

state of agriculture

Agricultural Roundup

August 12 [IPS] — In this issue, IPS inaugurates an "Agriculture Roundup," a series of brief reports on the international agriculture situation. These items are telexed at least three times a week to our telex subscribers on the dates indicated. The Roundup will be reproduced in full as a regular feature in the weekly printed IPS. For more information on the agriculture service by telex, contact IPS.

August 6 (IPS) — Since the last IPS agriculture brief appeared, the peasant ferment sweeping Western Europe has accelerated, spreading from France and Belgium through the Netherlands and West Germany. This outward movement — significantly highlighted in some cases by actual united-front overtures made by peasants to workers — is occurring against the wishes of the leadership of most of the peasant organizations on the continent.

Underlying this, Rockefeller's deliberate, genocidal devastation of world agriculture intensifies. The drought in the U.S. Midwest continues to take its toll of crops, while the severe fertilizer shortage threatens Indian food output.

At the same time, Rockefeller's U.S. media mouthpieces are launching an attack on "greedy farmers" hoping to convince workers to turn against their natural allies as the cause of dwindling, expensive food supplies.

BELGIUM

August 6 (IPS) — The peasant protest in Belgium has expanded significantly over the past week, taking on a more nationally coordinated program of action. At this point, it appears that all of the major peasant organizations, including the heretofore reluctant Catholic Boerenbond, have joined in the ferment. The major activities so far have consisted in roadblocks, but following the example of France's MODEF, the peasants also have begun to distribute free food to passing motorists.

The Boerenbond in Courtal held demonstrations around that city July 29, while the peasants of Limbourg

and Louvain-Terlemont held a meeting in the market at Tongres. Presiding over the meeting was M. Van Kerkhove of the Algemeen Boerenfront who said the agricultural price policy of the EEC would be "catastrophic in the short run." The group then called for a general strike on July 30. The Union Professionelles Agricole, one of the leading Belgian peasant groups, called for demonstrations to be held throughout Wallonia July 29. In Uccle, gendarmes were brought out to stop angry peasants; no incidents of violence were reported. The primary demands of the peasants are a revision of the EEC's price policy and that peasants be permitted to postpone payment on certain debts.

Belgium's Minister of Agriculture Albert Lavens just announced a series of measures in response to the peasant unrest. These include livestock slaughter premiums, direct government aid to cattle-raisers in certain areas of the country, and tax cuts for farmers.

FRANCE

August 6 (IPS) — Peasant protests and demonstration continue unabated. The French Federation of Agriculture (FFA) along with the Communist-led peasant organization, MODEF, intend to increase demonstrations, especially since French President Giscard d'Estaing had excluded them from a meeting he will hold with the officially recognized peasant groups, the FNSEA and CNJA. Local organizations are increasing their warnings, like the Bouches-du-Rhone CNJA which declared: "It is not certain that our demonstrations will go on quietly because farmers are exasperated and will go up to the victory." Indre-et-Loire professionals and parliamentarians sent a telegram to French premier Chirac demanding that the agricultural ministers of the nine European Economic Community (EEC) countries hold an emergency meeting to discuss the crisis in agriculture.

Peasants Attack Solutionless Leaders

Le Monde July 31 notes that the dissatisfaction remains very acute within the "base," i.e., the rank-and-file peasantry. The Gueret Committee (which represents peasant organizations from 19 departments in central France) called on meat producers and others to "pursue, intensify and increase their actions towards the government and towards those parliamentarians who have not demanded an extraordinary Assembly session."



Part of the rank-and-file is turning against its solutionless leaders. A bomb was placed in the home of Marcel Bruet, president of the National Confederation of Cattle Raisers, while a Republican Independent party deputy in the Rhone region was submerged by peasants in his office. In Saumur, tens of delegates from five departments organized a demonstration at a speech given by Premier Chirac.

Meanwhile, the French Communist Party (PCF) and the Socialist Party signed a joint communique with the Communist-led truck drivers federation underlining a "convergence of interests" between the two layers.

Numerous road-blockings were organized by farmers in the southwest and the center of the country. One hundred tons of fruit were destroyed by enraged peasants in the Gard region. More than 13,000 grape vines were uprooted and destroyed by angry farmers in the Gironde region, while farmers in Meuse lost 200 hectares of grain to "an invasion of rodents."

