

Food monopolies hurt farmer, author says

By SALLY HODGKINSON
Of the Emerald

Food conglomerates are swallowing smaller food manufacturers and forcing independent farmers out of business, author and consumer advocate Jim Hightower says.

"We've been taking the culture out of agriculture," said Hightower in a speech at the University Tuesday night. "What it boils down to is monopolies."

Although supermarkets have

Few reap a lion's share of the profits

a wide selection of food brands, a few companies control most of the products, Hightower said. In 1966 50 food companies controlled 50 percent of all food profits, in 1974 50 companies reaped 75 percent of the profits and in 1979 the same companies nabbed 90 percent of the profits.

These food conglomerates get a 15- to 25-cent return on

every retail dollar while farmers are lucky if they receive 5 cents, Hightower said.

"Farmers are going out of business. And all anyone is doing is counting them."

The rise of the consumer products conglomerates reflects "a fundamental change in the way we do business. It's no longer build a better mousetrap. It's if you have the money, you

don't have to worry about the product," Hightower said.

"Too few people have all the money and power in our system. That's not the type of system we teach, learn and preach. We've lost all sense of sharing. The system is working against us."

Hightower cited a poll that reported 77 percent of Americans feel like they're being taken advantage of by government and big business.

"The reason they think that is because it's true. You can do a lot of things, but you can't fool the people. They're the ones who pay the utility bill.

"You can put earrings on a hog but you can't hide its ugliness."

It's up to the people to change the direction of agriculture and food processing although it "will be like dragging a whale across a mountain," Hightower said.

Some solutions include building up food cooperatives, enforcing anti-trust laws, limiting supermarkets to regionalize their food buying and developing alternative forms of energy for farmers.

"It's not a question of economics. It's a question of political power," Hightower said. "I wish I had a magic solution but I don't. It's gonna take good ol' hard work using the grubhoe of politics in the grassroots movement."

"The only other choice we have is to throw up our hands and say they've won."

Students plan Holocaust rite

A Holocaust memorial service will be held tonight from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. around the Pioneer Mother Statue between Hendricks and Susan Campbell Halls.

Holocaust observances will continue Friday with a photo exhibit in the EMU. Both events are jointly sponsored by the Jewish Student Union and Hillel.

Tonight's memorial will feature both a printed and candle service. Music will be provided by local musicians and Yitzak Hankin, cantor at Temple Beth Israel in Eugene.

Kinberg feels the service provides an alternative way to view the Holocaust. In addition to remembering the millions of Jews and non-Jews

who died, the "hopeful visions the victims left to us in their art, music and words are also recalled," she says.

"To turn your head away because they died is wrong, and to forget that they were alive is wrong, too."

The "mental process" that produced the Holocaust is still evident around the world in many violence-racked lands, Kinberg says.

Remembering the achievements of Holocaust victims in addition to their deaths is important, she says, because each person, while alive, "has the potential to be the victimizer."

"Jews are factually and symbolically the victim but the victimizer is still around perpetrating the same thing on other people."

Judge postpones Barwig trial

A motion to dismiss first-degree theft charges against former University assistant basketball coach Mark Barwig was denied Wednesday and his trial was postponed.

Lane County Circuit Court Judge Gordon Cottrell denied the motion that claimed publicity of the recent trial of Ron Billingslea, another former University assistant basketball coach who faced similar charges, made it impossible for Barwig to receive a fair trial.

Defense attorney Larry Roloff filed the motion Monday on Barwig's behalf.

Roloff also represented Billingslea, who was acquitted earlier this month of first-degree theft

charges.

"The sheer weight and volume of prejudicial pre-trial publicity preclude a fair trial in this case," Roloff said in his motion for dismissal.

He also criticized Lane County assistant district attorney Darryl Larson who argued in court that "well-known sports figures cannot be convicted by Lane County jurors."

Barwig's trial — scheduled to begin Wednesday — was postponed for "at least two months," a circuit court clerk said. A new date for the trial was not set.

Barwig is accused of stealing about \$2,000 in state funds between March and June, 1978.

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studies. The college was established in Eugene 85 years ago to take advantage of University courses, such as in the natural sciences and business, Hays says.

As such, NCC has a vested interest in the University's survival. And though Hays may be concerned about the Universi-

ty's budget crunch, he's not worried about its survival.

"The University is not going to go out of business. We know that because the Legislature is going to appropriate enough money to keep it alive (though) it may be greatly decimated."

But NCC, since it can't

receive tax funds as a private college, must rely on a steady supply of wills to keep it financially afloat.

"They say two things are for sure — death and taxes. Well, one of (the University's) supports is taxes," Hays says.

"One of ours is death."



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