

Agriculture by Marcia Merry

Heritage crowd plots 'restructuring'

The farm policy of the British-run foundation would accelerate food shortages and cartelization of the sector.

Very soon after the re-election of President Reagan, an historic cabinet meeting occurred where radical proposals by the Heritage Foundation were circulated on policy directions for national food production, defense, and other fundamental government programs. If implemented, the Heritage Foundation's 1,300 policy recommendations, called "Mandate for Leadership II," would have disastrous consequences.

The Heritage Foundation's agriculture proposals were written by George Dunlop, who is the staff director of the Senate Foreign Agriculture Committee. He is part of a policy faction which includes the new Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-Kan.), Federal Reserve head Paul Volcker, Treasury Secretary Donald Regan, Budget Director David Stockman, Agriculture Department Undersecretary Daniel Amstutz (the Cargill, Inc. executive), and some others. Former Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman is also part of the gang.

They are committed to a radical "restructuring" of U.S. and other farming around the world, in the direction of eliminating the independent family farmer and also creating and manipulating mass food scarcities. Their words speak of "market orientation" and "soil conservation," but their meaning is feudalism and genocide.

The Heritage Foundation programs stress two lying themes: 1) that there are world food "surpluses" and "overproduction," and 2) that U.S. and Common Market farmers are over-

subsidized, which causes them to overproduce. The reality is that the world is plunging into a food-shortage crisis. And at the same time, farmers are being forced out of operation and dispossessed.

The Heritage Foundation calls for measures which would accelerate this process: reduce target-price (subsidy) payments to farmers, reduce the level of price-support crop loans, and make soil conservation measures, meaning mandatory non-use of land, stronger.

The Heritage Foundation proposes that crop price-support loan levels be based on the previous year's average of market prices, and uses the warmed-over rhetoric of Adam Smith, talking much of "free market mechanisms" and the like.

In reality, there are no "free market prices" or "mechanisms," given the interational grain cartel (Cargill, Continental, Bunge, André, Louis Dreyfus and the rest) and the Chicago Board of Trade and other instruments of price control. The top Heritage Foundation types know that full well.

The 1982 Heritage Foundation government policy report, "Agenda for Progress," carried similar proposals, drafted by Eric V. Robinson, and Don Paarlberg, the representative of the Orville Freeman group. The 1983 Heritage Foundation report, "Agenda '83," carried a proposal to reduce dairy and grain price supports and to "privatize" crop insurance, written by free-market wildman Bruce Gardner, currently at the University of Maryland.

Who are these nuts?

The Heritage Foundation was

formed as a conservative think-tank in the 1970s, notably with funding from Joe Coors of the Golden, Colorado brewery. Somewhere along the line, it was taken over entirely by the British Fabian school of political-intelligence operations, and became the home base for "free trade" freaks. The London-based "mother" foundation is the Center for Policy Studies, run by Lord Thomas, Sir Alfred Sherman, and Sir Keith Joseph. This center and the Heritage Foundation work closely with the Adam Smith Institute of London.

On the key issue of defense, the Heritage Foundation has functioned to do everything to undermine President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative. A few years back they collaborated with the Georgetown University Center for Strategic and International Studies to create the Congressional Military Reform Caucus, to promote the idea of conventional arms, not strategic defense, and the idea that "smaller is better."

No sensible person, therefore, is surprised at the number of suspected Soviet moles hanging around the Heritage Foundation to utilize their right-wing cover. A Soviet embassy representative held regular sessions with the Foundation earlier this year. The Heritage Foundation's "free trade" mythology is a perfect umbrella for the guarantees made by the USDA to provide the Soviet Union a record 22-million-plus tons of grain this year—part of an expected 50 million tons from the West overall.

The Soviet Union's food security is being ensured right from the top in Washington, D.C., while the food supply of the United States and our allies is plunged into jeopardy, and would certainly be eliminated by the foundation's program.