

All political prisoners should be freed in the United States. Instead of jailing political activists and instead of keeping political activists from the Black liberation movement or the Native American struggle, like Leonard Pelletier, in jail, we should begin investigating the crimes of American intelligence agencies and the crimes of the FBI and the COINTELPRO program; what they've done to progressives throughout U.S. history.

I want to just end by going back to what I started with—that image of those children in the back seat of the car, where the mother is putting just \$10 worth of gas in the tank of her car. And I want to remind people, that

that's who we're fighting for. We fight for the millions, not the millionaires. We fight for a United States where working families can have justice, and can be seen as an asset. And all people are given a place, and an economy that marches ahead and builds a whole new world. We're fighting for a society where human beings aren't viewed as animals or economic calculations, but rather as creatures with great creative potential to build a new world and create great discoveries and innovations.

So, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for this invitation, and I look forward to the discussion at the conclusion of hearing from the other speakers.

Michael Callicrate

Building a Safe, Resilient, Decentralized Cartel-Free Food System

This is an edited transcript of the remarks of Michael Callicrate to the Third Panel of the Schiller Institute's April 9, 2022 conference, "Establish a New Security and Development Architecture for All Nations." Mr. Callicrate is a Kansas cattleman, policy advocate, and founder and owner of Ranch Foods Direct.

Hello, this is Mike Callicrate from Colorado Springs, Colorado. I want to thank the Schiller Institute and Helga for this opportunity today to present on this panel.

I think we need to look at possibilities that are available to us in addressing this highly concentrated globalized food system that is leaving a whole lot of people hungry in the world, and farmers, ranchers, and food producers included.

At Ranch Foods Direct where I spend my time every day—along with Callicrate Cattle Company in St. Francis, Kansas—we have been working on building a more resilient and sustainable food system for about 22 years.

But I think it's important to talk about why we have looked at this building of an alternative food system. We've always believed that concentration of power and wealth is one of the greatest threats to human civilization throughout history. And President James Madison said,



Schiller Institute

Michael Callicrate

Concentrated wealth will destroy our nation unless the laws change. The day will come when our republic will be an impossibility because wealth will be concentrated in the hands of a few. When that day comes, we must rely upon the wisdom of the best elements in the country to readjust the laws of the nation.

I think that is where we are today.

The United States Department of Agriculture has inscribed in stone above the main portico of the building—the USDA was formed in the 1860s under President Lincoln—but inscribed in stone is the quote, "The husbandman that la-



Courtesy of Mike Callicrate

Delivering meat, eggs, and other produce to the Colorado Springs Food Hub, which is also the home of Ranch Foods Direct.



We're in the de-reg business!



What President Reagan did to antitrust law enforcement in the 1980's was the equivalent of referees declaring no-rules and leaving the field in a football game. Cheating was not only allowed, it was required to win - and it still is.

"Government IS the problem!"




"...there is no stopping it (concentration). This is an evolution that's going to take place in spite of whoever is in the way."

Robert Peterson, IBP Chairman and CEO, July 1996
\$20 Billion by 2001 article, in *Meat and Poultry*

Robert L. Peterson
President & CEO, IBP

boreth must be the first to partake of the fruits. —St. Paul.”

Well, just the opposite today is occurring. The husbandman, the farmer, the steward of the land, is the last to receive any kind of return from the fruits of his labor. In fact, he’s being put out of business by this cartel-controlled food system.

“We’re in the dereg business,” said President Reagan. “Government is the problem.” What President Reagan did to anti-trust law enforcement in the 1980s was the equivalent of referees declaring no rules in leaving the field in a football game. Cheating was not only allowed; it was required and still is.

In 1996, *U.S. News and World Report* did an article called, “Illegal in Iowa.” Ninety years after *The Jungle*, the 1906 book by Upton Sinclair, here we are again, addressing the same problems. Even though laws were passed to prevent this sort of thing from happening again, they haven’t been enforced. Ninety years after Upton Sinclair published this groundbreaking exposé of the nation’s meatpacking industry, illegal immigrants are flocking to the United States to take the dangerous, low-paying jobs most Americans won’t. The difference between now and then? Now, there’s a system that keeps the illegals coming and the industry humming, and the plants have come to rely on it.

Bob Peterson [then President and CEO of meat-packer IBP —ed.], in 1996, said,

[T]here is no stopping it [concentration]. This is an evolution that’s going to take place in spite of whoever is in the way.

This, coming from the largest meatpacker in the world, Iowa Beef Processors, soon to be owned by Tyson Foods.

USDA: ‘We Need Big Companies’

In December 1998, I was told by my only buyer, National Beef in St. Francis, Kansas, that they would no longer be buying my cattle. I had 14,000 cattle, and 12,000 in a feedlot because I couldn’t sell them. So, I called [Agriculture] Secretary Dan Glickman whose responsibility it was to enforce the Packers and Stockyards Act, which would have prevented me from being blackballed by the packers. I asked him why he didn’t enforce the law, and he said, “Well, you know Mike, in this modern day of globalization, we need big companies that can do business globally.”