ELC Pushes Debt Moratorium

In the midst of this chaos, members of the Paris

branch of the European Labor Committee intervened at a press conference held by the PCF to present its proposal demanding a moratorium on all farm debt with the provision that if such a moratorium were instituted, it would be at the expense of capitalist, not working-class income. The proposal was received favorably by most PCFers. One leader, Minot, commented: "We are not against a moratorium, we are even for it..." Then he concluded with the shortsighted and evasive remark that there were certain immediate priorities which had to come before a debt moratorium, such as increasing the price of livestock at the production level.

As for the government's response, Finance Minister Fourcade announced that price controls for certain livestock would be enforced severely. These include hog meat, whose price actually is to be **lowered** this month; and beef, for which, Fourcade said, price controls would have to be discussed with professional representatives. Fourcade's announcement is a clear slap in the face to the peasants and farmers who have been demonstrating for the past month demanding price increases.

INDIA [and Bangladesh]

August 6 (IPS) — Monsoon rains caused the worst floods in 20 years in Bangladesh, flooding 12,000 square miles. India's northeastern state, Assam, was flooded as rivers overflowed. No estimate of crop damage has been released yet.

In the Indian state of Punjab, where technology effectively had upgraded farming, this year's wheat crop will be approximately one million tons less than last year's, due to the fertilizer shortage and price doubling. In addition, farmers in the area are turning from rice production to maize, a crop less nutritious, but also less demanding of fertilizer.

In Haryana, a "surplus food state," the government reports that food grain production dropped by 10 lakh tons since 1971, despite increased inputs of irrigation and fertilizer.

BRITAIN

August 6 (IPS) — The sugar shortage which Britain's Minister of Agriculture claims is nonexistent erupted into violent confrontations between housewives August 2, when fighting broke out at a supermarket between customers struggling to claim the remaining stocks of sugar. "We never thought panic buying would reach such proportions," said a spokesman for the store, where sugar was selling at an incredible 281 pounds per minute.

The Milk Marketing Board recently released a study documenting the collapse of Britain's dairy industry. In the past year, 4000 dairy producers abandoned the industry, a 25 per cent increase from the preceding 12 months. The rate of abandonment has accelerated over the last three months. Numbers of dairy cows fell 1.3 per cent in the last year, while inseminations dropped 2.5 per cent. With the high cost of feed causing a lowering in the nutritional content of the cow's nourishment, milk yield per cow slumped from 906 gallons to 870 gallons in the year.

WEST GERMANY

August 6 (IPS) — The rightwing newspaper, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, is reiterating its attack on German farmers. While the newspaper's editors recognize the existence of a European-wide agriculture crisis, they brazenly tell West German farmers that they are better off than their counterparts in other countries, and are just complaining the way they have for centuries.

NETHERLANDS

August 6 (IPS) — Testifying to the intensity of the agricultural crisis, peasant unrest is breaking out in the Netherlands, where farming is more profitable than in any other Western European country. Farmer demonstrations in the country are taking place despite the opposition of farm organization leaders.

ITALY

August 6 (IPS) — Acceding to the EEC demand that she drop her import restrictions for agricultural products, Italy did away with all such restrictions August 1, except for the 25 per cent import deposit which will be required on beef imports. The practical effects of the new provisions, which include a 12.5 per cent devaluation of the so-called "green lire," are that lire prices of agricultural products will jump 12.5 per cent.

JAPAN

August 6 (IPS) — The Tanaka Cabinet raised producers' rice prices by 37.4 per cent this week after days of farmer demonstrations. As a result, consumer prices for rice will rise 40 per cent by October. According to the *Japanese Times*, the psychological effect of the price increase will bring on food hoarding and a black market, and will also divert farmers to rice production and away from needed soybeans and wheat.

UNITED STATES

August 6 (IPS) — The CIA mouthpiece, the *New York Times*, carried several psychological warfare articles in its pages this week. The July 29 *Times* had an editorial, "Europe's Beef Berg," which retailed the Rockefeller line that the advanced, overfed sector should sacrifice some of its unneeded consumption to feed the third world. The editorial attacked the EEC's recent ban on beef imports for "delaying a necessary readjustment through production cutbacks....grain saved by a cutback in beef output could feed five times as many of the world's hungry millions as the meat that is foregone."

