

phrases "credit worthiness" and "good manager." When asked what plans banks had for the "poor managers," one banker said they would sit the farmer down and advise him to get out of farming, "the sooner the better."

*A farm source in upstate New York reports that many of the small, farmer-owned Production Credit Associations are calling their own version of a "debt moratorium." The PCA's have permitted some of their more desperate customers to delay repayment of the principal of their loans and pay only the interest this year. Many PCA's simply will be bankrupted as their farmer base is wiped out.

CARGILL CALLS FOR FOOD RATIONING, THEN RETRACTS STATEMENT

Oct. 21 (IPS)--IPS inquiries about a special Cargill report calling for food rationing produced hysterical denials from the grain company spokesmen today. Although yesterday's New York Times featured a front-page article quoting directly from the report, Cargill denies that they ever proposed rationing. According to the Times story, written by J. J. Maidenberg, Cargill's report states: "Rationing must occur in both domestic and export consumption." Maidenberg also quotes Cargill as saying that world food shortages "absolutely preclude" consumption levels anywhere close to what they were in the last 12 months. Just to make sure the starvation is spread around more "equitably," Cargill is backing President Ford's export controls 100 per cent and demanding that the same type of controls be applied domestically. Workers should be asked to undergo one meatless or even breadless day each week!

Yet, when questioned by IPS, the Cargill Director of Public Affairs Rob Johnson claimed that Maidenberg merely was "confused." The "report," according to Johnson, is really just a market newsletter put out by a Cargill subsidiary independent of Cargill's views. The word "rationing" was used only in a jargon sense referring to price rationing as opposed to consumption rationing. When pressed as to whether Cargill would have the Times retract its misleading coverage, Johnson said it was "not a retractable statement." Since Cargill's speculative practices are the real cause of food shortages and the starvation deaths of millions, it is understandable that Cargill would shun public exposure of its views.

Promotion of "Food Scare" Atmosphere

On the other hand, the Times article should be viewed as part of a major press buildup before the United Nations' World Food Conference in Rome next month. Controlled lock, stock, and barrel by the Rockefeller Foundation, the World Food Conference provides Rockefeller with an international platform for his food control policies. If a food scare atmosphere successfully can be created through the press, workers will accept food control as a necessary

evil. Along these lines, last weekend Rockefeller food "expert" Lester Brown (whose new book On Bread Alone was just released) held a special briefing of news reporters and food editors in Texas. Brown gave the go ahead for the press to push his anti-consumption "share-the-starvation" line.

IPS will continue its investigation of Cargill and the press food scare campaign.

NFO FOOD DESTRUCTION, CIA-STYLE

Oct. 18 (IPS)--The Wisconsin National Farmers Organization (NFO) chapter is planning its second slaughtering protest of 1,000 calves to take place in Cuba City, Wisconsin. This time the food destruction has a humanitarian twist: The U.S. Agency for International Development (AID), an arm of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), will ship the meat to Honduras as food relief to hurricane victims. The action provides a convenient cover for the U.S. government's failure to send any significant aid to Honduras--abandoning thousands to starve. At the same time, domestic food shortages can be blamed either on protesting farmers or Third World famine victims taking "our" food. The real reason for food shortages--the Rockefellers' forced bankrupting of farmers--is deliberately obscured.

The NFO's criminality was compounded when the Dubuque Packing Company accepted the NFO offer to slaughter the calves for free and called on its union members to work without pay.

FARMERS DELAY NFO PLANS FOR FOOD WITHHOLDING

Oct. 21 (IPS)--The NFO national leadership remains vague as to when and how farmers will undertake the proposed withholding actions. An NFO national spokesman boasted to IPS that the NFO is averaging 300 meetings per night, five nights a week. "We are getting farmers together and will let them decide on the action," he said.

However, the Maine regional NFO supervisor Chester Dates told the press he believes it will take 30 days to organize an effective food withholding action. The reason is that the NFO does not have enough farmers willing to participate in the suicidal action.