

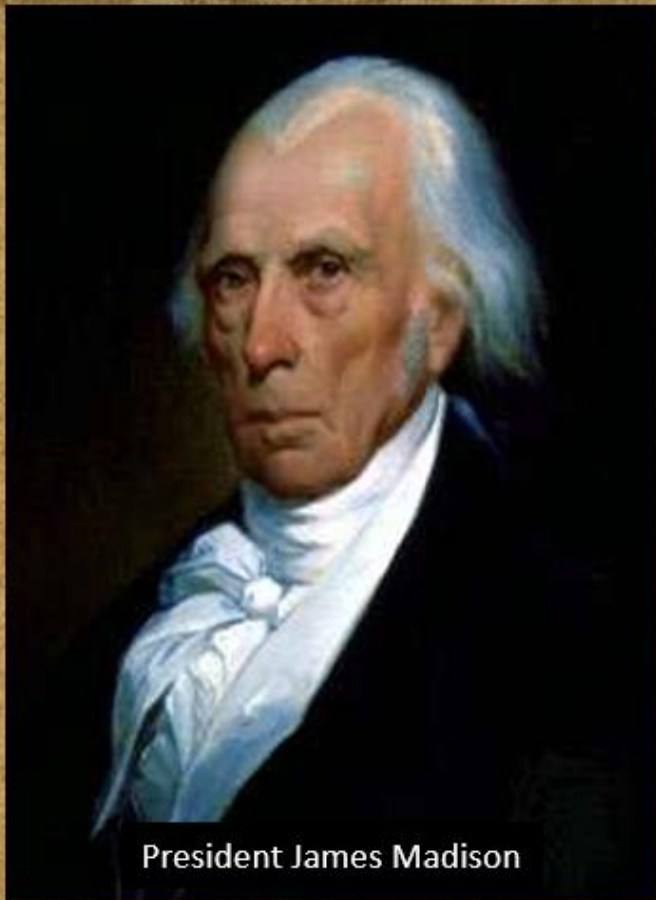
**Concentration of power and wealth is  
the greatest threat to any free society.**

**Willamette College  
February 9, 2026**

**MikeCallicrate.com**

**"We can have democracy in this country, or we can have great wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, but we can't have both."**