The *Times* also called for a conference to determine immediate and longer-term plans to prevent "overproduction of meat in the advanced countries while millions in the third world go hungry for grain."

The *Washington Post* picked up another thread of the same line in its August 2 edition. A lead front-page article, "Farmers Hold Grains to Increase Prices," by Dan Morgan opens up a major assault on farmers, depicting them as a greedy bunch who are holding their wheat off the market to force prices up. The article characterizes farmers as a special interest group colluding in swindling the public. A similar attack has been launched on milk producers, via the Watergate route.

Picking up the ball was George Hoffman, spokesman at the U.S. Agricultural Department's Economic Research Service. His explanation of meat price increases is that farmers are withholding beef from market in order to get higher prices. Hoffman also predicted that the current devastating drought in the Midwest would affect meat prices.

Rainfall in the corn belt this week brought an influx of long-term contract liquidations, as speculators decided to cash in their paper profits. Soybeans, corn, wheat, hogs, cattle and broilers all declined the limit, as the prediction of additional rainfall dampened the expected catastrophe in the harvest and relieved the supply pressure on the cost of animal feeds. How long this trend continues depends on the short-term swings of the weather and the panic rumors which the press can circulate and inflate.

Feed prices continue to climb. Corn is being sold at prices equal to the high of July 1973. Corn is available at a price, i.e., a blackmarket price, forced on desperate farmers by hoarders holding back grain in hopes of higher profit. In some areas, corn is being rationed. Often farmers get only 50 per cent of their requirements.

Other sources of feed, such as hay, are selling for as high as \$60 per ton. The second and third cuttings now practically are nonexistent because of the drought.

Meanwhile, the government has ordered Shell to halt production on two pesticides named as posing an "imminent hazard" to the public health. This appears to be blatant attack on the corn crop for which pesticides are required to control crop-destroying insects. A Shell lawyer said the order was "small potatoes" for the company, while the ban "is going to jump the price of corn like crazy."

BRITAIN

August 1 (IPS) — The two largest British fertilizer producers, Fisons and Imperial Chemical Industries, have raised their prices approximately 25 per cent, although Imperial's price hike still must obtain government approval. This brings the total increase in fertilizer prices to 75 per cent this year. The price increases are linked to higher costs for phosphate rock, ammonia, and potash. In response, the British National Farmers Union has called for the reinstatement of fertilizer subsidies to farmers which were abolished in May. According to the *Journal of Commerce*, the National Farmers Union "has had little success convincing the Labour government of the need to reintroduce them."

BELGIUM

August 1 (IPS) — Peasant demonstrations also are spreading through Belgium. The Algemeen Boerensyndicaat, an organization of Flemish farmers, announced that if the EEC did not revise agricultural prices, it would initiate a strike-boycott July 30. The boycott would be aimed at stopping the flow of goods to and from plants and cutting off the flow of farm products to markets. The organization also announced that its members would refuse to buy anything at all for the duration of the boycott.

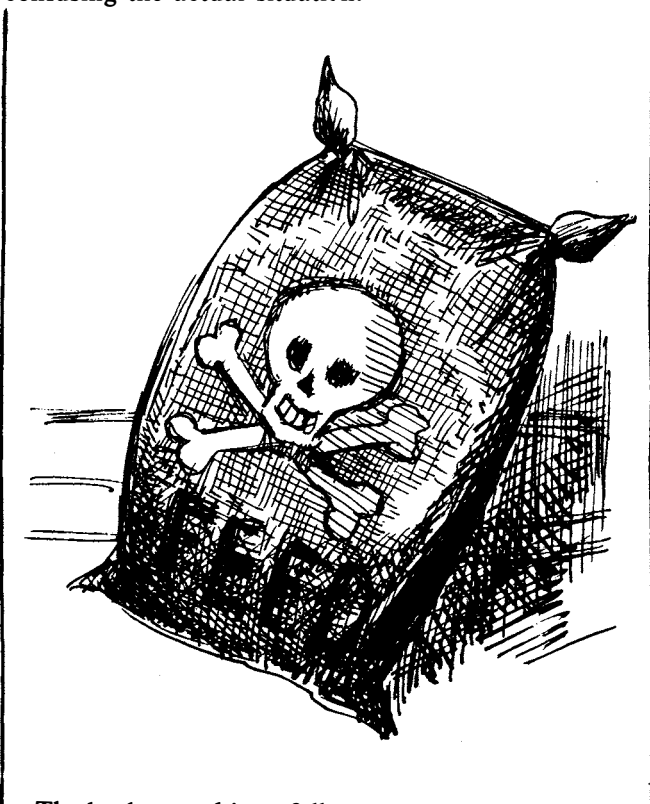
Last week, Belgian farmers blocked the entrance to the Diepenbeek milk plant and also temporarily blocked

