

D'ORNANO BARTERING WITH SHAH FOR FRENCH TELEPHONE CONTRACT

Nov. 18 (IPS)--French Minister of Industry Michel D'Ornano is currently visiting the Shah of Iran, reportedly to obtain "the industrial contract of the century" for a French firm. At stake is a contract providing Iran with 1.2 million telephone lines worth about \$500 million.

The French Minister's problem is that there are a few other companies (General Telephone and Electronics, Nippon Electric Company, Standard Electric Lorentz) waiting in line for the same contract, all of which are larger and more productive than their French competitor CIT-Alcatel. In effect, the productive capacity of the French company is only 700,000 lines, considerably less than the amount required by Iran.

Of course, should D'Ornano convince the Shah to buy a significant chunk of CIT-Alcatel shares, Iran probably would be quite willing to supply the capital necessary to expand the firm's productive capacity and thus enable it to meet the Shah's specifications. The very presence of the French Minister in Iran may indicate that precisely such a "barter" agreement is in the offing, barely weeks after a similar deal was struck with Iran's nuclear plant and special steel supplier, Creusot-Loire.

NORTH AMERICAN LABOR PARTY POLLS 14 PER CENT OF VANCOUVER VOTE, EXPANDS MASS WORKING-CLASS MACHINE

Nov. 18 (IPS)--According to official Board of Elections figures, North American Labor Party candidate Alan Levinson polled 14 per cent of the vote Nov. 16 in the mayoral election in New Westminster, Vancouver, British Columbia. Coupled with the 300,000 vote total for the U.S. Labor Party in the U.S. elections Nov. 5, these results represent a milestone victory for this continent's working class, marking the emergence of a working-class political machine in Canada.

Levinson's 14 per cent overall vote against incumbent Mayor Evers included returns of 13 to 28 per cent in working-class districts where large numbers of pulp and paper workers voted. In the Fraser River and Queensboro lumber mills, pre-election straw polls showed 59 per cent support for the North American Labor Party.

These returns reflect widespread support for the Labor Party program: the Canadian working class is rejecting the suicidal Canadian "go-it-alone" ideology. Levinson has campaigned with U.S. Labor Party candidates in Washington State during the past few months, sending Rockefeller's vigilante border guards--like

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U.S. Senator Warren Magnuson (D-Wash.)--into rages. Levinson and U.S. Labor Party candidate Evelyn Olafson, who ran for Congress from the Third Congressional District in Washington State in November's race, are suing Magnuson for \$50,000 for complicity in the false arrest of both candidates on a Washington State election tour Nov. 3.

Rockefeller camp-followers on both sides of the border are frantic at the explosive growth of the Labor Party into the mass-based party of the continental working class. To undercut Labor Party penetration, pre-election press coverage in New Westminster consistently slandered the Labor Party campaign. The Labor Party is investigating the possibility of vote fraud, including unpublicized changes in registration requirements that prevented many workers from voting.

The North American Labor Party will spread this victory to the upcoming Ontario elections. Candidates Richard Sanders (for Mayor of Toronto), Manuel Lumbreras (for Alderman, York South, Toronto), and Lucille Boykoff (for City Councilman from Niagara-on-the-Lake) are organizing intensive campaign activity among Toronto workers, building toward the December elections--with participation by U.S. Labor Party candidates and industrial workers from Michigan and New York State.

The campaign is focusing on exposure of "organizational development" brainwashing networks--pioneered by Nazi doctor Eric Trist among U.S. miners--operating against Ontario workers through bodies like the Clark Institute and the Addiction Research Foundation, with the active complicity of the Rockefeller-owned leaderships of the United Auto Workers and United Steel Workers. Under the cover of "addiction treatment" and "alcoholism rehabilitation" these programs are designed to break workers' resistance to Rockefeller speedup, layoffs, and slave-labor relocation. North American Labor Party campaign rallies will identify the brainwashing programs and their union enforcers, building working-class resistance to Rocky into a Labor Party political machine which can stop the Rockefeller drive for fascist "world reconstruction."

AUSTRALIAN "REFORMS" PREPARE FOR INCREASED SLAVE-LABOR PROJECTS

Nov. 18 (IPS)--The Australian Labor Party government announced last week a series of measures to reduce restrictions on domestic credit flow and foreign investment, implementing Australia's new policy to welcome foreign investment to develop labor-intensive projects.

The measures included a drop in interest rates on short-term treasury notes, an easing on restrictions of overseas borrowing, and suspension of the compulsory freezing in the Reserve Bank.