- Louis D. Brandeis, Supreme Court Judge, 1916-1939

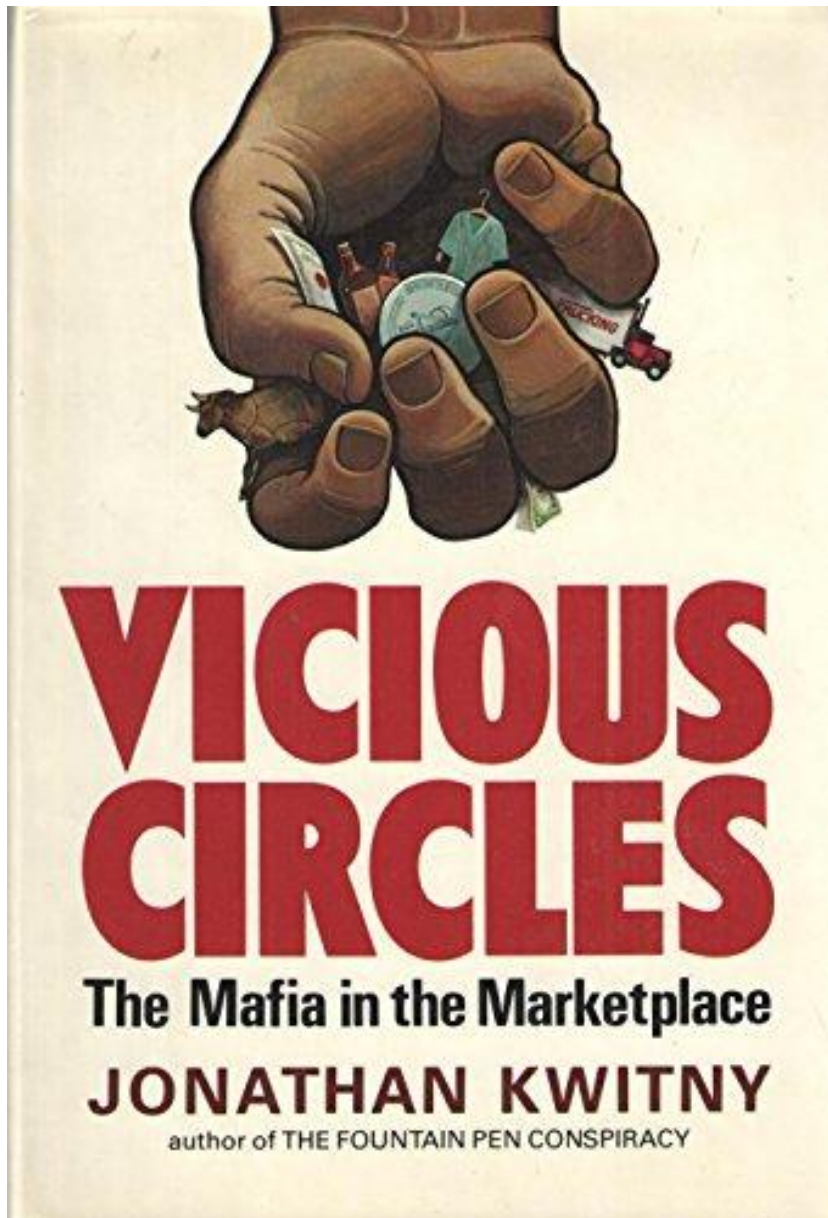


President James Madison

**“Concentrated wealth will destroy our nation, unless the laws change.”**

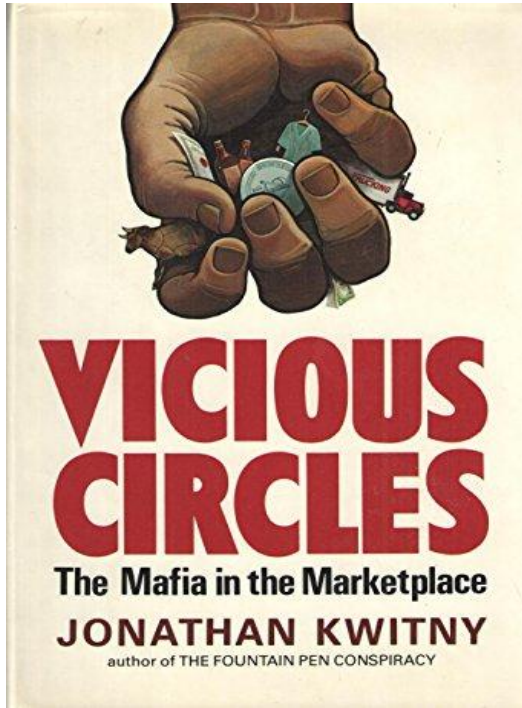
President James Madison 1809-1817

**“The day will come when our Republic will be an impossibility because wealth will be concentrated in the hands of a few. When that day comes, we must rely upon the wisdom of the best elements in the country to readjust the laws of the nation.”**

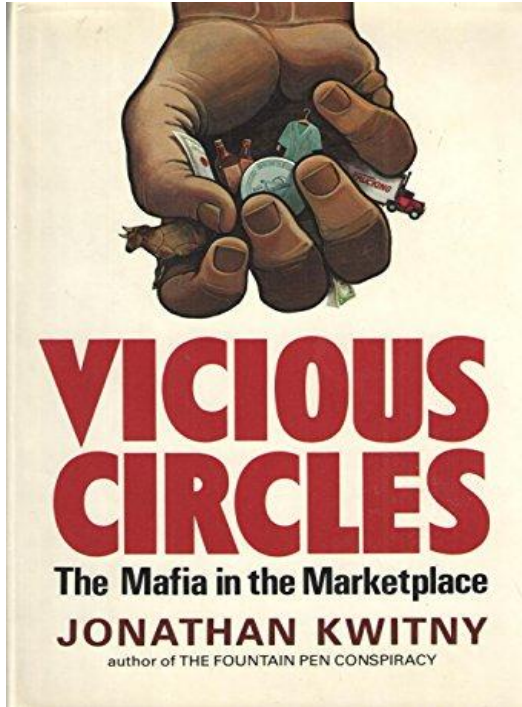


**“Think of it as a kind of tax. Every time you buy a pizza, or a hamburger, or new clothes, or use a product that has traveled in a truck, the odds are that you are paying a tribute to one of America’s crime families ...”**

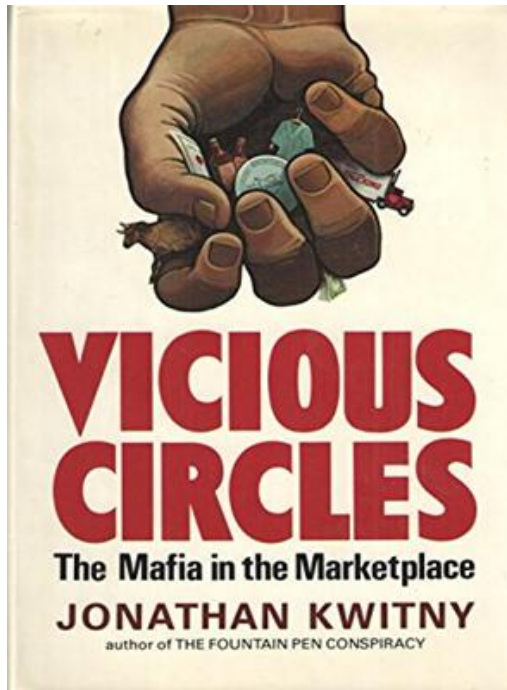
Published in 1979 after IBP established a cartel in the beef and cattle industries.



