

Agricultural Roundup

EUROPEAN AND TEXAS FARMERS PROTEST

Sept. 18 (IPS) — Nearly one million European peasants held angry and often desperate protest rallies September 16, on the eve of an emergency meeting of Common Market Agricultural Ministers. The peasant organizations are demanding price increases of at least eight per cent and an extension of the ban on imported beef.

The livestock, dairy, and poultry producers, hit hardest by the contrived feedgrain and credit shortages, vented their frustration in sporadic, hysterical destruction or giving away of food. In Ragusa, Sicily, dairy farmers dumped about 1,500 gallons of milk. In Britain, 50,000 farmers marched in tractor processions Sept. 14 handing out free produce as well as livestock to anyone who could afford the cost of maintaining the animals. In Belgium, livestock farmers blocked the entrances to slaughterhouses. And in Luxembourg, Irish farmers standing before the European Parliament, held up a pathetic placard reading "The EEC Talks While Our Livestock Dies."

A Trap

By organizing merely for further price increases, European farmers have stumbled into a well-designed trap. Working class consumers already have been forced drastically to reduce their food intake due to the overall inflation. The EEC beef import ban, under the guise of protecting farmers' prices, dovetails with Rockefeller plans to eliminate meat from the working class diet — while conveniently diverting the rage of European beef producers toward "foreign competitors." The irony of the beef import bloc is that last month, EEC Commissioner Lardinois made an agreement with U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz for the "voluntary" starvation of European livestock by holding down feedgrain imports from the U.S. by 30 per cent.

U.S. Phony Protectionism

In the U.S., "social fascist" Senators Henry Jackson and Henry Talmadge and the *New York Times* are whipping up a phony debate around feedgrain "export controls," offering farmers and consumers the Critical Choice of "keeping the grain for ourselves" or shipping it abroad as "humanitarians." The upshot of this protectionist idiocy was the Sept. 14 suicidal protest of 5,000 Texan beef and dairy farmers led by the State Commissioner of Agriculture, a Democrat, around

demands for increased milk support prices and grain export controls.

One protesting dairy farmer said that at least five of his neighbors had sold their herds and gone out of business, while still others have run out of credit at the feed store. Voicing the apparently "unresolvable" paradox farmers face, this dairyman said: "The best friend the farmer has is the consumer. . . . But looking at the cost of feed and the prices we can expect for our products, it is no longer a question of prices; it's a matter of whether the products will be available at any price after this winter."

LONDON TIMES SOUNDS C A P DEATHKNELL; FARMER RECYCLING PLANNED

Sept. 18 (IPS) — The Rockefeller-connected London *Times* sounded the deathknell for the Common Market Policy which for years has provided common guaranteed prices for European farmers in a Sept. 17 article entitled "Why the Common Agricultural Policy is Doomed." According to the *Times*, CAP is hopelessly fractured into competing interests between national sectors and between farmers and consumers. The European Agricultural Ministers are confronted at this moment with a list of irreconcilable demands: the French government's insistence on price increases of at least eight per cent; the West Germans' opposition to any price increases; the Irish demand for a devaluation of their "green" pound, thus raising British consumers' prices; and British attempts to hold down food prices before an election.

The only long-range solution, the *Times* believes, is what it identifies as the "West German" position: the drastic reduction of the proportion of the European population involved in farming (presently 14 per cent). To quote the *Times*: "*The whole idea of price rises is opposed by governments such as Germany's who have been prepared to sacrifice many of their economic goals in the fight against inflation and who see no reason why the fires should be stoked up now by food price rises which will keep in business farmers who they feel would have left the land long ago The underlying fact, which is now beginning to be faced is that the only way to try to help farmers is to concentrate the aid on those who need it most. That will mean keeping down the guaranteed*

prices which all farmers receive and adopting special measures to help out those of the poor farmers that governments want to survive.

Similar sentiments were expressed by the West German *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*.

Recycling Planned

In an updated version of the Mansholt plan, the mass of "expendable" smaller farmers (particularly in France) are to be bankrupted, driven off the land, and recycled along with unemployed industrial workers into the labor-intensive slave projects of the North Sea oil wells or the Fos-Sur-Mer regional development project in France. Although not spelled out in this article, the *Times* proposal fits in neatly with Rockefeller's plans for the UN-sponsored World Food Conference in Rome: These bankrupted European and North American farmers are to be replaced with the labor-intensive plantations of undeveloped, third world countries.

The reason for these farmers' plight has little to do with the usual "cost-price squeeze" explanation provided by the capitalist press: last year's Rockefeller-engineered World Oil Shortage boosted fertilizer prices 300 per cent. Small farmers, already heavily indebted to Rockefeller-linked banks, were caught in the middle (as were workers with declining real wages).

ELC ORGANIZES FOR FARMER-WORKER ALLIANCE

Sept. 18 (IPS) — This week European Labor Committee (ELC) organizers intervened into eight farmers' events in France, West Germany, and Luxemburg around the need for a farmer-worker alliance based on the farm debt

moratorium demand. Organizers were received most enthusiastically in Luxemburg, where a single organizer sold a record 350 copies of *New Solidarity* (in German and French) within two hours! The only hostile responses occurred in some areas of West Germany where supporters of fascist Franz Josef Strauss collaborated with Maoist "leftists" to incite farmers against ELC organizers.

At Auxeres near Paris, a local official of the CNJA, a Gaullist-based peasants' organization, invited the ELC to speak before a regional meeting. Lower-level peasant leaders are desperate for a solution as widespread peasant discontent discredits their national leadership, to the point that the heads of CNJA and FNSEA are booed as "Giscard collaborators."

FORD'S UN SPEECH: ROCKY'S NEXT FOOD AND ENERGY HOAX

Sept. 19 (IPS) — President Ford's Sept. 18 speech to the United Nations General Assembly signaled the start of a new Rockefeller offensive leading into the Rome World Food Conference in November. With Rockefeller's oil sheikhs scheduled to begin the second Oil Hoax within weeks, a controlled environment will be produced in which the following "trade-offs" are planned: The Arabs will invest their surplus oil dollars in massive labor-intensive agricultural "development projects" in the underdeveloped countries, while the U.S. is drained of its grain production to maintain third world slave laborers on a 1,000 calories-a-day ration. A Rockefeller-dominated superagency known as the World Food Authority with a \$5 billion-a-year capital will supervise this transfer of production to the Southern Hemisphere,



1931 all over again — only this time bankrupted farmers will be herded into slave labor "redevelopment" projects.