

## Agriculture by George Elder

### The planned theft of America

*A new land bill is designed to lure farmers into selling their birthright and future for the privilege of becoming a slave.*

Inside sources have informed this author that a plan is now in progress to create a new federal agency, the Agricultural Conservation Corporation (ACC), which is to become the largest agricultural landowner in the United States, by buying out farmers and leasing their land back to them. This is the most ominous move in agriculture since the current farm crisis began.

The people behind the scheme are presenting it as an answer for farmers caught in an insoluble financial dilemma. On the contrary, it is designed to permit the foreign enemies of this nation to assume ownership of its lands. The plan, in the name of financial salvation, will lure farmers into selling their birthright and future for the privilege of becoming a slave. This evil program will help farmers out of their debts, and their farms and homes.

The ACC is a new scheme formulated on the basis outlined by Neil Harl, an alleged farm economist at the University of Iowa. The reason for the farmer's problem, according to Mr. Harl, is that he spent too much, and doesn't have enough left to service his debt. Forget about the interest rates he pays—usury—or the prices he receives from the cartels—theft.

The forces behind the ACC plan include the Federal Credit Administration, the Independent Bankers Association, the American Bankers Association, and, according to some sources, the farm organizations themselves. Government control would be nominal: The ACC would be run by

food-cartel assets in the government, like Agriculture Undersecretary Daniel (throw him to the lions) Amstutz, a "former" Cargill executive.

It is reported that the requisite legislation already has sponsors in the U.S. Congress. Some interested legislators include Sen. James Exon (D-Neb.) and Rep. Virginia Smith (R-Neb.).

The mission of the ACC is to buy up \$20 billion worth of farmland, ostensibly to stabilize plummeting land prices. To give a point of comparison: Assuming a value of \$1,000 per acre—high, since much of the country hasn't seen such a price in months, even years—the ACC's \$20 billion would buy 23,529,411 acres of land when one notes the payment schedule includes ACC stock. In addition, 630,000 acres of foreclosed land held by the Farmers Home Administration will be transferred for stock. At minimum, the ACC will buy up at least 24,159,411 acres!

The total acreage harvested in Iowa in 1984 for feed corn—and Iowa leads the nation—was 12,900,000; Iowa's soybean acreage, in which it is number-two, was 8,400,000, for a total of 21,300,000. *The ACC will own 13% more land.*

In fact, the ACC's projected 24 million acres is equal to 36% of the total wheat land harvested, or 34% of all the corn land harvested, or 37% of all the soybean ground harvested in 1984. This represents approximately 12% of all the land devoted to wheat, corn, and soybeans in the United States.

How would this great landlord function? The poor farmer who is leaving the land will also lose on the deal because of the way he is paid. For a piece of land for which he would expect to receive \$1,000 per acre, he will instead receive \$850 per acre in cash, plus stock in the ACC equal to 15% of the value. Moreover, the stock will earn nothing for 10 years. (The land from the Farmers Home Administration will be paid 100% in stock.)

Under the ACC plan, a farmer would be able to rent back his land—if he could afford to—for 6% of the total price paid for the land. Therefore, if the land sold for \$1,000 per acre, the farmer could rent it back for only \$60 per acre.

Sound good? That's what they hope the farmer will think. But wait: The leases only run for three years. Moreover, the ACC would not only buy land over a five-year period; it would sell it over a ten-year period. At any time, the land could be purchased for 115% of its purchase price—by anyone. The ACC is thus guaranteed a 15% profit on the sale. The Secretary of Agriculture, through local soil conservation offices, could declare land "fragile" and deed-restrict the land to "soil-conservation" uses.

Just who do you think will be doing the buying? Obviously not dispossessed farmers. This evil legislation will override state laws, and is designed to enable the grain cartels and the foreign oligarchs we fought to gain our independence to buy up an improved America cheap. The farmer? He might be able to continue to rent—i.e., he will become a share-cropper.

Legislation of this type was pushed by the oligarchs in Denmark and defeated by the farmers of that country led by Vagn Eskildsen. Americans had better be just as successful.