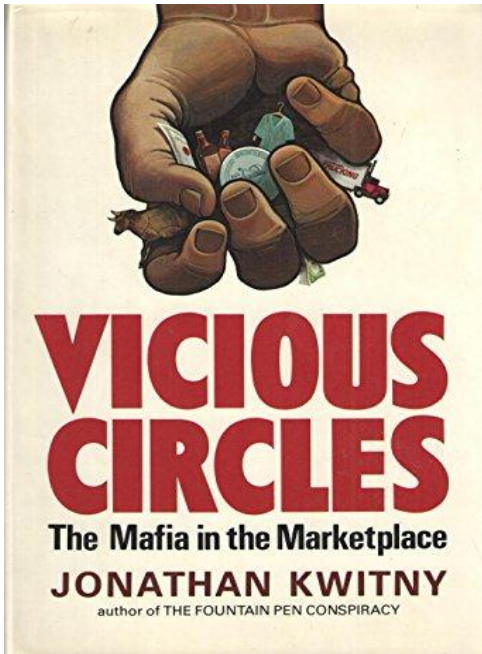
**“It was April 25, 1970. The room was dark at the Stanhope Hotel in New York City, hiding the identity of New York’s most powerful labor and meat men, when Currier J. Holman arrived with his hat in hand. Iowa Beef Processors Inc. was in deep financial trouble. Bankers had given Holman notice. Iowa Beef Processors was finished if something big didn’t happen immediately.”**



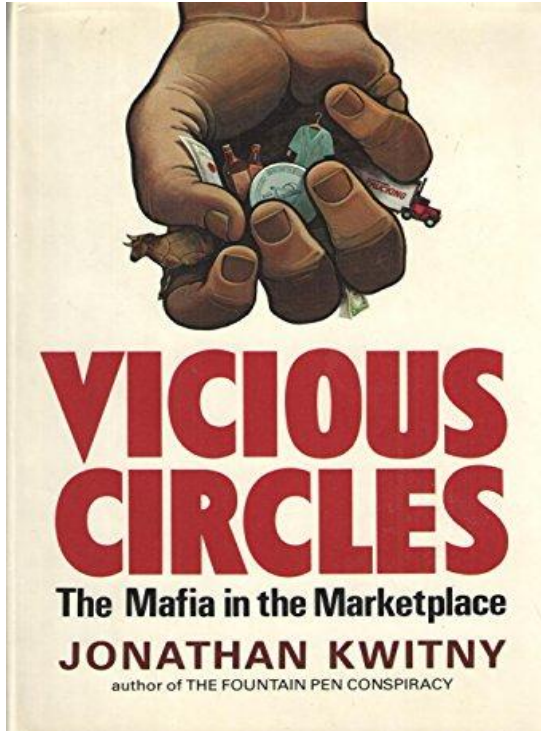
**“Iowa Beef, though founded only in 1961, already in 1970 dominated the meat industry the way few other industries are dominated by anyone. It was as if the Mafia had moved into the automobile industry by summoning the executive committee of General Motors ...”**



**“Moe Steinman and the band of murderers and thugs he represented had effectively kidnapped a giant business. Its leaders were coming to pay him the ransom, a ransom that turned out to be both enormous and enduring.”**

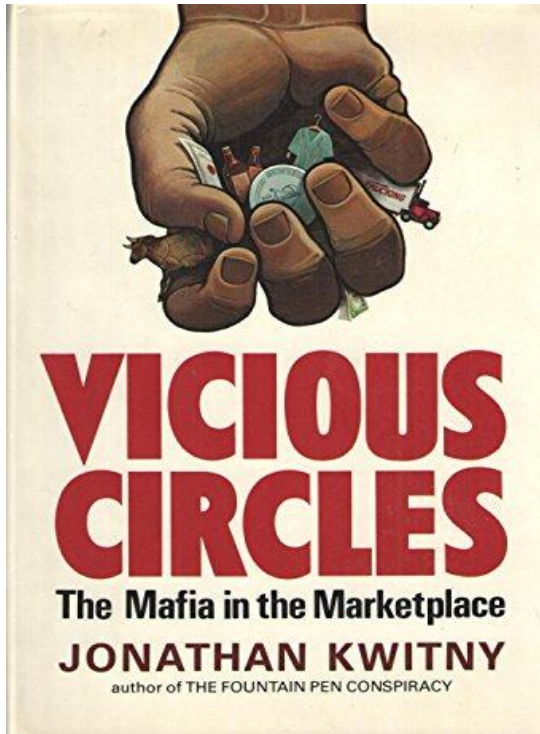


“With Moe Steinman and the New York Mafia providing Iowa Beef preferential and profitable market access to the single biggest market in the world, Iowa Beef could confidently continue to build the most destructive and efficient resource mining machine since the East India Company. Iowa Beef would create a business model capable of extracting every bit of wealth possible from our country’s natural resources, ranchers, farmers, workers, and rural communities.