A judge in the court case that I was a plaintiff in, that was filed in 1996—which led to my being blackballed by the big packers—showed how a captured judiciary reverses the intent of the 1921 Packers and Stockyard Act: To protect producers from abusive meatpacking power. Judge Strom set a very bad precedent when he reversed that 2004 jury decision and award [which found] Tyson-IBP in violation of the Packers and Stockyards Act. The Supreme Court later refused to hear the case. So Judge Strom took away from the cattleman plaintiffs in the case, a \$1.28 billion jury award, and any hope of injunctive relief stopping the meatpackers from acting anti-competitively.

JBS Gives Top Job to Senior U.S. Politician. Sao Paulo, Brazil—Former U.S. Rep. John Boehner, the 53rd Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, was appointed to the board of JBS Foods International (JBSFI), a subsidiary of Sao Paulo, Brazil-based JBS, SA.

So, here we have more of the revolving door from government to corporation and back again. John Boehner was important in repealing the Country of Origin Labelling [COOL] law, as well as reversing much of the intent of the price reporting law that was supposed to protect producers and make the markets more transparent. So, business as usual at JBS. After paying \$3 billion to settle bribery and corruption charges, the Batistas are still in the driver's seat at JBS—August 2017.

Also in 2017, JBS hired the former USDA food safety chief, Al Almanza. Al Almanza had been working at the USDA for nearly 40 years, and had been instrumental in putting small plants out of business with onerous regulations and rules like HACCP [Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point]. Then, as administrator of USDA, he allowed the rotten meat in from Brazil during an 80-day period, in which every other country had blocked that meat from crossing their borders. Al Almanza then goes to work for JBS.

The monopoly that's standing between farmers and ranchers and consumers, and controlling the costs of inputs and the prices of outputs, is the major threat to farmers and ranchers, and consumers as well in having access to good food. The monopoly is extracting the wealth from this enterprise called agriculture, leaving behind poverty, hungry people, bad food, highly processed foods, and deepening the world's crisis of hunger

JBS gives top job to senior US politician



SAO PAULO, Brazil – Former US Rep. John Boehner, the 53rd Speaker of the US House of Representatives, was appointed to the board of JBS Foods International (JBSFI), a subsidiary of Sao Paulo, Brazil-based JBS SA.

September 25, 2015

National Catholic Register
Former House Speaker John Boehner

JBS hires former USDA food safety chief




After allowing rotten meat into the U.S., Almanza goes to work for JBS.

August 2017

JBS's Wesley and Joesley Batista – a Brazilian crime family
Almanza

A captured judiciary reverses intent of 1921 Packers and Stockyards Act to protect producers from abusive meatpacking power.



Judge Strom reversed the 2004 jury decision finding Tyson/IBP in violation of the Packers and Stockyards Act. The Supreme Court refused to hear the case.

Reagan appointee - Lynn E. Strom
Chief of Nebraska - United States District Court

'Big Four' Meatpackers Are Crushing Small Ranchers

The JBS cyber attack caused only a hiccup in meatpacking operations. But for legislators, the security scare was a sign that it might be time to break up the industry.

BY AMELIA POLGARO JUNE 8, 2017



THE AMERICAN PROSPECT

and lack of food. Four big meatpackers are crushing small ranchers.

The cyberattack on JBS [May 30, 2021] was only a hiccup in the meatpacking operations, but for legislators, the security scare was a sign that it might be time to break up the industry. Again, much like the COVID problem and the breakdown of the supply chain, we are looking to build better, more resilient, safer food systems that lift people from poverty, not only in agriculture, but people who eat as well. Monopolies are bad. It's been written about by several authors, and Barry Lynn [Open Markets Institute] says, "Fight what's bad, while building something better."

American System Applied to Farming

So, let's build something better. What will that look like? Abraham Lincoln's advisor Henry Carey said,

We must adopt the measures needed for bringing together the producers and consumers of food and wool, and thus augmenting their power to have commerce among themselves.

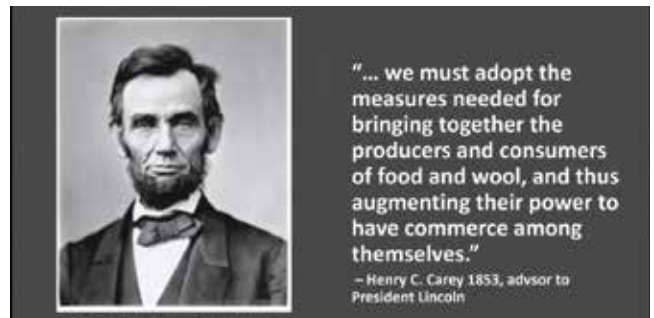
What's that look like?

