

## ICLC Counter-Offensive

The International Caucus of Labor Commistees is mounting an international campaign to obtain De Hoyos' release and expose and halt the operation behind his kidnapping. De Hoyos' life is in danger. Workers and journalists must contact Mexican government officials at the Washington, D.C. Embassy (202) 234-6000 and the U.N. Mission in New York (212) 679-6416 to demand De Hoyos' release and an investigation into the circumstances of his kidnapping.

## ITALIAN TRADE UNIONS MOVE TOWARD SELF-DESTRUCTION

Dec. 12 (IPS)--The Italian Metalworkers Federation (FLM) together with the Communist-dominated trade union confederation, the CGIL, are moving to drop the last vestige of nationally negotiated trade union contracts. Their actions will leave the Italian working class totally defenseless against the Rockefeller austerity crunch now under full swing with the formation of the new La Malfa government. So far, the countergang and La Malfa-controlled UIL union confederation is affecting "hesitation" over whether to follow the FLM-CGIL lead.

The major confederations (CGIL, CISL, UIL) had decided already at their last autumn conference to run individualized plant contract negotiations, leaving the national Cost of Living negotiations as a formal cover for the actual reality of decentralization. Now not even this cover will be tolerated. According to the financial daily *Il Globo* Dec. 11, the CGIL, under the avant garde leadership of the once-militant FLM, is moving to decentralize the Cost of Living question itself.

This move was the inevitable next step after the FLM sell-out of the working class in the recent FIAT contract negotiations, which provided for full worker coparticipation in slave labor projects and the recycling of workers to Italy's southern region. Trying to cover its tracks and deal with the pressure coming from its base, the FLM is playing down the "nonsense that surrounds the FIAT contract as being one of coparticipation," a definition which is "distant from today's reality in industrial relations."

In a related anti-working class move, *Il Globo* reported that GLM General Secretary Bruno Trentin, a "Communist", threatened to throw the full support of the FLM behind the anarchist civil disobedience movement which is pushing for self-reduction of electricity, transportation, etc. rates if the government refuses to give minimal guarantees of support for real wages. He is seconded in this by one of the leaders of the CGIL construction workers, Masucci, who notes that "self-reduction" could become a mass phenomenon with union backing.

12/12/74

IPS A3

Given the disastrous financial situation of Italy, which makes the lowering of living standards an inevitable and consciously-pursued policy, Trentin's and Masucci's "threats" are in reality the first signals of the further self-destruction of one of the most powerful trade union forces in the Western world.

#### BRITISH GOVERNMENT IMPOSES ENERGY CUTBACKS

Dec. 12 (IPS)--Only a day before Rocky's Oil Minister Shiekh Yamani of Saudi Arabia, announced that his government would no longer accept "funny money" (pounds sterling) from the British Government in exchange for their real oil, Britain's Energy Minister Eric Varley announced that British workers will be forced to decide how energy will be allocated in their industries.

Varley demanded that Britain must cut its energy consumption by 10 percent. This is the same austerity "guideline" established by Rockefeller's International Energy Association, in which Britain is an enthusiastic participant. He blamed this call for unbearable austerity on Britain's worsening balance of payments deficit, largely caused by the increased cost of imported oil.

The British working class already exists at a perilously low level of energy consumption. Britons can usually afford to heat only one room in their homes; impoverished elderly are left to freeze to death; and lack of hot water exacerbates already deteriorating health conditions. Any further energy cuts can only put Britain into the status of a Third World country.

Every area of life will be transferred into misery under Varley's cuts. Gasoline prices (already at \$1.50 per gallon) will rise by another 20 cents per gallon, forcing workers into collapsing, and in some areas non-existent, public transport to get to and from work.

Government offices and public buildings will lower heating and lighting levels as an example to domestic households, which are encouraged to lower heating to 68 degrees.

Part of Varley's proposals includes a systematic study of how individual companies allocate energy resources, thus supposedly making substantial savings in industry. Besides appointing an energy manager, companies will be asked to promote joint discussion between management and unions over efficient uses of energy on the job. Faced with threats of layoffs because dwindling energy resources, workers will "choose" to give up such "luxuries" as heat, decent lighting, and hot meals (including hot tea!) in their factories.