Published in 1979

“In addition to other tactics, the Mafia, and other business consultants, would teach Iowa Beef that cooperating with your biggest competitors is more profitable than competing with them. Together, Iowa Beef, Cargill and Monfort (ConAgra) would share the market and drive market concentration to a new level of near monopoly control never seen before.



“By aligning themselves with the biggest feedlots and the biggest food retailers, Iowa Beef and the other big meatpackers would share the market, from the purchase of livestock to the sale of meat. At the same time, Iowa Beef would strategically engineer the demise of nearly all the small to midsized meatpackers in the country, **leaving America with a highly concentrated, dangerous, extremely fragile, and vulnerable meat supply chain.**”

DAVIS, GRAHAM & STUBBS  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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May 5, 1979

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RANDALL NEEDS

Gerald Connell, Esquire  
Chief, General Litigation Section  
Antitrust Division  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington DC 20530

Dear Mr. Connell:

This letter is a complaint on behalf of our clients, Averch Packing Company, Denver Recycling Co., Litvak Meat Company and Pepper Packing Company, against Iowa Beef Processors, Inc. ("IBP") pertaining to suspected violations of Section 2 of the Sherman Act.

Our four clients are located in metropolitan Denver, Colorado. IBP has a number of beef packing plants located in several states, and it has announced that it intends to construct an additional such plant in Lamar, Colorado, commencing in June 1979.

We believe that, unless injunction enters to bar that IBP construction in Lamar, irreparable damage will be done to our four clients and others by virtue of the afore-referenced Section 2 violations. Specifically, our clients believe that they, and probably all of the presently highly competitive meat packing industry in Colorado, will be eliminated should such injunction not be issued.

We believe that evidentiary bases exist for Section 2 charges against IBP both of monopolization and attempt to monopolize relative to its proposed Lamar plant.

As to monopolization, it appears that IBP, as the largest meat packer in the United States, has already achieved sufficient power to exclude competition in certain geographic market areas in the meat packing business.

ATTACHMENT A

"This letter is a complaint on behalf of our clients, Averch Packing Company, Denver Recycling Co., Litvak Meat Company and Pepper Packing Company, against Iowa Beef processors ..."

"We believe that, unless injunction enters to bar that IBP construction in Lamar, irreparable damage will be done to our four clients and others by virtue of the afore-referenced Section 2 violations [Sherman Act]."

"As to monopolization, it appears that IBP, as the largest meatpacker in the United States, has already achieved sufficient power to exclude competition ..."



Peterson worked for IBP from 1961 to 2003.  
IBP sold to Tyson in 2001.

**“...there is no stopping it (concentration). This is an evolution that’s going to take place in spite of whoever is in the way.”**

Robert Peterson, IBP Chairman and CEO, July 1996  
\$20 Billion by 2001 article, in *Meat and Poultry*



