gamma-ray laser—a laser potentially far more powerful than the Livermore x-ray laser—"in just a few years." The release briefly reviews the work being directed by Dr. George Baldwin on developing the gamma-ray laser—called the "graser"—and notes that the graser is "a potentially powerful microscope" that "could look into, 'see,' and examine a human's individual cells, genes, or DNA strands in detail never before possible." Grasers "might also prove useful to the military, emitting highly energetic pulses of penetrating radiation in repeatable and accurate beams."

According to Dr. Baldwin: "Grasers offer enormous scientific potential. In the 1960s, they looked utterly impossible to make. Now I think it can be done and in just a few years. The experiments mark a milestone. After researching the idea for some

20 years we're now starting to see if such a laser can actually be developed."

In a 1981 review of graser research published in *Review of Modern Physics*, Dr. Baldwin had noted that the x-ray laser could provide the basis for achieving a gamma-ray laser. Given continuing advances in x-ray laser development, the prospects for an effective graser weapon are being greatly enhanced. One advantage of the graser over that of the x-ray laser is that it could penetrate more deeply into the atmosphere. This would mean that even fast-burn rocket boosters could not escape destruction.

Agriculture

Farm export commission 'cartel's instrument'

The newly created U.S. Agriculture Export Commission is a tool of the grain cartels that will create food shortages in the United States and famine abroad, a group of leading U.S. farmers charged on Oct. 8.

The farmers, members of the Agriculture Advisory Board of the Schiller Institute, issued a statement the second week of October to denounce the new commission mandated by Congress to promote U.S. farm product exports. Excerpts from their statement follow:

"The membership of the commission reveals it to be an instrument of the same international food cartels that are reorganizing world agriculture to create controlled scarcity in the West, while providing for Soviet needs.

"Orville Freeman, Cargill, Inc., and other well-known agents of strategic food control are running this operation, based out of the Hubert Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs in Minneapolis. We don't need more give-aways to the Soviets; we need emergency measures to restore full production capability in the United States, Western Europe, Canada, and all potential food exporting regions. We must implement emergency food supplies to Africa and other points of need that this food cartel-Soviet partnership have consigned to genocide. . . .

"We call on Congress to dismantle this

commission. . . ."

The Agriculture Advisory Board also called for the following emergency measures to be implemented:

- Declare a moratorium on all farm foreclosures;
- Provide low-interest farm production credits;
- Replace the current foreign policy based on food and trade warfare with an emergency changeover of the monetary system to favor vastly expanded production and trade based on large-scale infrastructure projects of mutual interest to nations.
- Price U.S. farm exports at parity price levels to the farmer, except for food sent to starving regions.

Space Race

Soviets lead U.S. in technology

The head of a technology research company in Britain commented on the intensity of the Soviet Union's activity in space the week of Oct. 8, concluding that the Soviets are well ahead. Of a total of 2,513 known space launches prior to 1983, according to Dr. Alan Rudge, managing director of ERA Technology, 1,636 were conducted by the Soviet Union—more than three-fifths of total launches, carrying about 2,300 payloads. In contrast, the American space launches totalled 882.

Dr. Rudge said the figures "provided some thought-provoking comparisons with regard to future leadership in the exploration and exploitation of space."

In substantiation of Dr. Rudge's comments, Radio Moscow reported on Oct. 10, one week after the announcement that the Soviets are ready for a flight to Mars, that the Soviet Union is engaged in a project developing "big orbital stations."

In a commentary on Radio Moscow, a Soviet space-technology designer praised the Soviet Union's record-breaking 237 days in space by the Salyut 7 cosmonaut team, and said that this project was vital for the development of big orbital stations. "In the future," he said, "large structures could be

welded in space, including research laboratories and workshops."

The current Salyut 7 complex is considered to be the most advanced station in space, and is undoubtedly the basis for future development of Soviet space anti-missile defense stations.

Economic Theory

U.S. losing knack for productivity

Seymour Melman, a Columbia University professor of industrial engineering, claims in his recent book, *Profits without Production*, that American industry is rapidly losing ground to its competitors because managers have lost their skill in productivity. Melman, who favors a nuclear freeze and other "pacifist" causes, does not mention the impact of the Federal Reserve's high interest rates. In the past, the importance of increased productivity was taken for granted, he argues; now, according to Melman, managers are more interested in leveraged buy-outs or in defense contracts that allow profits without concern for cost minimization.

The losses in American productivity have been much discussed, but the standard explanation given, high salaries paid American workers, is rejected by Melman. In his 1956 book, *Dynamic Factors in Industrial Productivity*, he included data showing that over a certain period, the wages of machine-tool workers in the United States rose by 95% while prices rose only 39%. Since machine tools are the means of production in every other industry, their attractive prices encouraged other businesses to modernize technology, Melman said. "Productivity just derived from effects of mechanization and organization of work."

But between 1971 and 1978, wages for machine tool workers in the United States rose 72% and prices 85%. In Japan, during the same time period, wages rose 177% and prices only 51%. "These data mark the end of an industrial way of life in the United States. The classical mechanism that used to yield productivity growth has broken down."

Briefly

● **U.S. SALARY** increases will average 6.6% in both 1984 and 1985, the lowest increase in a decade, a national survey of 875 companies conducted by Sibson & Company, a New Jersey consulting firm, revealed on Oct. 8. From 1976-82, increases were from 7.7% to 9.7%, then dropped to 6.8% in 1983. The poll found the most important factor determining wage increases on the part of a business was the desire to be competitive with other firms.

● **HENRY WAXMAN**, representative from California (D), has introduced a bill in Congress to establish a National Council on Medical Technology Assessment which would be empowered to rule on the "appropriateness" of developing new medical technologies. Waxman is motivating the bill as a cost-cutting measure.

● **ETHIOPIA'S** Communist government appealed for emergency food aid on Oct. 9 in a meeting in Nairobi, Kenya. The U.N. estimates that 7.2 million people in the country face starvation, of a total population of 33 million; 250 people per day die of starvation and 1,000 people per day arrive at the government-run relief center in Korem in northern Ethiopia. According to official FAO statistics, the nation requires 563,000 tons of food during the next 12 months, of which only 375,000 is expected to be forthcoming.

● **THE FIFTH** International Meeting on Radiation Processing will be held in San Diego Oct. 21-26. Organized in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Nordic Society for Radiation Research and Radiation Technology, the American Chemical Society, and the Plastics and Rubber Institute (U.K.), the meeting will concentrate on the status of applications in industrial use and to disseminate the latest developments in research.