the roads to Renaix. So far, the Catholic peasants union, the Boerenbond has refused to go along with the demonstrations. In Wallonia, the Libramont agricultural fair has been cancelled in order to prevent confrontations between farmers who support the demonstrations and those who do not.

The Union des Exploitants Familiaux (small farmers) are calling on the Walloon peasants to join the strike of the Algemeen Boerensyndicaat.

MERCURY POISONING OF EUROPEAN CATTLE

August 1 (IPS) — Initial reports that 80,000 calves have been slaughtered because of mercury-contaminated feed produced by CPC International were retracted in the *Wall Street Journal* July 31, which reports that so far only a few hundred cattle had to be killed. Whether or not this subsequent figure is accurate, rumors are flying confusing the actual situation.



The background is as follows: A European subsidiary of CPC International, the largest corn-products industry in the world, shipped a mercury product to a Dutch animal feed company which used it in preparing artificial milk for calves. The mercury product was produced in Britain by another CPC firm and shipped to a CPC warehouse in the Netherlands before being sold to the Dutch feed company, Trouw. Trouw shipped 60 tons of the mercury-contaminated feed to cattle producers in Italy, France, and the Netherlands. In addition, CPC's Dutch firm sold 25 tons of the feed.

The IPS research staff is investigating the situation, including possible Rockefeller involvement.

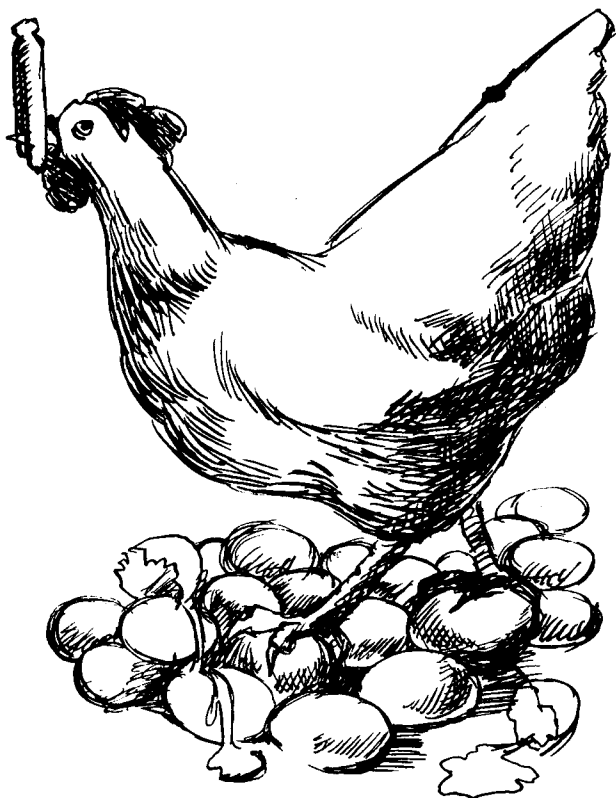
CANADA

August 1 (IPS) — In a sharp blow to Canadian wheat farmers, the Canadian Wheat Board today gave up sole jurisdiction over wheat marketing in Eastern Canada. The consequent elimination of price guarantees undoubtedly will mean a rapid, sharp decline in Canadian wheat prices.