**Question – Why don't you enforce the Packers and Stockyards Act?**

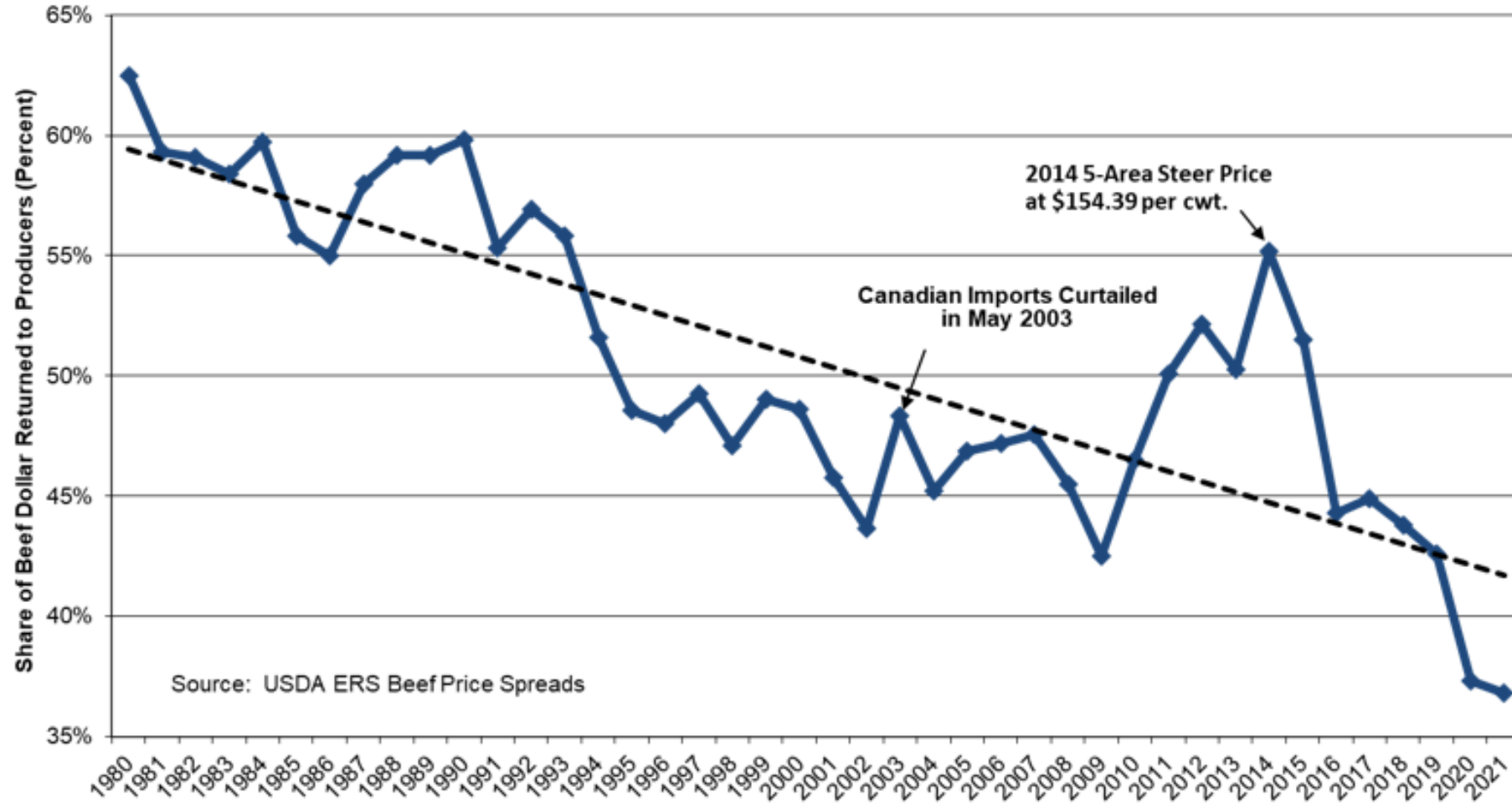
**“Well you know Mike, in this modern day of globalization, we need big companies that can do business globally.”**

**- January 1999**

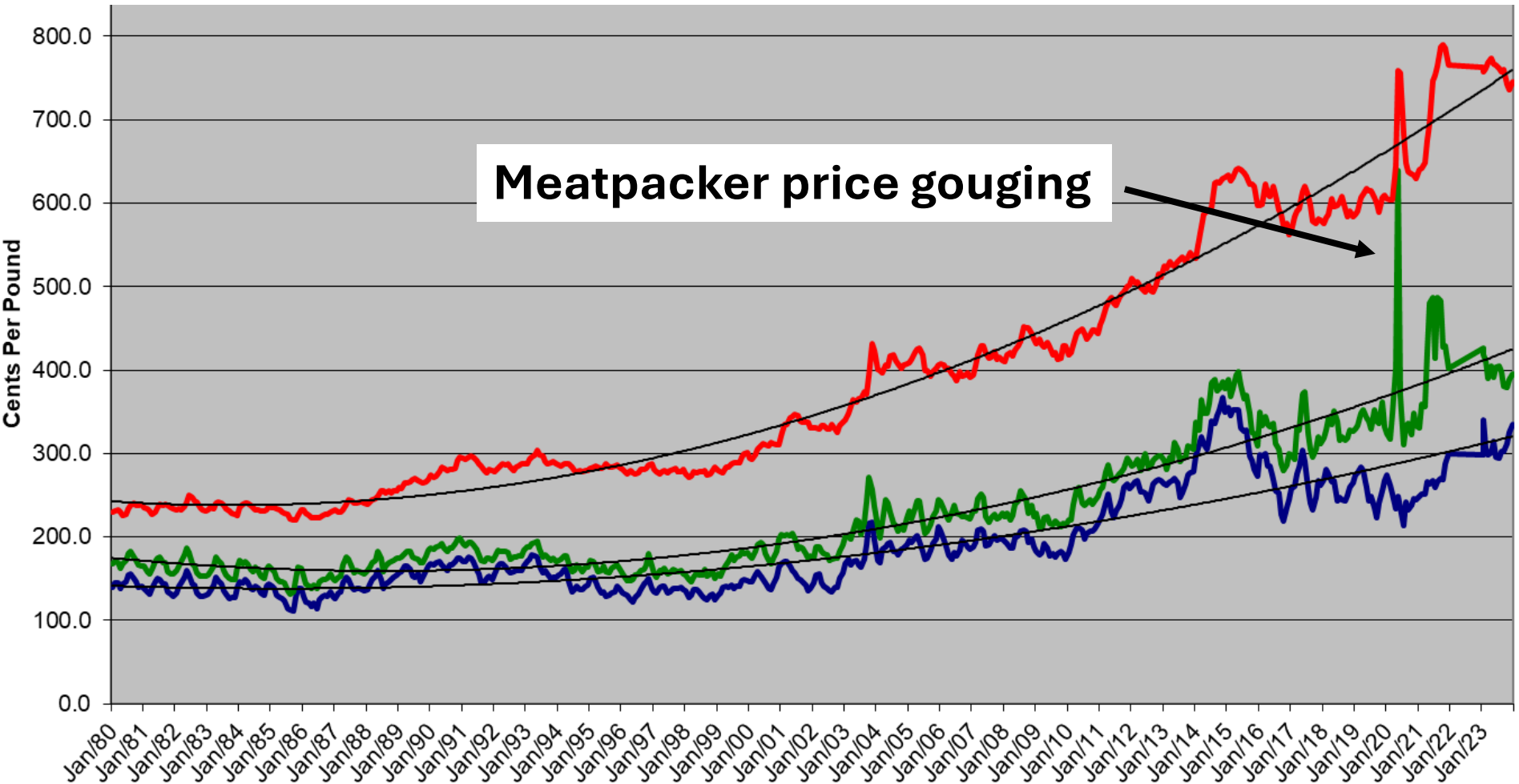
Dan Glickman, Secretary of Agriculture 1995-2001

