

Street's tenuous hold over Western Europe, as European workers and anti-Atlanticist forces among European businessmen and politicians take note of the fact that the Atlanticists, who have demanded genocidal levels of austerity on the continent to prop up the bankrupt dollar, cannot deliver on their Schachtian dictates in their own backyard.

The "Recovery" Backfires

The irony of the capitalists' current predicament is the fact that their own insane psywar campaign on the allegedly

robust "recovery" has contributed and continues to contribute not insignificantly to the very mass strike ferment which threatens to be their political undoing.

The U.S. economy is currently operating at negative rates of profit but the hoked-up statistics and indexes that pour out of the Ford Administration's offices daily into the nation's press to "prove" the existence of a recovery in the U.S. — a ploy intended principally to prevent Europe from cutting loose from the Dollar Empire — have bolstered workers in their conviction that austerity is not only criminal but patently unnecessary.

Big MAC's Rohatyn: There's No Monetary System, So We Must Bust The Unions

NEW YORK, April 1 (IPS — In an interview this week, an aide of Municipal Assistance Corporation chairman Felix Rohatyn summarized the perspective of the MAC chairman on the present international, national and local developments as follows:

"We don't have a monetary system. This Thursday and Friday (at the meeting of EEC finance ministers in Luxembourg) we won't get anywhere. The West Germans and the French won't buy our "safety net", nor will the Germans allow a fixed parity system with restructured parities that will hurt their trade. We have a problem and we've got to solve it. The only way available under the circumstances is confrontation with labor. We've no choice. We're quite right to be worried about hyperinflation if we go along with any Humphrey-Hawkins (full employment-slave labor) type programs. The critical thing is keep wages low...then maybe we've got a chance. There's no money and somebody down the pike has to bear the consequences.

"Specifically on the U.S., we've got no choice but to bust unions and break strikes. Once that's done we can try to

sneak ICNEP (the fascist national planning proposal named after its originators the Initiative Committee for National Economic Planning—ed.) through the back door. Last time we blew it by giving it too darn much publicity. Also (President) Ford's honeymoon was much shorter than we'd expected. So the way to do it is set precedent with labor and then get ICNEP going.

"On the New York Transit Worker's strike, well, we've got an injunction out. If they decide to go ahead anyway Ted Kheel (labor mediator and New York trade union controller) will settle the thing with a package that will say 'Look guys, if you want a 10 per cent increase, we'll give it to you. How about taking a 20 per cent increase two years from now.'"

Then addressing himself to the U.S. Labor Party's analysis of the present conjuncture, the Rohatyn aide said, "Yes, yes, we know your International Development Bank solution is the one that will avoid the confrontation approach...You are right about a worker upsurge and mass strike. It's the debt moratorium everybody wants to avoid. Otherwise your approach is OK, just the debt moratorium...well, the bankers won't go along with that."