

directly the nation's entire dairy herd while effectively transforming farmers into mere docile serfs. Chase has already admitted its intentions to reduce the total U.S. farm population from the present 2.5 million to only 300,000. With the credit squeeze forcing the rationalization of milk processing and distribution, Rockefeller will have come several steps closer to complete, centralized control over the nation's food production.

FARM ADVOCATE REP PROPOSES LOW-KEY FAMINE RELIEF ACT

Dec. 7 (IPS)--Responding to pressure from his base amongst Texas livestock producers, Rep. Wright Patman (D.-Tex.) has introduced a number of proposals before this Congressional session to put some props under farmers' declining income.

This bill calls for an amendment to the Agriculture Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 which will allow the Secretary of Agriculture to purchase live beef for shipment to famine stricken countries such as Honduras, Cyprus and the Sahel. Not more than \$100 million is to be appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1974, but since this figure represents about 9 per cent of total beef supplies, it would permit livestock prices to rise slightly.

In spite of the fact that this bill would not accomplish much in terms of farm price supports or food relief and does absolutely nothing to provide cheap food for U.S. workers and their families, even this "modest proposal" is certain to receive firm opposition from the "mod" social fascists now proliferating the Congress. The bill is a feeble attempt to keep farmers alive, along with the millions who are now starving to death because of Rockefeller's contrived famine.

The entire package of bills sponsored by Patman is a hodgepodge of contradictory populist measures and for that reason is very dangerous. Two of the bills would allow the Secretary of Agriculture to buy feedgrain for dairy and beef cattle to resell to farmers at reduced prices. However, once Rockefeller has control over feedgrain he can just as easily withhold it from cattle producers, thereby collapsing livestock production in the advanced sector: exactly his policy. Other bills call for import restrictions which, again, would simply place the whole internal (closed) market under Rockefeller's complete control.

However, Patman is already slated to be dumped through the abolition of the seniority system now being pushed as a part of the Rockefeller demolition of Congress. One of the "grandfathers" of the House and head of both the House Banking and Currency Committee and the Congressional Joint Economic Committee, he is about to receive his retirement papers by a new ruling which will no longer permit these traditional politicians to hold more than

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one chairmanship at a time. Patman was explicitly cited by the New York Times as the next one to go, after Wilbur Mills: "He is a prime example of the way the seniority system gives excessive powers to long-term representatives," wrote the Times, quoting a Young Turk.

REPORT OF "BOOTLEGGING" FERTILIZER HEIGHTENS U.S.-CANADA BORDER TENSIONS

Dec. 7 (IPS)--The influential Financial Post of Toronto reported last week that "secret traffic in bootleg fertilizer" is jeopardizing Prairie agriculture and sending fertilizer prices through the ceiling in the United States. The Financial Post stated in a front-page article Nov. 30 that independent truckers are believed to be carrying nitrogen fertilizer from the Canadian prairie provinces and selling it directly to farmers in Montana and the Dakotas.

Although legal, the traffic threatens to exacerbate the already precarious fertilizer situation in a scenario that pits U.S. farmers against Canadians over dwindling supplies.

Rumors are reportedly circulating as far north as Peace River, Alberta about "stealthy Americans who, working by moonlight, load their two-ton trucks" with fertilizer supplies which cost about \$190 on the Prairies and get about \$300 per ton across the border. The Financial Post reports that the "bootleggers" began buying from country retailers, but when the retailers cut them off, the truckers began offering local farmers \$20-30 a ton to make the purchases. Canadian agriculture officials are warning that these desperate farmers may find themselves seriously short of fertilizer supplies next March as a result of these deals.

Canadian officials have announced their reluctance to consider export controls to end this unusual traffic for fear that the United States would retaliate by withholding supplies of phosphate rock. The phosphate rock is the raw material needed to produce phosphate fertilizer, and Canada depends entirely on Florida phosphate mines for its supply.

ITALIAN GOVERNMENT PUSHES "EAT LESS" CAMPAIGN

Dec. 7 (IPS)--The Italian government backed a recent national television series aimed at convincing Italian workers to eat less. According to the Washington Post, the Italian Agriculture Department "has set aside \$9 million for a massive brainwashing campaign espousing the virtues of protein from cheese and praising chicken at the expense of beef."