# Producers' Share of Consumer Beef Dollar

Prepared by R-CALF USA



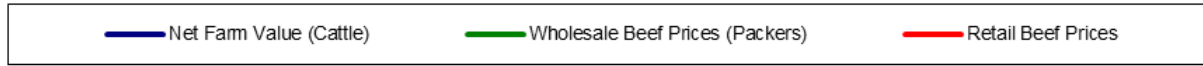
# Middlemen have stolen the producer and worker share of the food dollar while overcharging consumers.



**Meatpacker price gouging**

Producers and small processors must recapture a fair share of the food dollar to stay in business.

Source: USDA-ERS



R-CALF USA

Retail Beef Prices vs Wholesale Prices vs Net farm value Jan 1980 – May 2022

# Partners in Crime

The big retailers are robbing the bank.



The big packers are driving the getaway car.



**“There’s an economic term to describe this phenomenon: It’s called stealing.”**

In 1998, Agricultural Economist, Dr. John Helmuth described what the big meatpackers were doing to cattle producers.

Emptiness: A picture of big meat packer retaliation – Why cattle feeders won't speak out against meat packer abuses...



Callicrate feed yard closed in 1999 when the meat packers refused to buy the cattle.



**“You should be suing Walmart [instead of IBP], they are the problem. They tell us what they will pay and we have no choice but to pay you less.”**

**– John Tyson 2001**

**Opening day of Tyson/IBP trial, January 2004  
Federal Courthouse, Montgomery, Alabama**



A photograph of the Federal Courthouse in Montgomery, Alabama, featuring a man in a suit and hat walking in the foreground. The building is a large, classical-style structure with many windows and a central entrance. The scene is set outdoors on a paved area.

**Opening day of Tyson/IBP trial, January 2004  
Federal Courthouse, Montgomery, Alabama**

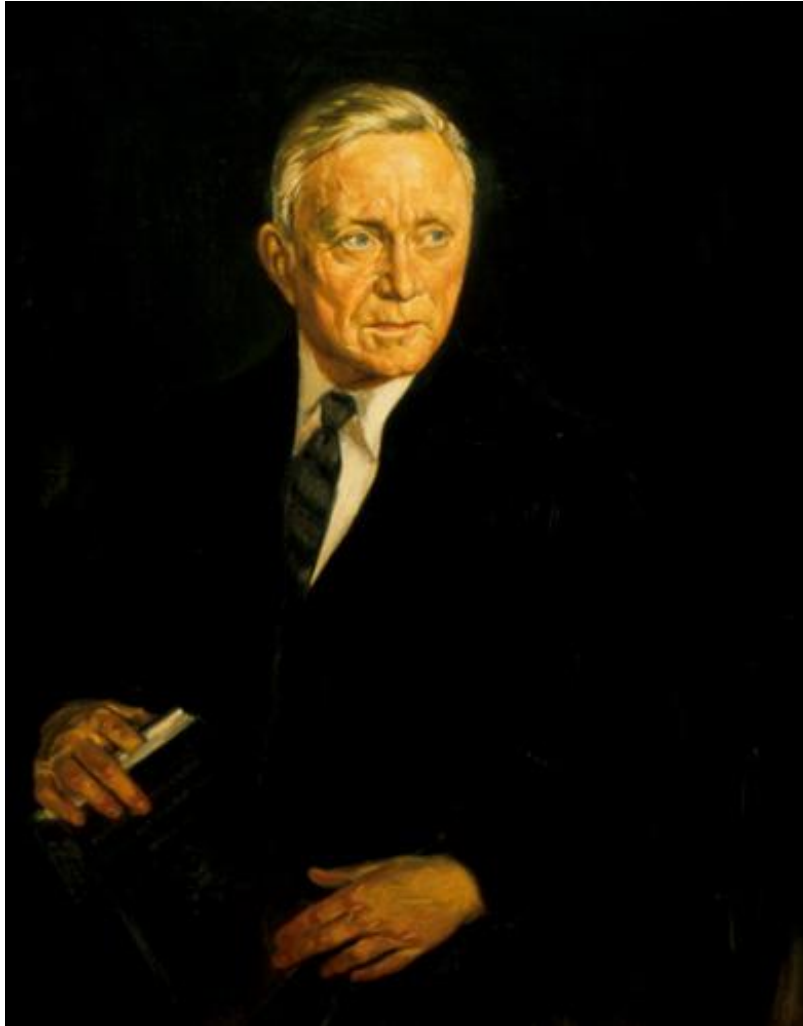
**“These guys are nothing but old-time gangsters, thugs, and thieves. They beat your brains in with their market power and take your money.” – Mike Callicrate**