The Canadian milk and turkey industries are in trouble, due to poor price returns. The Alberta Turkey Marketing Board reports that Canada is in danger of losing all its independent turkey producers, while milk production in the country was down 2.2 per cent in the first six months of 1974, and down 3.1 per cent in June.

Thousands of dozens of government-owned surplus eggs are rotting because they've been in storage too long. According to the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency, this situation is caused by efforts to keep egg prices above farmers' costs; this in turn has encouraged lower consumption and overproduction.

Meanwhile, a shortage of rain is deteriorating crops in Alberta; rain is needed immediately to save them.



FRANCE

August 1 (IPS) — Peasant demonstrations continue to rage as the agricultural crisis deepens. Peasant protesters covered the house of an Independent Republican Party deputy with excrement and set fire to an estate belonging to President Giscard d'Estaing's sister. In a more politically productive vein, farmers in Finistere (in the province of Brittany) announced they will attempt to

mobilize non-peasant sectors of the population to offset the government's attempts to pit farmers against workers.

Meanwhile, the European Labor Committee has confirmed the French newspaper *Le Figaro* report that rank-and-file members of the FNSEA, the largest peasant organization, are threatening a debt moratorium. Regional leaders of the Alpes Mediteranee section of the FNSEA said that moratorium discussions were underway. According to FNSEA leaders, if immediate measures are not taken by the government to alleviate the current drastic situation in agriculture, peasants will be unable to pay their debts.

The newspaper *Le Monde* (July 29) carried an interview with Minister of Agriculture Bonnet in which he expressed "clemency" for the farmers' demonstrations, expecting them to dwindle once the peasants realize the "magnitude" of the government's efforts to help them. To Bonnet's "soft cop" routine, Premier Chirac plays "hard cop," threatening that peasant violence will be repressed in the most severe way.

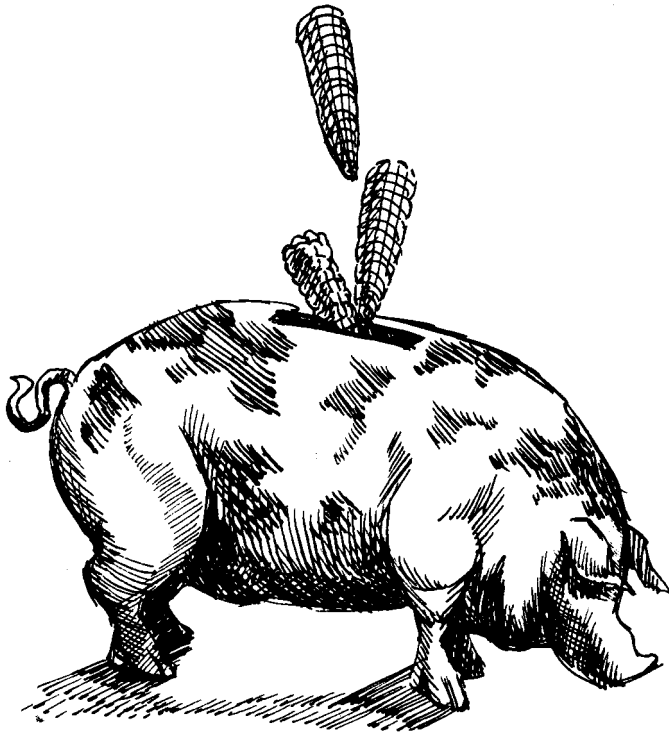
Bonnet is working on a new agricultural policy, which includes modernization of the agricultural structure (increasing the size of farms) and integration of production, distribution, and consumption. Public authorities would tighten organization of the markets to avoid product "surpluses" by cutting off credit, subsidies, and premiums to peasants refusing to comply. Bonnet's measures would result in a total recasting of existing EEC Common Agricultural Policy mechanisms.

WEST GERMANY

August 1 (IPS) — German peasants, most likely in collaboration with neo-Nazi Franz-Josef Strauss, head of the rightwing Christian Social Union, have formed a farmers organization which will publish a paper called "The Green Fist." In a well-conceived push to capture the massive unrest among peasants, the "Fist" announced a program of activities which includes a wave of demonstrations scheduled to begin in late summer and continue into the winter; a large conference; a national poster; and a unified national program.

