

DIARY FARMERS CLASH WITH CITIZEN ACTION GROUPS

SACRAMENTO, Dec. 22 (IPS)--At a recent State of California hearing on milk prices, an enraged dairy farmer punched Roy Alper, chief mouthpiece for the California Citizens' Action Group. The farmer, Henry Tavares, attended the hearings as a spokesman for the Western Dairymen's Association, which is asking for a minimum-price hike for fluid milk.

The "consumer advocates" reportedly have been showing up regularly at hearings like these, held largely to give dairy farmers a chance to let off some steam. Dairy farming is being crushed in the vise of exorbitant feedgrain costs and tight credit, and dairy farmers are in a state of desperation and panic. The Ralph Nader-style "citizen action" groups are being rallied against the farmers now in a calculated effort to drive a wedge between them and their potential allies in the working class around the demand for an immediate emergency moratorium on farm debt.

FARMERS TO LOSE CONTROL OF CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARDS

OTTAWA, Ontario, Dec. 20 (IPS)--A report issued here this week by a Parliamentary committee establishes guidelines for the cabal's total control of agricultural marketing and pricing. The report calls for the reorganization of marketing boards, starting with the Egg Marketing Board, to consist of a five-man executive committee--three to be chosen by the Federal Agricultural Minister and two to be the chairman and vice-chairman of the marketing agency. Under the legislation that established the boards, they are now in the hands of the producers. Under pressure from their farmer constituents, several Progressive Conservative MPs assailed this attack on the farmers, declaring that these changes would effectively put the egg marketing board under trusteeship. "Such action would relegate the egg industry to that of a public utility," they said.

A widely publicized scandal over inept egg marketing controls by a Ralph Nader-type consumer advocate has prepared the stage for this foot-in-the-door to direct governmental control of farm production and marketing.

The Egg Marketing Board, established under the 1972 Farm Marketing Agencies Act, was the first national marketing board and has the authority to control marketing and prices and to set quotas on how much farmers may produce. The reorganization of the Marketing Board's executive will give the Rockefeller forces control over both prices and production, allowing them to rationalize what is to them a highly unprofitable investment--agriculture.

According to the 1970 study on agriculture overseen by Jane Abramson, editor of the Tavistock journal Human Relations, farmers are to be relocated onto giant slave-labor farms under government control or into industrial development zones.

FARM CREDIT SYSTEM IN TROUBLE

NEW YORK, N.Y., Dec. 18 (IPS)--The latest victim of Rockefeller's agricultural credit squeeze is the largely farmer-owned Farm Credit Administration. The FCA--which accounts for 25 per cent of all farm lending and embraces the Federal Land Banks, Federal Intermediate Credit Banks, Banks for Cooperatives, and Production Credit Associations--is the traditional source of funds for farmers when the private banks and dealers turn their backs.

Recent indications that the FCA might be experiencing financial difficulties were confirmed when the agency announced it would issue short-term discount notes early next year "to provide interim funds between bond sales"--an unprecedented move. An FCA public relations officer told IPS today that the agency will borrow \$23 billion on the bond markets in 1975, but that all except \$4.5 billion will go to meet payments on past bond issues falling due. Since the bond market is now gutted and only the top Rockefeller corporations are able to borrow without heavy costs, the FCA clearly will be unable to market its heavy debt.

As in the case of the bankrupt New York City government, Rockefeller's bankers have delivered their ultimatum to the floundering Farm Credit System--cut off credit to farmers now! In June, representatives of the Rockefeller-dominated Federal Reserve met with the FCA head and demanded that he reduce the agency's "inflationary" lending to farmers. Last month, the Springfield Bank for Coops, part of the Farm Credit System, refused to bail out the Dairylea Cooperative, forcing the coop to make an \$18 million assessment on its members which will bankrupt many Northeast dairy farmers.

NFO HEAD MOVES TO DESTROY HIS ORGANIZATION

Dec. 17 (IPS)--National Farmers Organization President and Rockefeller agent Oren Lee Staley has embarked on a step-by-step strategy designed to destroy his organization and set the farmers up for conflict with workers.

The strategy consists of two interrelated tactics. First, Staley has committed the NFO to a "Think Thirty" organizing drive aimed at giving the organization control of 30 per cent of the nation's food production. At that point, the NFO would begin