# A Failure of Justice

Judge Strom reversed the \$1.28 billion jury verdict in Pickett vs Tyson/IBP, setting bad precedent and giving the green light to the big meatpackers to continue their pillage and plunder of the cattle industry. The Supreme Court refused to hear the case.

Reagan appointee - Lyle E. Strom  
District of Nebraska - United States District Court



William O. Douglas – Supreme Court Justice 1939–75

***"The growth of bigness has resulted in ruthless sacrifices of human values. The disappearance of free enterprise has submerged the individual in the impersonal corporation. When a nation of shopkeepers is transformed into a nation of clerks, enormous spiritual sacrifices are made."***



## STOCK YARDS ACT OF 980 A. D.

Worrying about middlemen's profits, even worrying about direct selling of livestock is an occupation that doesn't seem to be exactly new. As far back as around 980 A. D. in Constantinople, then, of course, in the hands of the eastern part of the Roman Empire, the authorities had a code of regulations governing the activities of the mechanics and trades people of all sorts.

Of the victualers, those who hold all food products except meat, the rule was: "The victualers shall sell their goods in small quantities at a profit of two miliarisia on the nomisma (about 8 1-3 per cent). If the calculation of their authorized gains shows that they are making a larger profit, they shall be scourged, shorn and forced to give up this trade."

Of the butchers it is said: "The butchers shall not go out to meet the drovers who bring in their flocks for sale either in Nicomedia or in other cities beyond the Sangarius . . . in order that they may buy the meat more cheaply and the due profit may fall to those who slaughter the sheep and not to the drovers."

"The sheep drovers . . . shall not hinder peasants who wish to come into the capital to make their sales . . . All who are caught disobeying

these ordinances shall be beaten, shorn and banished."

Constantinople also apparently had a packer and stock yards act with the equivalent of federal grading of livestock. The regulations on inspectors for the cattle market say among other things: "The inspectors are ordered to be present in the cattle market for the following reason, that they may detect and point out defects to would-be purchasers."

A study of the entire set of regulations indicates that the government kept a much more careful control over trade in those days than it does now; and this was not a temporary condition. Corporations of traders and craftsmen were regulated in this way by the state thru most of the history of the Roman Empire until the fall of Rome, and in Constantinople up until the time of its capture by the Turks. This Roman system was carried over into medieval times in the guild system, which put more emphasis on regulations by the guilds or unions of craftsmen themselves and less on state regulation.

Apparently the human race doesn't have very much that is totally new in ideas. About the best we can do is to put some new clothes on the old ones.  
—Wallaces' Farmer.



"I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. . . . corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed."

-- U.S. President Abraham Lincoln, Nov. 21, 1864

(letter to Col. William F. Elkins)

Ref: The Lincoln Encyclopedia, Archer H. Shaw (Macmillan, 1950, NY)

## **NATIONAL FARMERS UNION— OPPOSES PACKERS MERGER**

December 14, 1922

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Stating that the National Farmers Union is emphatically opposed to the proposed merger of the large meat packing companies, the Washington office of the National Farmers Union, 1781 Eye St., N.Y., on Saturday made public a copy of a letter addressed to Attorney General Daugherty. The copy of the letter in part follows:

“The National Farmers Union, meeting in annual convention at Lychburg, Virginia, November 21-23, considered the question of the proposed packer merger and thereupon adopted the following resolution:

‘Whereas there is an effort being made to merge two of the great packing companies, therefore, be it resolved, that we express our disapproval of this attempted consolidation as a menace to agriculture.’

Senator George Norris, Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry of the Senate and Representative Gilbert N. Baugen, Chairman of the Committee of Agriculture in the House are among the prominent members in Congress who have been asked to lend their influence, if this can be done in an appropriate manner, against the proposed packer merger.

