

decline in the rate of the franc" to up their purchases of French goods. Preliminary estimates mark a 6.5 percent hike in French exports for the month of February.

The serious weakness of the French economy, however, cannot be underestimated. Not only did bankruptcies once again rise in January 1978, but major mechanical engineering firms and fiber producers in the chemicals sector were only able to ward off what Banque Nationale de Paris described as "potentially catastrophic" yearend results because of the European-wide boom in the auto industry last year. The weak financial position of the country's chemical industry was further highlighted by the fact that its earnings deteriorated despite a 6 percent rise in turnover in volume

terms, a considerably higher increase in sales than occurred in either West Germany, or Britain.

The limitations in West Germany's "fire brigade" approach are also evident though as soon as the upturn in engineering products is compared to the absolute decline in producers and chemical goods output during 1977.

The efforts by private bankers and government officials in West Germany to keep the economy afloat are part of expectations that an international recovery program led by the U.S. with an expansion of East-West trade is a feasible, foreseeable solution to the dollar collapse, and that Franco-German cooperation will simply be one source of pressure for getting U.S.-Soviet economic collaboration underway.

—Renee Sigerson

## Congress Avoids Need For U.S. To Be Major Food Producer

Conferees from the House and Senate Agriculture Committees could have used their recent get-together to initiate legislation to expand American farm exports. The need for such an approach, both from the standpoint of American agricultural development and that of food-short Third World nations, could not be more desirable. But instead, House-Senate Agriculture conferees, under Republican Senator Robert Dole of Kansas, approved a

Administration, announced that a 20-page memorandum outlining a "world hunger program" has just been given to President Carter by...Dr. Peter Bourne. According to syndicated columnist Jack Anderson, Carter is being pressed to adopt and unveil the program before Congress by May. If he does, it will be a major victory for the World Bank, the London Rothschild family, and any other person who believes that American farmers ought to have frozen production in 1865.

### AGRICULTURE

farm aid package featuring the "Flexible Parity Act of 1978," which will pay farmers not to produce. Patently inflationary, and administratively a nightmare, the legislation will "aid" American agriculture to remain stagnant and Third World nations to remain food-short.

The approved plan sets target prices and crop loan support rates according to a sliding scale — by individual farmer, according to how much of his cropland up to 50 percent (for wheat, feedgrains and cotton) he chooses to take out of production in 1978.

The conference bill, already denounced as a "cruel hoax on farmers," is not expected to get through the Congress, much less past the President. But the conferees' approval of the silly measure has temporarily tabled serious discussion of expanded farm exports, which are a critical element in an increasingly heated national debate over the U.S. Export-Import Bank's and industrial America's role in programs for world development.

The side of this debate which stands for zero-growth in American agriculture and starvation abroad made itself felt this week in other places besides Robert Dole's Senate-House conference. A series of editorial statements in newspapers and news "leaks" from the office of Dr. Peter Bourne, the heroin advocate in the Carter

Bourne's "hunger program" emphasizes the "Chinese model" of backwardness on the family farm — "labor-intensive self-sufficiency." This "key to solving the world hunger problem" bears the hallmark of the World Bank, that helped draft Bourne's memorandum. It is an unambiguous attack on technology-proud American farmers who want to feed an industrializing world. It is an attack on Third World industrialization, which only the produce of American agriculture could make possible.

Dr. Bourne laid the broader issue on the table in an editorial feature in the April 4 New York Times. He announced a "national debate" on "a policy governing the entire American presence in the developing world," and advocated a "broader strategy" for "land reform and the redistribution of wealth." To Bourne the *production* of wealth is not within the realm of imagination, and "Redistribution of wealth" is convenient World Bank short-hand for crippling the production of wealth by promoting subsistence agriculture and "cottage industry" in 15th century modes.

#### *Any Connections?*

When Senator Dole's conference meeting decided to pay farmers more not to produce, it was under pressure from the "farm strike" movement led by the anarchist American Agriculture Movement. The AAM has demanded "100 percent parity" in government price-supports; "farm strikers" actually packed the committee

room and lined the corridors outside while the conferees deliberated. Dole pleased them by introducing and gaining quick-pressure approval for the measure that Congress will never approve. The American Farm Bureau and Senator Herman Talmadge, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, had wanted to strengthen existing land-diversion programs to alleviate downward pressure on grain prices. House Agricultural Committee chairman Foley (D-Wash.) made a last-minute effort to substitute across-the-board increases in government target prices and loan-support rates. But the AAM's harassing action, which has included "take-overs" of the Agriculture Department and Secretary Bergland's office in the past month, got Senator Dole's proposal approved, as Senators rushed for the exit and Easter Recess.

