

WORKERS MOBILIZE TO SPREAD NCLC CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY

WASHINGTON, D.C., Nov. 26 (IPS)--Testifying on the Vice Presidential nomination of Nelson Rockefeller, National Caucus of Labor Committees National Chairman Lyn Marcus told the House Judiciary Committee today, "Rockefeller and his programmatic commitments represent a menace to the human race. Rockefeller and his accomplices must be stopped at all costs."

In the past few days the Labor Party political machine has mobilized its briefing and sales networks around Marcus' appearance before Congress to see that every worker in North America gets that message. Angrily recalling the CIA media blackout of Marcus' late-September testimony before the Senate Rules Committee, Labor Party worker-organizers have organized other workers to barrage newspapers, radio, and television stations with phone calls demanding that they cover Marcus--forcing at least 25 media outlets to make commitments to report the testimony.

Even more significant, workers are strengthening the Labor Party machine by organizing their families, friends, and co-workers to hear the testimony, even if Rockefeller succeeds in enforcing another bourgeois media blackout. At numerous meetings, both prearranged and spontaneous, over the next ten days or so, groups of workers will gather around tape recorders in factories and in each other's homes to listen to Marcus. One worker in New York City has already called a meeting of the 39 people who came to his house last week; this time they will hear the Marcus tape. Worker fundraising meetings have been organized to view Marcus' testimony on videotapes supplied by the Labor Party. And as a result of working-class pressure, a growing number of cable TV and public broadcasting outlets across the country will play tapes of Marcus' indictment of Rockefeller.

This week's mobilization has shown Labor Party organizers a qualitative change in the political consciousness of the working class. Comparing workers' responses to Rockefeller now with their responses at the time of Marcus' Senate testimony two months ago, organizers have found that today workers express not merely their gut hatred of Rocky, based on class instinct, but their active understanding of his fascist policies.

In the past month Labor Party exposure of the Rockefeller-engineered United Mine Workers "strike" and Middle East war scenario has initiated successive waves of working-class self-organization which has significantly crippled the intended effects of these operations against workers.

In the case of the UMW charade, for example, the Labor Party has been unable, despite a diligent search this past week, to locate any workers who believe Rocky's psywar message that the current wave of layoffs in basic industry is attributable to the miners strike. Workers are saying: "It's Rocky."

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Mounting rage in reaction to the layoffs and threats of layoffs is their characteristic response. At a Bethlehem, Pennsylvania steel plant where layoff rumors have been incessant, a worker driving out of the plant yelled to a Labor Party organizer selling New Solidarity: "We ought to shoot Rockefeller, we have to shoot him." When the organizer yelled back, "That's not enough," the worker stopped his car on a green light. While 30 cars piled up behind his, this worker then ran back to the organizer to get a 30-second educational.

That hundreds of thousands of workers have already had that educational and have decided to build a revolutionary party was reflected in the massive vote for Labor Party candidates this fall. These workers are now intensively discussing the International Caucus of Labor Committees Strategic Studies series, selling New Solidarity subscriptions, organizing groups of other workers to meetings, deploying with the Labor Party, etc. Probably three times this number are active organizers for the Labor Party, in direct touch with the Party over the course of a month. Among this group of a thousand or so Labor Party worker-organizers are most of those whose organizing activities were by and large limited to buying the newspaper and making phone calls in late September.

ISRAEL ECONOMY HAS FOUR MONTHS TO GO, CHASE SAYS

Nov. 26 (IPS)--Burning up its foreign exchange reserves at the monthly rate of \$200-250 million, Israel will face bankruptcy within four months. No positive effects are to be expected from the recent 40 per cent devaluation of the Israeli pound.

This is Chase Manhattan Bank's estimation of the current economic crisis in Israel. According to a Chase economist: "The situation is pretty critical, as evidenced by their willingness to devalue the pound, something they fought against for a very long time." The economist added that the devaluation would not help Israeli imports, since their market position depended on special arrangements, and were not price-elastic. Instead, the devaluation was forced by "panic buying by consumers."

Normally, Israeli currency reserves have been maintained at about \$1.5 billion. But now, at less than \$900 million, the reserves face rapid exhaustion at a rate of \$200 to \$250 million per month.

In addition, the Chase economist said, "Israel is under additional pressure because the invisibles they normally get are not coming in, in particular the contributions from world Jewry." A financial scandal around the Israel Corporation last September has affected the willingness of Israel's supporters to shell out.