“Bona fide farmers in Kansas oppose the merger,” said John Tromble, President of the Kansas Farmers Union, speaking for sixty thousand members of his organization, whose aggregate sales of livestock amount approximately to sixty million annually. Mr. Tromble further said “We most vigorously oppose any proposition which will give these meat packers further power over stock producers. For years we aided in the fight for adequate packer control legislation, believing that when industries had assumed such huge proportions and exercised their power in a way to adversely affect prices, it becomes the function of the government to exercise strong corrective control.

“I am very doubtful as to whether the law which was finally passed is exercising or will exercise the effective control which the meat producers believe is necessary for their protection. The fact is, I believe that the law should have teeth put in it, but even then, I am confident that our farmers would still be greatly opposed to any further consolidation of the packing industry.”

“This idea, that economies can be affected in the packing industry by a merger has been thoroughly exploded by the investigations which have been made by the Federal Trade Commission. I am sure that those whose only ground for favoring the proposed combination is that it will result in economical packing and distribution, will, if they have open minds, change their viewpoint when they have carefully evaluated reports made by the Federal Trade Commission.

# President Reagan sends America back to The Jungle



**“They [big corporations] own not merely the labor of society, they have bought the governments; and everywhere they use their raped and stolen power to entrench themselves in their privileges, to dig wider and deeper the channels through which the river of profits flows to them!”**

– *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair, 1906

**“They were a gigantic combination of capital, which had crushed all opposition, and overthrown the laws of the land, and was preying upon the people.”**

– *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair, 1906

# These Haitian meatpacking workers may be deported. They voted to strike anyway.

The largely immigrant workforce at JBS's flagship U.S. plant, in Greeley, Colorado, is refusing to back down after accusing the company of poor working conditions

Media partner  
**Mother Jones**



**The U.S. government once prosecuted members of organized crime - today they're valued advisors and partners.**  
The Brazilian crime family – JBS's Wesley and Joesley Batista



**Austin Frerick** 



Oct 16, 2025 · 

Scary stuff: “The most powerful person in the food system is Walmart, and entering the beef industry only adds to their power,” Frerick said.

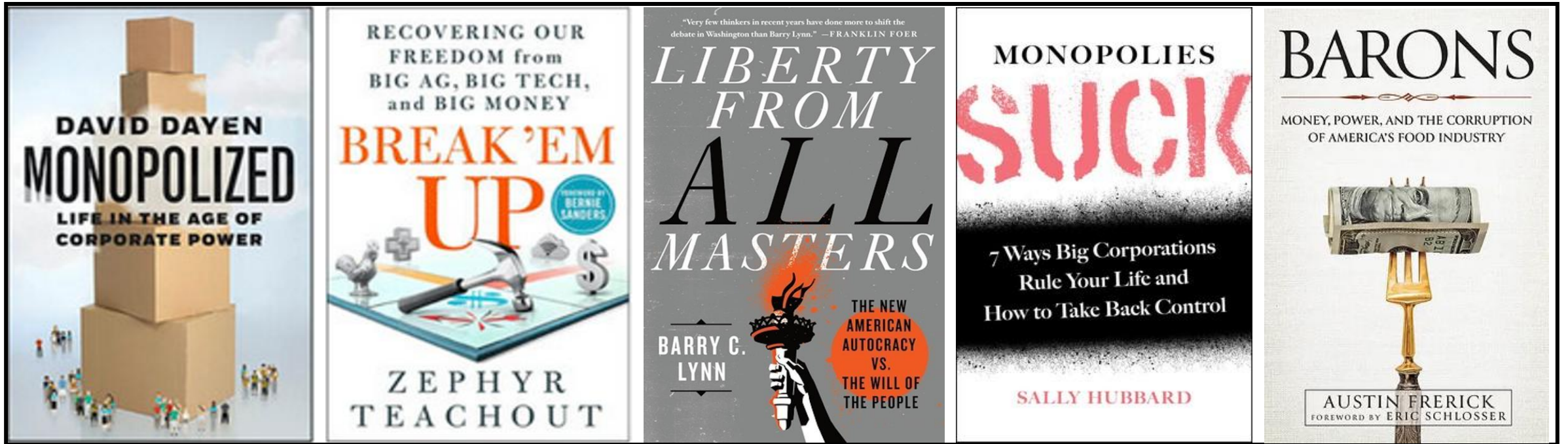
My buddy and rancher Mike Callicrate said it best: “You cannot let Walmart control the supply chain.”



[investigatemidwest.org](https://investigatemidwest.org)

**Walmart looks to tighten its grip on the beef supply chain - Investigate Midwest**

# BREAK 'EM UP



The financialization and monopolization of our food system have robbed producers, workers, and consumers, leaving us poor, hungry, and helpless.