Notably, Dr. Bourne's "world hunger program" release of this week, and Senator Dole's spokespersonship for the American Agriculture Movement demands, appear to be connected. The American Agriculture Movement was created and is funded and controlled by the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C. which has been using a variety of front organizations to stage the "farm strike" — operating through an intermediate group "A.C.O.R.N.," (Associated Community Organizations for Reform Now) headquartered in Arkansas.

The victim of these shenanigans around farm policy will be the American farm industry, whose urgent problems and enormous productive potential to world benefit, are being systematically denied rational consideration among policy-makers as a result.

The facts of the issue are that both the short and long-term viability of the American farm sector rests with an immediate and vigorous push for rapid development of markets for farm-food products and capital-intensive technologies in the developing sector. Such a program would be a necessary aspect of a broader, high-technology American export program centering around the U.S. Export-Import Bank, which would accommodate nuclear and other exports to the Third World. An expanded Eximbank would thus "fuel" expanding rates of world economic growth, sufficient to absorb an expanded U.S. agricultural trade.

It is only on this basis that any more immediate government measures to ease the farm sector's cash flow crunch can be adopted without unleashing a speculative inflationary spiral in farm and food prices. Moreover, it is within this policy framework that efforts to reduce or otherwise control farm productivity and output can be seen for what they are — a cure worse than the disease. The realization of growing American agricultural "surpluses" in expanded trade for consumption is the sole, proper source of the industry's present and future profitability.

### Bourne: Do Like China

*Jack Anderson's syndicated column April 2 was devoted to a "confidential 20-page memorandum" authored by White House special advisor, Dr. Peter Bourne, on "the world hunger problem." Anderson's*

*glowing description of the document was partly as follows:*

While U.S. food programs may have saved millions from starvation since World War II, they may have actually hindered rather than helped bring about "the fundamental internal changes in developing countries that would lead to food self-sufficiency," the report suggests...

...The memo says candidly: "Our problems in the past have arisen largely out of our inability to separate our motivations and objectives with regard to world hunger from the domestically inspired need to dispose of large commodity surpluses."

...The confidential memo will become the basis for a special message that Carter will send to Congress in May on his proposals to combat world hunger. As the first step, he plans to sign an executive order establishing a presidential commission on world hunger.

...His advisers view his crusade to eradicate hunger as a vital extension of his human-rights campaign...

The memo cautions Carter that his proposal would be met with cynicism from less-developed countries...

But "the key to solving the world hunger problem," the report emphasizes, "must be to increase food production in those countries where hunger exists. It is above all their responsibility to deal with their own problem."

Bourne cites the Chinese Communists, who increased food production on their own. The report contends, therefore, that "the ability to increase food production is not, as we have often believed in the past, dependent on either massive transfer of expensive technology with heavy energy consumption or highly trained technicians."

It suggests that "more emphasis" should be placed upon "the immediate use of simpler voluntary efforts stressing self help and a sense of dedication similar to that which allowed the Chinese to overcome their food deficit."

### Bourne: Redistribute The Wealth

*Dr. Peter Bourne, special assistant to President Carter on drug abuse, noted as an advocate of marijuana and heroin proliferation, delivered a speech at "a population and food-policy conference in Washington" which someone at the New York Times "adapted" into an article appearing in the newspaper's April 4 edition.*

Too often in the past, the human rights issue has been used inconsistently as a political tool to justify reductions in the amount of resources we are willing to contribute to developing countries. We must work for the essential political changes a broader strategy would require: land reform and the redistribution of wealth....

Political courage will be required to manage a national debate on these issues and to derive a policy governing the entire American presence in the developing world. We need to discover what economic price we will have to pay to actually obtain some semblance of equity in the global distribution of wealth. We cannot continue to criticize the inequitable distribution of the benefits of growth in developing countries and not acknowledge a similar imbalance between our own industrial society and the rest of the world...