

## FMC: PROFITS vs. PEOPLE

"Profits are not an end in themselves. They are just an indication of whether you are rendering service to the consumer. If there are no profits, there are no social benefits."

--Bart A. Van Eyck, V.P. & Treasurer, FMC

The rape of Indochina by the American military machine is increasingly dependent upon sophisticated technology. As our manpower has decreased in Vietnam over the last few years, the application of technological warfare has moved in to take up the slack. Food Machinery Corporation (FMC) offers diabolical example of how man's technology, rather than being used for his benefit, is refined to make better and better ways of killing people. FMC, in its desires for profit, has developed some of the most evil of all weapons for the Department of Defense, under the slogan of "doing its patriotic duty." In actual fact, however, the only obligation which FMC recognizes is the incentive to expand and pay dividends. One quick look at the Board of Directors demonstrates that FMC is controlled by the economic interests of a very small group of men. Represented on its Board are directors of America's largest corporations: Chrysler Corporation, Caterpillar Tractor, Varian Associates, Stanford Research Institute, Rand Corporation, Georgia Pacific, Western Pacific, Southern Pacific, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Chase Manhattan Bank, First National Bank of San Jose, Wells Fargo Bank, Crocker Citizens Bank, International Business Machines Corp. and Lehman Corporation. With such a small and select group of men deciding how FMC should be run, is it any reason that FMC often makes products which the public never wanted, or worse, which are injurious to the public health, both at home and in Vietnam.

FMC would like the public to believe that it is just like any other corporation (which may be) and that what's good for FMC is good for Santa Clara County. Perhaps that's why FMC's representative, Charlie Gubser (whose party received \$6,000 from FMC in 1966 alone), is a member of the powerful House Armed Services Committee. Gubser's allocation of contracts is his version of what's good for the people. In any case, what's good for FMC is not good for the public very often. FMC produces eight phosphate products which are used in soaps and detergents. Environmentalists have pointed out that phosphates are a major cause of eutrophication in our lakes and streams. FMC brushes this charge off, saying that more study is needed. If and when phosphates are proven to be of harm to the environment (to FMC's satisfaction) then FMC says the public should pay for most of the costs of cleaning up what FMC has done. Forgetting that phosphate producers had thrust their wares upon the housewives, FMC implies that phosphate detergents were introduced at the housewives' demand. An official FMC position paper on phosphate detergents sought to place the blame elsewhere: "Nutrients have poured into our water...now because of the housewife's demand for clean clothes from detergents."

FMC has actively resisted the banning of phosphates from detergents. Perhaps this is because the company owns the rights to millions of tons of high-grade phosphate shale, producing 285 million pounds of phosphorus per year. FMC's desire to protect its huge investment in phosphates is obviously much greater than its desire to serve the public needs.

FMC's public disservice is readily apparent in another field: the production of highly poisonous pesticides. The progressive contracts recently won by the United Farmworkers Organizing Committee bans the use of six chlorinated hydrocarbons because these chemicals have an irreversibly harmful effect upon anyone who works in the fields in which they are sprayed. These six pesticides are: DDT, Aldrin, Dieldrin, Endrin, Kelthane and Thiodan. FMC makes all except Kelthane. Affidavits have been taken, and additional stories are told, about the harmful effects of these pesticides on workers - such as body sores, dizziness, fainting spells, nausea and burning eyes. The Federal Drug Administration testified in 1968 before a Senate Subcommittee that 850-1,000 deaths and 80,000-90,000 injuries were caused by pesticides used on table grapes alone. Last summer California grapepickers charged that Aldrin, the pesticide used on table grapes, was present in illegal concentration. FMC continues to manufacture this pesticide.