Moving at high speed, the "Green Fist" is concentrating on organizing the provinces of Hessen and Bavaria. It is aiming to wipe out the working-class based party, the Social Democracy, before the fall elections in these areas. The fascist Strauss has been denouncing the Social Democrats for causing lowered farm income and rising unemployment.

To prevent this incipient fascist movement from developing further, the European Labor Committee immediately will push the Social Democrats to join with it in publishing a poster proclaiming the Labor Committee solution to the agricultural crisis: expanded food production and the immediate development of controlled thermonuclear fusion power.



UNITED STATES

August 1 (IPS) — The last weekly Department of Agriculture crop weather report said rains in parts of Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, and Minnesota last week helped corn crops in these areas, but that extreme soil dryness made the situation still critical. According to the report, "Corn in western Iowa as well as dryland corn in Nebraska and Kansas has been hurt considerably...." Official USDA crop estimates already have been reduced by 700 million bushels for corn and 275 bushels for wheat.

IPS has checked directly with the Weather Bureau to assess the exact nature of the Midwest drought. There is no doubt that drought conditions exist and these are considerably more widespread and severe than the last major drought in 1963-64. As of yet, the drought has not reached the proportions of the devastating 1956 drought.

Tilford C. Gaines, senior vice president and economist at Manufacturers Hanover Trust, notes in his monthly cassette report that the drought-caused cut in the U.S. grain crop and the lowered grain production in other countries mean that food prices will rise to record highs this year, aggravating inflation. Gaines predicts that 1974 will be the worst single year for consumer inflation, surpassing even the record inflation years of 1946 and 1920.

The July 30 *Wall Street Journal* cites a "private report" to the effect that a "merciless drought is drying up the midlands and it is probably too late to save billions of dollars in crops." Along with this storm of

panic came a rush of commodity price increases above the limit for soybeans, corn, oatmeal, wheat, and livestock.

The July 30 *Journal of Commerce* contains the following coverage of the drought: New Mexico Governor Bunce says that his state's rangeland is in the worst shape since 1922; all dryland wheat has been burned out. Nebraska's governor has declared that state a drought disaster area, with a zero corn crop expected in some areas. The Texas Agriculture Commissioner claims a 2 billion loss for the state's crops and more for the hard-hit cattle industry. Further, insect damage is increasing because of the dry spell. Nebraska Governor Exon has authorized the cutting and auctioning of hay growing alongside the highways to ease the food shortage. Kansas grain losses are put at \$1 billion so far. Illinois expected to lose 50 per cent of its crops on some farms. If the drought continues, it is feared that the soybean and corn crops of northwestern Ohio will be cut in half.

The August 1 *Journal of Commerce* reports that no significant rainfall is forecast for the Midwest during the next 30 days. The paper also reports that as a result of the drought, the rootworm beetle is foraging on Iowa's corn crop.

The Dallas Federal Reserve has targeted the end of this fall as the date when cattle/calf producers will go under. According to the agricultural economist at the Detroit Federal Reserve, bankers are "extremely nervous" that the industry will collapse, since nearly all short-term loans to livestock producers in the U.S. come due at that time. With cattlemen losing at least \$30-70 per head this year, many will not be able to meet their loans.

Since banks this year began to demand that farmers offer real estate as collateral for loans instead of the usual policy of using their herds as collateral, cattle farmers face losing their entire farms to Rockefeller-controlled banks when unpayable loans come due in several months.

Bad Tydings

The Rockefeller plan for the destruction of world agriculture and resultant genocide of at least one billion people is summed up in a report developed by former Maryland Senator Joseph Tyding's Population Crisis Committee and presented at the United Nations in April 1974. The program titled "Declaration on Food and Population," calls for the following:

- Population control policies "relevant to national needs."

In other words, Rockefeller's banks will force "let them starve"-type austerity policies on countries wishing to obtain credit for buying food supplies.