Big food is standing between eaters on the one hand and farmers and ranchers on the other. Let's build a system that goes around the big food monopoly cartels. We've done that with Ranch Food Direct. We support the family farm and ranch. We believe the ideal farm is family-owned and operated, diversified, livestock-centered. Responsibly grazing and feeding the farm's production, with animal manure going back to the land. A more direct route for producers to connect with consumers wanting to know where their food comes from might be a mobile slaughter unit placed in a livestock operation. Animals are processed where they are, eliminating the stress of transport and improving meat quality by also reducing stress and cost.

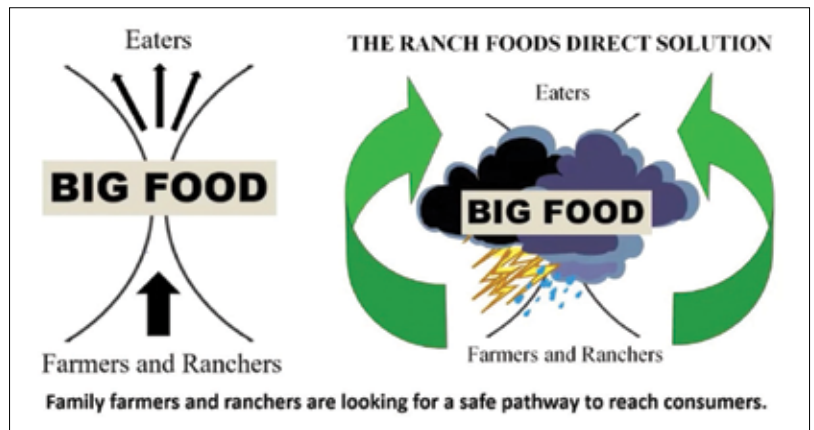
In 2021, the mobile slaughter unit moved to Montana to be part of a teaching curriculum at Northern Montana College, and is now replaced with a purpose-built slaughter floor in St. Francis, Kansas. Carcasses travel 200 miles to Colorado Springs, along with eggs and other food items from the region, and are delivered to the Colorado Springs Food Hub, which is the home of Ranch Foods Direct.



Courtesy of Mike Callibrate



The U.S. Department of Agriculture was formed in the 1860s under President Lincoln, who also established the Land Grant Colleges to develop agriculture and ensure that we can feed ourselves.



Courtesy of Mike Callibrate

The final step, in my view, to really restore some well-being back to agriculture, as well as getting consumers better food, keeping money in communities instead of being extracted to global corporations and wealthy elites around the world? I think we build public markets, whether they're publicly owned, privately owned, or co-owned by the vendors that are in it. My description of the market is that the market feeds the city: Owner-operated businesses process and package foods from the region, from meats to grains to seasonal produce.

A brewery using local grains and hops along with many other prepared food makers sell directly to eaters and eateries. Seasonal markets outflow from the main market, welcoming producers and growers from

urban to rural. The energy-filled, year-round market is where community happens; a gathering place for residents and visitors.

Thank you.



Callicrate Cattle Co.

Two views of the purpose-built slaughter floor at Callicrate Cattle Company's facility in St. Francis, Kansas. An example of "building something better," processing carcasses efficiently in a safe working environment.

Public Discussion

This is an edited transcript of the public discussion following the presentations to the Third Panel of the April 9, 2022 Schiller Institute Conference, "To Establish a New Security and Development Architecture for All Nations." Participating were moderator Harley Schlanger and speakers Jacques Cheminade, Caleb Maupin, and Diogène Senny.

Harley Schlanger: We've received many more questions than we can get to, and I'm sorry we won't be able to get to all your questions. But I thank people for the passion that went into these questions.

How To Make Westphalian Peace Possible?

Let's start with this question, for anyone on the panel. Someone wrote in: "Given the obvious unwillingness of the U.S. and NATO to even consider President Putin's reasonable insistence on security guarantees, and the enmity shown toward Russia with the sanctions regime, what change would make forgiveness possible to reach a Westphalian peace?"

Jacques Cheminade: I think both in the Western policies and international policies, there is a wrong sense of what "security" means. "Security" is not only to protect against vengeful enemies. Security is both

social—to be fed and to have your health properly taken care of—security is economic, the capacity to develop your society to higher forms of production; it's education; and it's also, of course, public health. This is our Ibn Sina project.

So, this sense of security as a *whole justice* done to the creative powers of the human being, should be again put forward; and this is what our conference is doing, I think. It explains that if you need security, it can only be secured by development, and by mutual development. I think that's the key of the period to come.

For that, you must feel in yourself the right emotions. When you see, as it was said before, millions—probably 1 billion people—threatened to die, either by hunger or cold, by inadequate care, or other reasons. When you see that, if you are not moved, there is something wrong with you. Why is there then something wrong? This is connected to what Caleb Maupin just said. It's a distortion of emotions. To do the right thing and to act according to a human behavior, you should feel in yourself the right emotions leading you to discover, to create, to do things that would improve the state of your society and the world. If you are fed with the wrong emotions, then you start to be destroyed and you can't act as you should have acted.

It reminds me of a discussion with Amelia Robinson