

# Demand parity prices for farmers' exports

a statement by Billy Davis



Billy Davis, Secretary of Agriculture-designate of presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, issued a statement on July 25 calling for parity pricing for all agricultural exports. Davis said that "if agricultural goods, especially grains, are not exported at parity prices, then they should not be exported at all." A parity price is the average real cost of production, plus a fair return on the capital the farmer has invested. Whenever the United States has adopted such a pricing system, agricultural production has flourished.

"Anyone who opposes this," Davis said, "is simply exposing himself as a Soviet agent of influence." U.S. policies of expanding exports of grains at artificially depressed prices over the last years, while simultaneously reducing production capabilities, amount to "thievery and swindle against producer and consumer alike," and are the result of a set of agreements concluded between the Russians and Henry Kissinger's oligarchic controllers in the period leading up to the SALT I agreement of 1972.

"We have been blinding ourselves too long on these questions," Davis asserted. "The Russians, and Kissinger's friends in the grain companies like William Pearce from Cargill, cut themselves a deal to run the world through food control. The attack on parity pricing was part of that deal." He said that the "idiots in the free-enterprise lobby should stop mouthing Russian propaganda. If they read Russian publications such as *Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta*, like the LaRouche campaign's research people do, they would know that the Russians are the most bittered opponents of parity pricing in the world today, and not just for agricultural products."

"It just shows how far we've gotten away from the republican approach to economics of Alexander Hamilton, the Careys, and the Lincoln administration," Davis explained. Russia is an empire modeled on the old blood-and-soil cults of Ishtar and Astarte, whose political power was based on the use of food as a weapon. This empire shares the philosophical outlook of those Swiss- and British-based interests who control the trade in international food. "These are the same Malthusians against whom we went to war three times between 1776 and 1860. And now they are at war against us, and have been for years, and we don't even recognize it."

"It's elementary ABCs of economics to any republican," he said, "that a producer of any type of good, farmer or not,

has to cover his real costs of production, including depreciation of land and equipment, and turn a profit to permit investment in improvements. If these costs are not met, then there is not going to be any production. And in the case of food, that means people are not going to eat. This means that there is a world price for everything which can readily be calculated. If world markets are organized in that way, then everybody can make the capital investment needed to increase both output and productivity.

"But the grain companies don't want production, and they don't like independent producers who have the capability of freeing people for productive life by ensuring their food supply. Sometimes I think they and their market-rigging friends in the Department of Agriculture would rather people starved to death," he added. "They've already reduced us to the point where we might have famine conditions worldwide, and food shortages at home, by the end of the year."

Davis said that there should be one exception to the policy of pricing all exports at parity levels. In case of emergency, such as the famine conditions which now prevail across sub-Saharan Africa, necessary foods such as grains and milk-powders should be given away free. In all other cases, the power of governments should be used to break the back of the grain cartel by reasserting parity pricing.

He called on the food producers of Western Europe and Argentina to join together with the United States in reasserting such a republican policy for food production and trade. "If we can get together on this," he said, "we will represent an unstoppable power on behalf of the improvement of the human condition worldwide."

Davis has recently returned from a tour of Europe with Ohio Democratic congressional candidate Don Scott, who is also a farmer. In Europe, the two met with government officials and representatives of farm and other organizations to discuss the world food crisis and the emergency conditions that now prevail in Africa. Davis and Scott briefed the Italian Deputy Agriculture Minister and members of his staff on the food needs of Africa and how they could be met through an international mobilization, including cooperation between the United States and the Common Market countries. The tour received widespread coverage in the Italian, French, and West German press.