

Butz legacy: Agricultural revolution

by Peter Wiley

(PNS) — Earl Butz may be remembered today for his ethnic jokes, his attacks on food stamp recipients and the \$150,000 dining room he built at the Department of Agriculture during the height of the world food crisis.

But he will go down in history as the man who oversaw the most dramatic change in U.S. farm policy since the New Deal and the biggest jump in food prices — 45 per cent in the last four years — in recent memory.

Under Butz's stewardship the USDA:
 *eliminated taxpayer-financed price-support programs that had idled 38 million acres at a cost of \$4 billion annually;

*pushed farm exports to their reset all-time high of \$22 billion, making farm exports the single largest item in U.S. trade;

*drastically reduced the Food for Peace program: a foreign-aid effort, set up in the wake of World War II, to help poorer nations and get rid of U.S. surpluses;

*took on an unprecedented role in foreign policy by pushing the use of the U.S.'s massive food supply as a diplomatic weapon in international power struggles.

When Butz went to Washington in 1971 from his post as dean of agricultural sciences at Purdue University, he took charge of the nation's biggest — and the one, outside of defense and aerospace, most heavily dependent on public funds and government control and direction. Butz, a firm believer in modern agribusiness and the free market, vowed to reduce the role of the government and revive the power of the market in the food business.

The food system that he inherited was still under the control of policies devised during the Roosevelt New Deal and the immediate post-war years. These policies were designed to deal with vast food surpluses produced by a smaller and smaller number of U.S. farms.

At home farmers were paid not to plant all their acres. And surplus production was dumped overseas through aid programs, both direct giveaways and subsidies, to make food available to less than market price.

Butz argued that these programs reduced the efficiency of U.S. farms, raised prices and cost the taxpayer roughly \$4 billion a year. Pushing "trade not aid," his first efforts were directed at procuring new markets for U.S. food overseas. He

succeeded brilliantly with the now-famous 1972 Soviet grain deal, the largest such transaction in history.

Massive sales to Russia and other communist countries are now a regular feature of the U.S. grain trade, and overall food exports have more than doubled since 1972. In turn the U.S.'s improved trade picture, which is dependent on these sales, has vastly improved the international standing of the dollar.

The grain sales plus the elimination of U.S. grain reserves, another Butz scheme, drove wheat prices — and the price of bread and grain-fed meat — skyward. In 1973 prices rose 20 per cent. According to a *New York Times* estimate, this one deal cost consumers close to \$5 billion on their grocery bills.

In addition, massive grain sales concentrated greater power in the hands of the huge grain exporters, two of whom control half of U.S. grain exports. Later Butz identified the growing share of the food dollar going to middlemen — processors, exporters, distributors and commodity speculators — as the main cause of higher food prices.

The Soviet grain deal coincided with a worldwide reduction in food output and the onset of famine particularly in Africa, but Butz continued to push sales and reduce foreign aid — "giving the stuff away," as he called it.

This led to a bitter attack on the U.S. at the 1974 Rome Food Conference, where third world nations condemned the U.S. for failing to meet its responsibilities. Butz's response spired further controversy: "Some people are always starving somewhere."

Meanwhile, the shrinking food aid dollar was being distributed according to principles of food as a diplomatic weapon advocated by Butz and the CIA. For a time aid was increased dramatically to the failing pro-U.S. regimes of Vietnam and Cambodia.

More recently, the U.S. has sent its aid to the pro-U.S. junta in Chile and to the Middle Eastern nations of Syria, Jordan and Egypt in hopes of influencing the diplomatic situation there.

History of Controversy

Butz's administration was surrounded by controversy from the start. At his nomination hearing, his appointment was almost blocked when consumer and small farm groups accused him of being an agent of giant agribusiness corporations. They pointed to his directorship and stock-holdings in a number of large corporations, including Ralston-Purina, J.I.

Case (a tractor-producing subsidiary of Tenneco) and Stokely-Van Camp.

The small farmers and consumers focused particularly on Ralston-Purina, one of five corporations that control 90 per cent of the broiler chicken industry, as an example of the growing domination of farming by large corporations.

Then came the housewife's boycott of rising beef prices, followed by more controversy during the Soviet grain deal over the tight interlocks between the USDA and the leading export firms that virtually control U.S. grain sales abroad.

Food prices continued to soar, though at a somewhat lower rate. Consumers complained that what they saved in taxes through the reduction of government programs was more than offset by higher food prices.

And the Federal Trade Commission charged that consumers paid an extra \$2.6 billion for food because of concentration in the industry.

Farmers were furious over the brief embargo on wheat and soybean sales in 1974, a move designed to slow the rise in food prices. (Butz, however, opposed the embargo.) Farmers, watching their income begin to decline from its 1973 peak, also objected bitterly to the growing share of the farm dollar going to middlemen identified by Butz as the main cause of the rise in food prices.

Today, with prices rising again despite a recent reduction in this trend, Congress and the FTC are looking cautiously at the growing concentration of power in the food industry suspected by many to be the most important legacy of the Butz era. In 1974 the FTC, embarking on a 10-year study of the industry, told congress that 50 food manufacturing corporations "control most of the important producing positions in all of the individual food industries and produce classes."

Although Butz was intimately connected with agribusiness through his directorships, these studies have been hampered by lack of cooperation from the industry and a lack of congressional funding.

In the future Butz sees "more highly concentrated capital, higher levels of management, more specialization of labor, and, if you choose, with a higher degree of integration." His warning to farmers: "Adapt or die!"

Earl Butz was the last of the brash, innovative policy-makers of the Nixon administration. Despite his departure his policies will continue to be the center of controversy for years to come in the nation's number one industry. Copyright PNS 1976

Register and vote. It could mean the difference between Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford.

"Too many have had to suffer at the hands of a political and economic elite who have shaped decisions and never had to account for mistakes nor to suffer from injustice. When unemployment prevails, they never stand in line looking for a job. When deprivation results from a confused welfare system, they never do without food or clothing or a place to sleep. When the public schools are inferior or torn by strife, their children go to exclusive private schools."



Jimmy Carter made that statement when he accepted the Democratic nomination for President. If it hadn't been for Black support, Jimmy Carter would never have gotten that far.

For it was Blacks who put Jimmy Carter over the top in the Democratic primaries. Because he understands our needs. And because he'll do something about a government that ignores them.

Now we have a chance to make a difference again. In the general election November 2nd. It can mean the difference between politics as usual or real leadership for a change.

We can drift along with an economy that's choking the working people of this country. Or we can elect Jimmy Carter—a leader who will check inflation and put America back to work again.

We can continue with a lack of justice in this country. Or we can elect Jimmy Carter

—a leader who doesn't think big shot crooks should go free while the poor ones go to jail.

We can suffer through a welfare system that's bloated and confused. Or we can elect Jimmy Carter—a leader who will straighten out the welfare system and make it fair.

We can struggle with a government that does nothing to help the cities. Or we can elect Jimmy Carter—a leader who will move to relieve an unemployment rate among Blacks that approaches 17%. We can continue to have a government that caters to the special interests, the powerful and the privileged. Or we can have a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. A government led by Jimmy Carter and Walter Mondale.

It can't happen without your help. That's why it's so important for you to register. And to vote Democratic.

Vote for Jimmy Carter A leader, for a change.

Paid for and authorized by 1976 Democratic Presidential Campaign Committee, Inc.

Seminar teaches job search

A seminar to teach Vietnam veterans how to get jobs they want will be held in Portland, Wednesday, November 17th, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Pacific Power & Light Auditorium, 920 S.W. 6th Avenue.

Sonny Jepson, director of the Portland office of the National Alliance of Businessmen, said the seminar will offer Vietnam veterans an opportunity to learn from businessmen and employment experts how to get the jobs and information they want.

"Young veterans returning to the job market need to know more about self-marketing skills, job options and opportunities," Jepson said. "At the seminar

we will show them how and where to go for jobs and employment counseling, how to prepare a resume, how to go into business for yourself, and veterans benefits and programs that can help them in their pursuit of a career.

Based on follow-up studies on the last four seminars, at least 50% of the veterans who attend this program will have jobs within 30 to 45 days.

Jepson added that the seminar is free of charge but requires registration as participation will be limited to 50 veterans.

Interested veterans should call Chuck Long, Manager, Jobs for Veterans for the National Alliance of Businessmen, at 226-4063.

Urban League endorses #7

The Urban League of Portland announced its enthusiastic endorsement of Ballot Measure 7 for partial public financing of statewide and legislative candidates through a voluntary tax "check-off."

James Brooks of the Urban League said the League had taken this action feeling that "minority candidates would fare better under the system set up under the provisions of Ballot Measure 7 simply because they cannot often raise enough money to be at a parity with other candidates."

The Urban League of Portland joins a growing list of groups who have now endorsed Ballot Measure 7 including Oregon Common Cause, the American Civil Liberties Union, Oregon AFL-CIO, the Oregon Consumer League, the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, the Portland Chapter of the Women's Political Caucus, Oregon Student Lobby, Oregon High School Republican League, and the Democratic Party of Oregon.

Executions

(Continued from p. 1 col. 6)

three-fold: "One, there will still be economic and racial discrimination in the administration of the death penalty. Two, the statutes, although constitutional on their face, are administered arbitrarily and capriciously in violation of the court's 1972 ruling. And finally, convictions and death sentences obtained in trials where juries were selected by exclusion of any jurymen with conscientious or religious scruples against the death penalty are void."

Meanwhile, the newly formed national Coalition Against the Death Penalty — consisting of some three dozen religious and legal organizations — is mounting a massive public education and lobbying campaign, hitting on the issues of whether capital punishment is an effective deterrent, the possibility of irrevocable mistakes and basic moral questions.

"Already," says Levy, "people's attitudes have changed since the Gregg decision because they now realize there may be an actual execution."

"I think that when we come to that first execution, we'll discover once again that we're ashamed of it, that we really don't want it."

"That's the feeling people have to get in touch with — a real feeling of revulsion about an electric chair with an exhaust fan overhead to carry away the smell of burning human flesh."

Joe Joseph

New York Life Ins. Co
 We guarantee tomorrow, today

281-3680 3933 N. E. Union



DR. JEFFREY BRADY Says: "Do Not Put Off Needed Dental Care" Enjoy Dental Health Now and Improve Your Appearance



- Come In At Your Convenience Open Saturday Morning
- No Appointment Needed
- Complete Cooperation On All Dental Insurance Plans
- Complete Dental Services


Union or Company Dental Insurance Coverage Accepted On Your Needed Dentistry

Park Free — Any Park 'n Shop Lot
 HOURS: Weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Sat., 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

DR. JEFFREY BRADY, DENTIST SEMLER BUILDING

S.W. 3rd & Morrison St. Portland, Oregon
 Take Elevator to 2nd Floor 3rd St. Entrance

Phone: 228-7545



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

From the Department of Housing and Urban Development to certain homeowners whose mortgages were insured by FHA between August 1968 and August 1976.

Section 518 of the National Housing Act as amended by the Housing Authorization Act of 1976 authorizes the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to compensate homeowners for certain serious defects which existed at the time of HUD's original inspection of the property.

YOUR HOME QUALIFIES IF IT MEETS ALL OF THESE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW:

1. If it was more than one year old when purchased.
2. If your mortgage was insured by FHA under Section 203 (b) or Section 221 (d) (2) on or after August 1, 1968 but before August 3, 1976.
3. If the property has 1, 2, 3, or 4 living units.
4. If the defects are such that they would have been evident at time of original appraisal.
5. If your home is located in an older, declining urban area, defined as a community with a population of 2500 or more and a neighborhood mostly comprised of dwellings built before 1940.
6. All decisions as to eligibility will be made by HUD/FHA and such decisions are final.

DEFECTS THAT QUALIFY are those which so seriously affect use and livability as to create a serious danger to life or safety of the inhabitants. For example:

1. Seriously defective plumbing, heating or electrical systems.
2. A structural failure in the basic framing, floors or foundations which is visibly evident in an accessible area.
3. A worn out roof.
4. Drainage problems such as surface water in the crawl space or running against the house.
5. Rotted siding, porches, steps, deteriorated brickwork or other seriously deteriorated exterior surfaces which affect the structural safety of the house.
6. Defective paint conditions which as defined in HUD regulations, constitute a health hazard, cracking, scaling, peeling and loose lead-based paint on interior surfaces and those exterior surfaces, such as stairs, porches, windows and doors readily accessible to children under seven years of age. For repairs already made you must be able to present proof that the defect existed when home was appraised. For example: receipts, cancelled checks, contracts or contractor's statements which will show that repairs were required immediately after purchase.


DEFECTS THAT DO NOT QUALIFY are those which do not affect the basic structure of your home. For example:

1. Decorative and cosmetic work of any kind.
2. Carpeting.
3. Cracks in plaster or sheetrock, unless caused by structural failure.
4. Defects such as burns, gauges, loosened hardware or doors.
5. Inoperable refrigerator, range, hot water tank, dishwasher, disposal, exhaust fan, window or central air-conditioner or other such mechanical equipment.
6. Broken glass and broken counterweight cords in windows. Inoperable windows are not eligible.
7. Damages to personal property and damages suffered on account of personal injury.
8. Rotted window sills and door frames, unless they constitute a threat to the life and safety of the occupants.
9. Defective light fixtures and outlets, when the electrical system is otherwise sound.
10. Minor cracked or broken floor tiles.
11. Cracks in foundation not seriously affecting the structure.
12. Roof leaks when the roof appears acceptable.
13. Plumbing leaks, if the basic system is sound.
14. Termite damage, unless it seriously affects the structural integrity of the building.
15. Rotted out gutters and downspouts.
16. Defects in detached garages or other outbuildings unless there is serious risk of imminent collapse in which case demolition only is eligible.

IF YOUR PROPERTY WAS INSURED BETWEEN AUGUST 1, 1968 AND JANUARY 1, 1973 THE LAST DATE TO FILE A CLAIM IS DECEMBER 3, 1976.

IF YOUR PROPERTY WAS INSURED BETWEEN JANUARY 1, 1973 AND AUGUST 3, 1976 THE LAST DATE TO FILE A CLAIM IS AUGUST 3, 1977.

If you meet all of the above requirements, call or write your nearest local HUD/FHA Office. You may obtain the address or phone number from your telephone directory or by calling any bank, mortgage company or real estate broker for this information.



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY