

Report from Italy by Liliana Celani

Looking closely at LaRouche

If the treatment accorded his policy adviser Webster Tarpley is any indication, many Italians would like to see him become President.

Important political circles in Italy are looking with growing interest to Lyndon LaRouche's presidential candidacy in 1988. This was indicated last week by a series of interviews, on national radio and on some private television stations, with LaRouche adviser Webster G. Tarpley, who was in Italy to participate to the international conference of the Schiller Institute on St. Augustine.

In a half-hour interview with a private television station in Brescia, near Milan, Tarpley was presented as "a very important international personality," the "foreign policy adviser of U.S. candidate Lyndon LaRouche." The questions posed by the interviewers show a great deal of worry that the U.S. administration might abandon Europe and Italy to the Russians in exchange for so-called concessions in Geneva. "What can we expect from Geneva?" was a recurring question, to which Tarpley answered, "We fear concessions on the SDI, while what Europe urgently needs is a crash program to develop a space shield, since the Russians are building 12 new MIRVS per day; and continuously breaking the SALT and ABM treaties."

"You are the foreign policy adviser of a U.S. candidate. How do you explain the fact that most U.S. Presidents make mistakes in foreign policy and give in so easily to what you rightly call New Yalta plans?" was another question.

Tarpley explained that President Reagan and many of his predecessors have been prisoners of an evil "palace

guard" led by the State Department.

"What is your candidate's program for Italy?" was the last question. The interviewers seemed satisfied with Tarpley's reply: "We are the European lobby in the United States. If Ted Kennedy were to be elected, Italy and Europe would be decoupled from the United States. We are proposing to strengthen the alliance on cultural bases, and that Europe and Italy participate in the SDI, not on a subcontracting basis, but as equal and sovereign states."

"We can only hope that this candidate of yours will win the elections in 1988," was the conclusion of the interviewers, one of whom was a Catholic scholar, Prof. Matteo Perrini, who was among the speakers on St. Augustine at the Rome conference.

Professor Perrini also endorsed LaRouche's U.S. presidential candidacy in an article he wrote for the daily *Il Giornale di Brescia*, which served as a report on the St. Augustine conference. The article, entitled "With the Schiller Institute for a New Renaissance," began by quoting the Hon. Hulan Jack, the former Borough President of Manhattan, New York, "who announced at the conference that LaRouche will run in 1988, and will receive the votes of the blacks." "For the first time," commented Professor Perrini, in reference to LaRouche's wife, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the Schiller Institute's founder, "the First Lady will not be a Hollywood dummy like the ones we have seen until now, but the daughter of European human-

ism, a partisan of *Logos* and *Agape*."

In the week prior to the Geneva summit, Tarpley was interviewed almost every day, prime time, by the second channel of the Italian national radio, GR2, reaching 20-30 million Italians. The interviews were broadcast at the close of the early morning news, which has a very broad listenership. The interviews were billed as special features on the Geneva summit.

The first, transmitted on Nov. 14, dealt with the secret Soviet plans to build a space shield and "reach absolute military superiority by 1987-88, unless something is done quickly to match them," as Tarpley explained. The second interview, aired on Nov. 16, started with Red Army songs taken from one of LaRouche's television broadcasts during the 1984 U.S. presidential campaign. The interviewer stated: "There is a Russian plan to invade Europe. Marshal Ogarkov was not at all ousted. Let us listen to a specialist, Webster Tarpley."

Tarpley described his tour of 30 U.S. states and asserted: "The American population feels undefended and betrayed by Henry Kissinger's MAD doctrine" and added that "90% of the U.S. population is for a strong defense."

The third interview, aired on Nov. 18, concerned "European participation in the SDI." The last interview on national radio was transmitted the day of the Geneva summit, on Nov. 19, and was entitled "Is the Soviet Union spreading AIDS?"

Also during the summit, the major conservative daily, *Il Giornale*, published two full pages on EIR's special report, *Global Showdown: The Russian Imperial War Plan for 1988*, calling it "a report everybody should read," which is "now also available in Italian."