

to decrease the food supply, humanity will face an unimaginable crisis.

Moreover, Argentina's impressive grain production has recently been replaced by soy monoculture, so that soy now accounts for 54% of all Argentine cropped land area, with a devastating effect on its soil. Large "sowing pools"—speculative investment funds—have also been organized, and have seized control of the soy export business. In March of this year, the government of President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner issued a decree to raise export taxes on soybean and sunflower seeds, in defense of the general welfare. In reaction, a phony "people's" movement has been organized against the "tyrannical" government, with agriculture producers going on strike (in the middle of a grave food crisis!). Implicated in this is George Soros, identified by LaRouche PAC as the top British agent meddling in the U.S. Presidential campaign.⁵ Soros owns one of Argentina's largest sowing pools, Adecoagro. The Kirchner government has pointed its finger repeatedly at these funds as the financial interests behind the strikes.

5. See The Soros Dossier: "Your Enemy, George Soros," elsewhere in this issue.

In the United States, storms hit the Midwest in early June, causing vast flooding in an area with an incredible concentration of grain and livestock production, processing, shipping, and farm machinery manufacture. The total damage is yet to be calculated, but it will inevitably hit the global food system very hard. Natural disasters never have good timing, but with starvation and food riots occurring around the world, the flooding of one of the world's largest corn and wheat belts is an especially devastating blow. The tragedy is that the damage could have been contained, had the proper infrastructure been built. Similar but less severe flooding struck the same area in 1993, drawing attention then to the inadequate infrastructure in the region. At that time, Lyndon LaRouche issued a call to restore the Army Corps of Engineers and finish the flood control and development projects in the upper regions of the Mississippi River basin, through a retooling of the auto industry.

Whether it is decreasing food production while population levels rise, refusing to build vital infrastructure, or continuing with deregulation and free trade, we have no excuses for the deadly effects of these policies but our own folly. We have the capability to scrap this system of lunacy and save civilization, but we must act *NOW!*

Defend the Canadian Wheat Board!

"The history of the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) is grounded in the experience of farmers prior to World War I," according to the CWB's website. "Many farmers at the time felt captive to the railways, the line elevator companies, and the Winnipeg Grain Exchange for the delivery, weighing, grading, and pricing of their grain. They wanted greater power and protection for themselves in the grain marketing system. They developed a strong confidence in cooperative strategies and government intervention for addressing their needs..." (www.cwb.ca).

The first CWB, established in 1919, utilized a two-payment system: one payment in the Spring and another in the Fall, depending on price levels. The Federal government guaranteed any shortfalls due to low prices, effectively setting a floor price for the farmers' produce. The second, and current, CWB, now representing over 75,000 farmers, was established in 1935 to protect the farming community from the ravages of the Great Depression. Its role has changed a great deal over the years, but its function in promoting the interests of Canada's Western farmers has endured.

In the 1960s, the CWB began making direct deals and entering into long-term contracts with its customers, such as

the governments of Russia and China, thus circumventing the speculators and middlemen, a decision which the grain cartels have never forgiven. Today the CWB is the world's single largest grain exporter, and the last of the big international Wheat Boards; in 2007 it exported 21.5 million tons of grain.

The current Conservative government of Stephen Harper is committed to terminating the CWB, but recently received a major setback. A Federal Court Judge ruled on June 20 that the Harper government had violated Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms, when it issued a directive in 2005 forbidding the CWB from promoting or defending its own existence in the media, while the government organized a massive media campaign aimed at manipulating farmers into supporting the dissolution of the Wheat Board's mandate. Unfortunately for Harper, the CWB remains exceptionally popular among Western farmers, and it can only be eliminated through a farmer plebiscite, something which is highly unlikely for the near future. However, with the dissolution of the Australian Wheat Board, the CWB will come under increasing pressure.

With the floods now hitting the U.S. breadbasket, the grain cartels pushing for completely liberalized trade, and many countries facing food shortages, the world cannot afford to lose the CWB, which could be a precedent for other nations, such as Argentina, which have shown interest in reviving grain marketing boards of their own, in defense of the general welfare. —Rob Ainsworth