In May 1970 the Department of Agriculture banned Aldrin and Dieldrin from aquatic uses. This followed bans on DDT after extensive hearings by Senator Gaylord Nelson (Wisc.). Other large companies producing DDT, such as Allied and Esso, bowed to public pressure and have voluntarily reduced manufacture of chlorinated hydrocarbons. FMC continues to manufacture DDT, hoping that it will again be registered for use in California. The United Farmworkers Organizing Committee won a landmark case in workman's compensation last year for a worker in a citrus orchard. He was awarded compensation for "undesirable absorption of organic phosphates." FMC manufactures this group of pesticides also, their most prominent one being malathion. UFWOC has written into their contracts that no one can be near the field where this is sprayed for several hours. The Department of Agriculture is conducting investigations concentrating on the dangerous effects of organic phosphates, but FMC continues to manufacture them without even restrictive warnings on their use, along with those chlorinated hydrocarbons - DDT, Aldrin, Dieldrin, Endrin and Thiodan.

By far the most undesirable of all FMC's activities is the manufacture of vehicles and weapons that are being used in the War in Southeast Asia. A partial list of all military weapons manufactured at the San Jose plant and the Defense Technology Labs in Santa Clara includes armored vehicles and assault landing craft, munitions, anti-personnel fragmentation weapons, fragmentation warheads and subsystems, CBU-41 firebombs, and missile shipping containers. In fact, Defense work is so widespread that even the Cannery Division applies its expertise "in the fields of shipping containers and specialized weaponry."

Other FMC facilities produce lethal nerve gas, missile warheads, naval gun mounts, aircraft cargo loaders and fuel for intercontinental ballistic missiles. In all, Defense profits account for 20% of FMC's income.

At present the M113 is FMC's "largest single defense project." The M113 is an armored personnel carrier having three machine guns and, at various times, flamethrowers, mortar and ammunition carriers and carriers for missile systems. Fifty-two of these vehicles spearheaded the invasion of Laos; others are used extensively in Vietnam by mechanized Infantry battalions, armored Cavalry units, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. Current contracts call for delivery of 4,452 vehicles at \$98.3 million. In addition, FMC produces the LTVP amphibious vehicle used for tactical operations ashore and the LVTPX12, the Marine Corps' newest assault amphibian. The LVTPX12 is designed to carry 25 combat equipped troops.

One of the DTL's most successful and most insidious products is the Beehive artillery projectile. The Beehive explodes into hundreds of half-inch darts. During the New Years' Truce of 1967-68 the Beehive was used to "shred" 344 "Communits". The Chairman of the Board of FMC says that the Beehive is a "patriotic contribution to defense." But how patriotic a contribution can it be to produce a weapon which is designed not to destroy military targets, but only to kill and maim civilian poor.

