



## U.S. Treasury blocks task force

*Conflict of interest could stall food exports to Third World*

Last June, we reported that the Reagan administration has been chewing over a plan to woo the farm vote by donating large quantities of surplus grain to Third World countries.

The decision to increase food exports to needy nations will probably be announced this week by the President's Task Force on International Private Enterprise.

### Jack Anderson and Joseph Spear

The group's mission is to "recommend ways to strengthen private enterprise in the developing world primarily through U.S. foreign assistance programs." The task force is expected to recommend a major expansion of grain exports in which the government buys commodities from farmers and sends them to famine-beset countries at little or no cost.

The political angle was raised in closed-door meetings of the task force by its chairman, Dwayne Andreas. He's a Minnesotan who is no stranger to politics, having supported Richard Nixon and the late Hubert Humphrey at different times. A memo prepared for Treasury Secretary Donald Regan

by his aides has this to say about one task force meeting last spring: "Eyeing the farm vote, Andreas urged a recommendation to expand the (PL 480) program be made during the summer, prior to the task force's expiration..."

Some critics of the task force have raised the question of a possible conflict of interest on Andreas's part. Because he is board chairman of Archer-Daniels-Midland, one of the world's biggest grain dealers, it has been suggested that his promotion of the PL 480 grain purchases was in his own financial interest.

The memo to Regan states: "Andreas... went to some lengths to defend himself against possible conflict of interest because of his grain business..."

A task-force official told our associate Michael Binstein the conflict-of-interest charge "really irritates" Andreas, who has often said his religious convictions compel him to try to match this country's agricultural abundance with people who need food.

Andreas and his task force are on a collision course with Regan and the Treasury. One of the task force's recommendations reportedly will be to create an all-powerful Economic Police Council along the lines of the National Security Council.

As any recent secretary of state can testify, the national security adviser and his agency are likely

to usurp the Cabinet department's functions. Regan doesn't want that to happen to Treasury.

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## Burden...

Continued from Page 4

Even if we overlook apprehension number one, numbers two, three and four indicate more serious matters. They indicate that people may be giving up. Spending the time to put in improvements signifies a frame of mind that "we'll be in the same place for a while."

Why fix up what is considered

a temporary site? In conjunction with this, apprehension four would lead us to see that it is throwing bad money after bad money. It has been said, in writing, that the place is not worth renovating. It would seem that the thought is that if the building looks newer, and if patience is exercised, then we will forget what students before us have worked for. Some will remember.

More editorial on Page 6.

## Daily Nebraskan

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