•Establishment of food reserves. *That is, food banks should be established under total Rockefeller domination, dispensing food as a primary means of population control.*

•Birth control. *Rockefeller's euphemism for genocide.*

Over 1000 people have signed this document, including 25 senators, 45 congressmen, numerous foreign dictators, and, most prominently, I.W. Abel of the United Steelworkers Union; Leonard Woodcock of the United Auto Workers, and key CIA operative Robert McNamara, head of the World Bank and author of the infamous McNamara Plan which calls for turning the underdeveloped sector into a vast concentration camp where starving slave laborers produce, through labor-intensive methods, food to feed their industrial slave labor counterparts in Europe and the United States; and John D. Rockefeller III, the "father" of Zero Population Growth.

Echoing this murderous program, Congressman William Barrett, who "represents" Philadelphia's first congressional district and who is being challenged by United States Labor Party candidate, Bernie Salera, recently sent out a newsletter to his constituency entitled "The Diminishing American Food Supply." Much of this was taken directly from an April 22 *Philadelphia Inquirer* article, "The Use of Agriculture as a Tool, Not a Gift," written by Herbert Wilf.

The Wilf article specifically recommends that the U.S. sell its food exports to the UN because the control of food in times of crisis is a political weapon. Barrett suggests that the U.S. use its "agripower" against the third world oil-exporting countries' "petropower." Of course, neither Barrett nor Wilf notes that the Rockefeller cabal masterminded the so-called oil hoax in order to bankrupt oil-importing countries and now is engaged in destroying worldwide agriculture production, including that of the United States.

ITALY

July 30 (IPS) — Austerity measures demanded by Rockefeller's credit squeeze are directly responsible for taxes and import measures which have resulted in a 39 per cent decline in meat consumption. Meat is now a luxury. The Italian level of meat consumption is expected to near that designated by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization for the underdeveloped countries. In Milan, meat markets are closing as often as four afternoons a week because of the precipitous drop in business.

Wholesale meat prices went up by an expected 40 cents per kilogram on beef imported from outside the EEC. July 17, the EEC decided to prohibit imports of meat from non-Community countries. The Italian

Minister of Agriculture Bisaglia refused to subsidize lower meat prices by the requested amount of 50 per cent. He is ready to pay 25 per cent of the existing EEC subsidy. Bisaglia announced July 17, however, that he will allow pensioners to buy three pounds of meat per month at one-half the going price.

General alarm is spreading in anticipation of imminent food cost increases. The newspaper *Il Messagero* predicted a "black future" for food prices. The government announced that price controls will be replaced by controls on the basic "bread basket": bread, pasta, oil, milk and a few other essential commodities. To provoke further price increases, there is an increased value added tax levy on basic food products.

Prices Up; Food in Short Supply

- Today in Rome, Milk prices increased by 30 per cent. The price of industrial milk is soaring, in turn forcing the wholesale cost of basic cheeses like mozzarella to rise from 1000 lira per kilogram.
- Although the wholesale price of seasonal fruits and vegetables declined, retail prices remain up.
- The price of milk, coffee and other beverages has doubled.
- Despite recent large increases in the price of sugar, that commodity cannot be found in stores.
- Hard wheat production in the U.S. declined by a drastic one-third, with Italy harshly affected by the cut in production. Europe, with Italy at the top of the list, obtains 50 per cent of the yearly U.S. hard wheat output.
- Although the amount of food Italy imports has not increased in the past two years, expenditures for food imports have tripled.
- The tax on bananas is expected to double in order to discourage imports.

WEST GERMANY

July 30 (IPS) — The population has increased its consumption of noodles by 37 per cent in the last six months. There is no beef in West Germany. Pork production is in its death agony, as the increased slaughter of hogs too expensive to maintain to maturity has resulted in a decline of hog prices by 125 marks in the past six months; prices are now at their all-time low.

At the same time, farmers' costs have risen rapidly. Prices of farm machinery and grain are up 12 per cent over the past six months. If increases in fertilizer costs and debt are added, costs have increased 50 per cent.

GREAT BRITAIN

July 30 (IPS) — Per capita caloric intake has been reduced by 25-29 per cent since January. Sugar has been widely used as a substitute for more nourishing forms of food. Now a severe shortage of sugar has occurred. Sky-

rocketing prices and an immediate decline in consumption are in prospect. While world sugar futures turned downward on the London Market, new life-of-contract highs and a record daily spot price of 284 pounds per ton were achieved.

UNITED STATES

July 30 (IPS) — At the Minnesota Governors conference, Nelson Rockefeller laid out his food program for U.S. workers. "We are already consuming more than enough protein to meet productivity requirements," he said. Speakers at the conference were all Rockefeller men: Lester Brown of the Agency for International Development; Paul Findley and Quentin West from NATO; Norman Borlaug from Rockefeller's Commission on Critical Choices; and Hubert Humphrey, Rockefeller's "just plain folks."

Yesterday, the *New York Times* backed up Rockefeller's austerity plan with an editorial demanding that U.S. workers join their comrades in Western Europe in a meat-free diet. "We must prevent overproduction of meat in the advanced sector while millions are starving for wheat in the Third World," the *Times* stated.

The Governors conference issued a press release which outlines the Rockefeller solution — the creation of a Rockefeller-controlled extra-parliamentary body with life-and-death control over the population through food control.



Unnecessary Drought

July 30 (IPS) — A totally unnecessary and perhaps intentionally created drought in the major farm belt threatens to destroy large portions of the corn, sorghum, and wheat crops. Nebraska has already lost 50 per cent of its farmland. Governor Exon of Nebraska has declared that state a disaster area.

The *Journal of Commerce* implies this is the result of a drought cycle which created dust bowl conditions in the 1930s. In reality it is the Rockefeller-controlled depression collapse which is making irrigation unthinkable, bankrupting farmers just as it did in the Great Depression. Farmers are chopping up corn for silage — where there is any corn to chop.

"Food crops are burned up," laments Alfred Bond, manager for Goodpasture Inc., a farm grain handler. "Farmers will be lucky to get 25 per cent of last year's sorghum crop." One farmer in central Illinois complained: "If corn goes to \$4, I'll have to get nearly \$55 a hundredweight for my hogs to make any profit. If I don't get it, I won't produce." Hog prices are currently at \$37 a hundredweight. In the same area, agricultural experts are **expecting** only a 50 per cent crop yield.

Anticipating the grim harvest, speculators on the grain commodity exchanges yesterday sent the price of all grain except sorghum up the legal limit; sorghum prices rocketed 50 per cent beyond that limit. Thus Rockefeller's Cargill and Continental Grain Corporations continue to profit at the expense of both farmers and consumers.

At the same time, fertilizer supplies are at an all-time low. As of June 1, the following number of days of supplies existed: 12 days of nitrogen, 11 of phosphate, and 13.5 of potash.

Anthrax will cut meat production further. The epidemic in Texas will undoubtedly be followed by outbreaks elsewhere, despite quarantine measures. Anthrax is essentially a depression-caused disease: underfed animals unable to find grass while grazing instead eat roots where anthrax spores live. In Texas, the National Guard has been called in to enforce the quarantines, in another step toward innoculating the U.S. population for military control.

CANADA

July 30 (IPS) — With the decline in food prices and the tight credit, farmers are in deep trouble. A majority of farm loans are made solely on the basis of the farmer-borrower's own statement and the bank manager's knowledge of his ability to repay. The senior economist of the Toronto Dominion Bank reports that during the first quarter of 1974, loans to agriculture declined two per cent while all other loans rose. The Canadian government has set up a special land grab bureau, the Land Transfer Plan, to help bankrupt farmers dispose of their property.

Dairy consumption is declining rapidly. The province of New Brunswick, which produced enough milk for provincial consumption ten years ago, today must import milk. Production has declined nearly 50 per cent over the past seven years. Dairy cattle are being slaughtered.



Many abandoned farms are being left empty. In Ontario, a major dairy area, 7,000 farmers have left their farms in the past 18 months.

Hog prices have declined 50 per cent in one year, while feed grain prices have continued high. Pork consumption decreased 10 per cent this spring.

August 1, a new law effectively will reduce farmers' wheat prices, as their crop no longer will be bought exclusively by a central wheat board. Grain

companies and feed mills will now take turns offering lower and lower prices. The *Toronto Globe and Mail* reports that "memories of pre-wheat board days when farmers received only 25 cents a bushel" are coming back.

The hard-hit agricultural sector now is receiving a slave-labor shot in the arm. This spring, the government set up labor pools to allocate workers where needed, and welfare recipients are doing farm labor.