

zloty bill in my pocket and offered it to him. He wanted to kiss my hands!

As soon as he leaves, an old woman arrives. She too sticks her hands into the filthy trashcan to examine the refuse, looking even deeper into it. She gets out a few chicken bones that were not completely bare of meat and puts them into her bag, very ashamed that we saw her. At the end, as we were leaving the place, my wife, who had not finished her piece of bread, intentionally left it on the table. We had barely turned our backs when a hand seized it.

EIR: Where did this happen? Is this a scene which is generalized in Poland?

Bortner: This happened in Lodz. I would say that it's a marginal scene, but significant: Three persons in five minutes who are reduced to rummaging in the garbage. And we don't see those who are in their own homes, who are incapable of moving. This story made me reflect a great deal. I regret to say that the policy conducted by the Solidarnosc government will certainly lead to starvation. I regret this, because I have always supported the struggle of Solidarnosc. I came out of it, I was chairman of the regional association of the Côte d'Azur [French Riviera], I have done everything that I could for them. But this policy, this Balcerowicz Plan, will cause the deaths of men and women.

EIR: What is the present popularity of Solidarnosc?

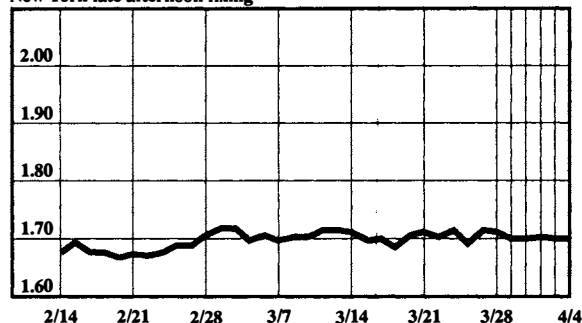
Bortner: I think that the people still accord it their trust. For the people, the Solidarnosc movement still represents the one which fought for freedom. It is still inconceivable to go back to the communist regime. That is a positive point. But, as I was telling you, new movements are appearing, dissidents from Solidarnosc. The problem, is that they have no economic program. They believe that there are only two kinds of policy in the world: the Marxist system and free market financiers' economics. Since Marxism is a sinking ship, they see nothing but free market economics to replace it. They don't see that there is a third way, the way which built the great nations, that of [Friedrich] List, Washington, and de Gaulle. Lech Walesa is currently much more concerned with politics than with economics; he has abandoned the economic sector. The problem is that, of all those whom I have been able to meet, from many standpoints, they all have very interesting political conceptions, but not one has the slightest economic program.

The officials to whom I was able to talk all have a totally monetarist conception of money. They do not understand that investment in the internal productive capacities of the country can be non-inflationary. At one fell swoop, all the internal projects, and in particular the food and agricultural ones, even if they did not require huge sums of money, have been frozen or abandoned outright. So, since the "liberation" of Poland, very little has been done to satisfy the needs of the internal market.

Currency Rates

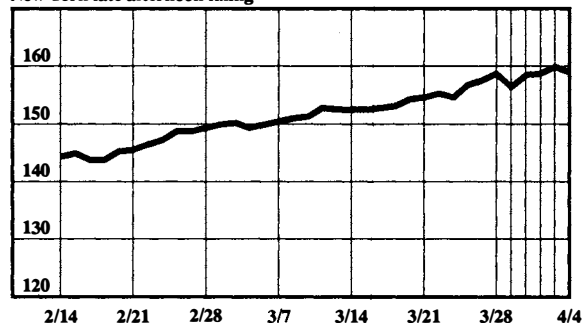
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



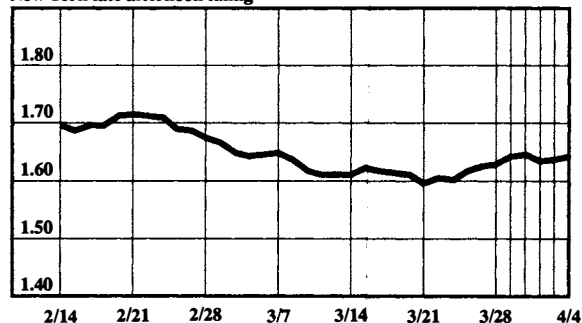
The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing



The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing

