

Report from Paris by Yves Messer

Becoming a post-industrial Hell

Euthanasia, unemployment, and the destruction of industry are leading features of the new age which President Mitterrand advocates.

With the publication of France's ninth five-year plan (1985-89), the country is truly entering into the post-industrial age, into the "new pastoral age" promised several years ago by President François Mitterrand. No doubt influenced by his visits to the "Silicon Valley" and to the Carnegie-Mellon Foundation in Pittsburgh at the beginning of the year, Mitterrand is trying to save his seven-year mandate by being the President under which France entered the new age.

After having stoically suffered under Jesuit-trained Jacques Delors, the former finance minister, France has undergone an ideological brainwashing campaign. In a recent television show "Vive la crise" (Long Live the Depression), popular singer—and former communist—Yves Montand teamed with "new philosopher" André Glucksman to explain to the population why it should "voluntarily" destroy its industry. Glucksman expounds the view that in the past, wars, because of the destruction they caused, were successful in forcing the necessary renovation of industrial capital. Today, however, the destruction which would be incurred by a war would be too massive; thus, economic crisis has taken over the role of war in performing the same task. He continues that should the population thus voluntarily destroy its own industry, there would be no reason for the Soviets to invade Western Europe and war would be avoided!

Recently, a debate has broken out on the subject of euthanasia, with the

view aired that the population, after having accepted the destruction of its industry, must then accept early death.

France's five-year plan proposes the reduction of social expenses by cutting down the staff and the number of beds in hospitals. The steel reduction plan of Count Etienne Davignon of the European Community bureaucracy in Brussels has managed to destroy 40% of France's steel-and-iron industry since 1975. The country's auto industry has lost a quarter of its labor force in the last five years, and the new plan for the auto industry, drawn up by L'Oreal director and Mitterrand crony François Dalle, proposes cutting manpower by 50% in the next five years! The construction industry is considering reducing its labor force by a quarter.

Mitterrand, however, is convinced that all these lost jobs will be more than made up by the new "frontier industries" of electronics, computer technology, video games, and so forth.

Worse, the quota policy decided upon by the European Community bureaucracy in Brussels is destroying agricultural production and driving France into an age of famine. The milk industry recently cut back employment by 10%.

The unemployed workers will be forced into TUCs (public service jobs) and TIGs (general interest works). Labor Minister Delebarre's forced youth employment has been compared to the fascist *Chantiers de la jeunesse* established by the Vichy regime in 1940.

If five-year plans were originally devised as Colbertist methods of reconstruction after World War II, the Planning Commission was soon taken over by European federalists and Anglo-American circles typified by Jean Monnet, the founder of the Action Committee for the United States of Europe in the 1950s. The Planning Commission thus became a tool of the oligarchy in which civil servants, technocrats, and bureaucrats decided the future of the nation, bypassing the political will expressed by the electorate. In the 1960s, the Planning Commission became a tool of neo-Malthusians associated with the Club of Rome and its French counterpart, the Futuribles organization, a think-tank created by fascist philosopher Bertrand de Jouvenel, half of the board of directors of which are Club of Rome members.

These circles reappeared in 1968 in the New Left and related counter-cultural ideologies. The other side of the coin, the right-wing "neo-liberalism," is a refurbished version of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's liberalism and "Reaganomics." It is this ideology which fuels the plans to "de-nationalize" France's state-owned industry and public services, as well as to put into place "deregulation." This neo-liberalism is no better than the New Left offshoots. In fact, it is feared that after the socialists' probable defeat in the general elections, this neo-liberalism will complete the process of industrial disintegration and asset-stripping for the benefit of Swiss and other oligarchical interests.

Based on the fact that an electronic chip is called a "puce" (a flea) in French, a quip has it in Paris that Mitterrand and the socialist government want to turn France into a gigantic electronic flea market.