

This debate in the elevated realm of economic theory ended suddenly however, when easy-money advocates and tight-money advocates in banking circles discovered that they had panicked in common, slashing credit in every direction. It's a fact, however, that an easy way to raise American productivity would be to put such proven incompetents to work--perhaps digging coal with a pick and shovel.

U.S. AUTO INDUSTRY BREATHES ITS LAST

Jan. 12 (IPS)--This week the Ford Motor Company shut down 22 of its car, truck, and component plants, ending its bulk of production. 85,000 layoffs result.

Although Chrysler has pulled psywar maneuvers in reopening several of its plants at one-week shots, auto, the flagship of U.S. industry, is dead. With purchasing power shrinking, the rest of the U.S. economy is cascading into oblivion. Auto plants will open again for full-scale, full-time production only under the direction of the working class which will reconvert auto into tractor production.

By Monday, Jan. 13, there will be 280,000 unemployed auto workers whose jobs will have permanently disappeared. By February, there will be many more. Chrysler, with most of its plants closed and threatened with bankruptcy, cut car prices by \$200 in a desperate attempt to liquidate its huge inventory of unsaleable cars for cash. An additional \$200 rebate is offered to workers in auto-related industry if they buy a Chrysler to save their job.

The steel industry is presently hanging by a thread. Most workers temporarily laid off by the Jay Rockefeller-directed coal strike in November have not been rehired. Steel production has fallen by 15 per cent. A U.S. Steel public relations director contended that production was continuing in anticipation of huge orders from energy redevelopment projects. However, the inability of the cabal to negotiate a centralized financing scheme and the lack of a disciplined, maleable workforce has stalled these slave labor projects indefinitely.

Mass layoffs continue in the appliance industry because workers no longer have money or credit for bit purchases. This week General Electric, Westinghouse, Stellar Industries, Zenith, Kodak, and Xerox cut workers from their appliance divisions.

Unemployment centers are also filling with teamsters and

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railroad workers laid off because freight shipments have declined 25 per cent from last year. Greyhound and United Airlines cut their workforce this week because of reduced passenger fares.

And in an even more impressive indicator of the collapse of the economy, the previously strong electronics industry is beginning to crumble. This week Texas Instruments laid off 9,000 and Honeywell dismissed 500.

LABOR PARTY ORGANIZES TO STOP "OPERATION EARTHQUAKE"

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 12 (IPS)--The United States Labor Party (USLP) is mobilizing members and workers around it to prevent a simulated disaster, "Operation Earthquake," from taking place here Jan. 28. Sponsored and paid for by the University of California's Moffit Hospital, with the Army's full cooperation, the disaster exercise is aimed at getting the area's population used to the idea of triage--cold-blooded mass murder--and to police rule.

It's no coincidence that triage pioneer, CIA agent William Paddock, is currently teaching at another University of California campus--Santa Barbara.

Labor Party investigations reveal that many city authorities are not aware that this hideous spectacle is on the agenda, raising serious questions as to its legality--the question of its morality being clearly decided already.

Information on "Operation Earthquake" pieced together by Labor Party organizers here over the last few days reveals a scenario that could come only from worm-eaten minds. It involves innocent children, unsuspecting bystanders, duped city workers, and the Red Cross, under the leadership of University of California and Army triage experts "practicing" what Rockefeller and his associates at the Defense Civil Preparedness Administration (DCPA) intend to become normal, everyday routine. Every aspect of it has been shaped to produce maximum psychological disorientation--"soft" brainwashing--explicitly designed to insure that the city's working class will accept triage as a necessary, if unfortunate method.

The Labor Party is urging IPS and New Solidarity readers to get the word out to co-workers and friends: bombard the San Francisco city authorities, the Army, the Red Cross, the DCPA and the University of California's Moffit Hospital to demand that this criminal "Operation Earthquake" be called off at once.