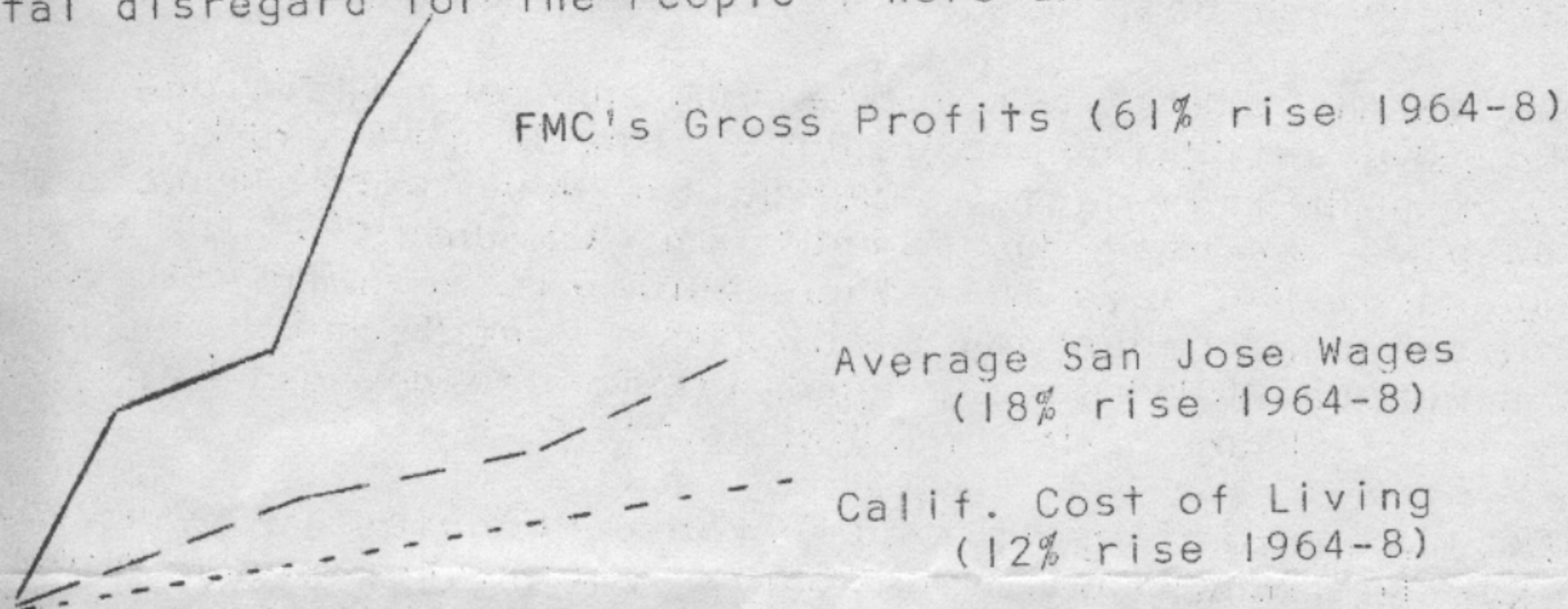
The list of defense products runs on endlessly. Another big moneymaker is ammunition. In 1966 two ammunition production lines were brought into operation by DTL to extend the Company's capability into the field of weapons and munitions. According to Jack M. Pope, President of FMC, "This relatively new FMC operation... will be a large contributor for many years ahead." Evidently FMC has plans other than the Federal Government which claims to be planning to pull out of the war. Mr. Pope made that statement only two years ago. His boss, J.M. Hait, Chairman of the Board, says, "We make a lot of mean weapons..."

Another "mean" weapon is nerve gas. In 1965 the Army selected FMC Corp. to design, build and operate a plant to produce a "chemical agent." Production of gas at the plant was discussed during an open meeting of Stanford trustees. Although William Hewlett, a member of the boards of both FMC and Stanford, denied that FMC was manufacturing the nerve gas, he later admitted they were. The gas can kill in 1-10 minutes and liquid in the eye kills nearly as rapidly.

Among other FMC defense products are the most effective gun mount ordered by the Navy since World War II, Dimazine, a high energy rocket fuel used in ICBM's, supersonic and cluster firebombs. In an interview with Business Week Magazine, Paul Davies, then Chairman of the Board and still a member, was quoted

as saying that although the War was over defense was "here to stay". With defense sales that have quadrupled since 1960, we can only conclude that Mr. Davies was right. We can also conclude that FMC has a vested interest in the continuing spiral of government spending for defense.

Most authorities concur that the high unemployment and spiraling inflation in this country are a result of the large expenditures on the war. The People realize that technology in this country, largely supported by Government taxation, is being used not for their good, but, as in the instance of pesticides, phosphates and weapons against undeclared "enemies" for their harm. It is imperative that FMC, and other corporation, be brought to feel a moral responsibility for their actions. The People, both within and without, must protest now this cold-blooded, inhumane desire for profit; and they must protest now this total disregard for the People - here and abroad.



#### THE CORPORATE WELFARE STATE

A quick look at the above graph demonstrates that FMC has fared far better than the rest of us during wartime. FMC, and all other corporations, would like us to believe that it has not benefited from the war, while its wartime profits soared 61%. During the same period of time, San Jose workers were just staying even with the cost-of-living increase. It is clear that the burden of paying for the war falls upon the people, while the opportunity for making immense profits goes to the corporations. We should remember, therefore, that although more than \$100 billion has been spent on the Vietnam War, it did not go down the drain; it went into the pockets of FMC and the small class of men who own and run it.

STOP THE WAR PROFITEERS

STOP THE WAR