

Agriculture by Sue Atkinson and Suzanne Rose

'Animal enterprise zones' come to Iowa

Cartel processors and banks plan to boost their profits from slave-labor maquiladoras in the United States.

On Jan. 21, the Iowa Senate passed a bill creating agricultural enterprise zones. These are areas which will be designated for livestock production in the state, and will serve as low-wage, low-tax areas to replace the capital intensive family farms which once flourished in Iowa.

Behind the legislation has been a plan to bring the notorious *maquiladora* system in Mexico, described by economist Lyndon LaRouche as an "Auschwitz below the border," into the United States. The free trade negotiations with Mexico have highlighted the policy of slave labor production enclaves along the border, unfettered by tax, environmental, or wage regulations, and backers of the plan are proceeding by piecemeal methods, in order to minimize opposition.

At a board meeting of the Iowa Bankers Association in 1988, a discussion was held concerning the necessity for developing a new economic plan for the state. A committee was established to commission the preparation of a plan to be presented to Iowans. The committee commissioned the Stanford Research Institute.

The catch, however, is that the Stanford Research Institute (SRI) already had plans on the drawing board, called "Futures Projects," which were being presented to the representatives of movers and shakers in several states. Under the guise of finding new solutions for the depression and population decline in rural areas, the SRI proposed to shift the population in rural states into "cluster" areas, which would provide low-cost labor for food

processing and producing facilities owned by such companies as, in Iowa, the "big three" meatpackers Cargill, IBP, and ConAgra.

Founded as a think-tank for powerful financial and insurance interests after World War II by Kurt Lewin and his associates from the London-based Tavistock Institute, the SRI has been headquarters for public opinion molders and psychological warfare experts. Their "Futures Projects," which have been presented at town hall meetings across the Midwest, are designed to profile target rural populations, who are being victimized by depression economic conditions, in order to manipulate them into accepting the global market economics of the "New Age." This means production for the profit of the multinational banks and trading companies.

On Jan. 26, 1989, the "Iowa Futures Project" of the SRI was unveiled to the public. During the summer, over 100 public discussions were held around the state to involve as many citizens as possible in the process of discussion of economic options, as defined by the SRI.

In January 1990, a plan drafted by the Iowa Business Council was released to the public. It was called "Jobs Creation in Animal Agriculture." It called for 12 or 13 "Golden Circle" areas composed of urban hubs surrounded by clusters of rural communities. The clustering, or rationing, process was sold to the public on the basis that they would all survive a situation of shrinking resources by consolidating and sharing vital services

and facilities.

Next, legislation was drafted calling for "agricultural enterprise zones," which would accomplish the physical shift of the population to the desired areas. Legislators were told that the bills, first introduced in 1992, were necessary to help farmers avoid nuisance suits brought by urban people who moved to the country, built a house, and then complained about their farmer neighbors.

The Iowa Business Council proposal called for the creation of an Iowa Animal Agriculture Development Council, which would oversee the animal agriculture zones. The council would be a private sector group made up of the cartel-dominated banking and business community, which would designate areas for the establishment of the zones and the resources required. To co-opt grass roots resistance, some opponents would be included on the council. The council would be a private organization funded by "stockholders"—again, the dominant banks, agribusiness corporations, and various co-opted community, educational, and governmental institutions. The council would coordinate legislation for zoning, regulations, and finance.

According to various reports issued in connection with the restructuring, the profit in the animal enterprise zones is expected to come from cheapening the costs of labor, both in the production of the grain and the raising and processing of the livestock.

During the week of Jan. 25, the announcement came of the formation of Project 21. This is a committee formed for the express purpose of creating the first, and largest, of the "Golden Circle" areas in the state which will not only show that it can be done, but that it can be used as a model for the other dozen recommended "Golden Circle" areas.