

EIR shapes probe of Italy privatization

by Claudio Celani

EIR's special dossier, "The Anglo-American Strategy Behind Italian Privatizations," is forcing the Italian government to clarify whether some of its ministers have cut a deal with foreign interests which want to take over valuable sectors of Italian public industry at wholesale prices. One cabinet member especially, Budget Minister Beniamino Andreatta, may be forced to resign, and the government itself may be forced to face a confidence vote on industrial policy.

EIR's dossier, released in Italy on Jan. 14, published in part in *EIR* (Feb. 12, pp. 11-12), and prominently covered by the national weekly *L'Italia* in its Feb. 3 issue, provoked little reaction until March 2, when former Socialist Party Secretary General Bettino Craxi, who is defending himself from a political plot steered by the circles exposed in *EIR's* dossier, delivered it to the press and to members of Parliament. The day after, Deputy Antonio Parlato raised a parliamentary inquiry, quoting from *EIR's* dossier as published in *L'Italia*. Parlato asked the government to clarify whether it was true that on June 2, 1992, a secretive meeting took place

aboard the British Royal Yacht *Britannia* between British financiers and Italian public officials, to discuss how to privatize Italian public industry. Parlato met Treasury Undersecretary Mario Draghi, who had participated in that meeting, after which he raised a second inquiry. He said that, "basing myself on the interpretation of that unique meeting given by the *EIR* and *L'Italia*," he was asking the government to "ask opportune, immediate, and exhaustive explanations from the ambassador of the United Kingdom."

The thrust of Craxi's move and Parlato's inquiry have been echoed in the national press, resulting in the crediting of *EIR* and Lyndon LaRouche for the exposé. Senior economic columnist Giano Accame, writing in the Catholic weekly *Il Sabato*, after identifying *EIR* and LaRouche as the source of Parlato's inquiries, said that LaRouche's supporters "describe him as a victim of the American system of power, against which he stubbornly fights, but his misadventures strengthen his victimization. Yet, this time the rumors from Wiesbaden were right. . . . Who now talks about conspiracies, maybe uses big words. But that procedure was all but elegant. . . . Do you handle like that, out of the offices, the state businesses? Beside being a bit 'exotic,' was it not too confidential an atmosphere? Draghi, feeling uncomfortable, left. Those who stayed were much less serious and now should respond about it: privatize to denationalize?"

The Rome financial daily *Il Globo-12 Ore* published front-page articles for two days in a row reporting on *EIR's* dossier. One of them was entitled "Wall Street and the City Push Bossi to Sink Italy." "Northern League," it wrote quot-

Italian weekly: Financial lobbies jailed LaRouche

The March 31 issue of the weekly *L'Italia* carries a major article about Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., entitled, "And the Dissident Ended Up in the American Gulag." Written by Marco Torre, the lead two-page story in the magazine's International section reads in part: "In Italy the reorganization of the debt will never occur because it is a colony of the International Monetary Fund. Its political and financial sovereignty has long since evaporated, it no longer exists. And in this regard, the masonry is greatly to blame. The masonry in Italy is in fact an institutional element. In the 1970s, in order to prevent a government of national recovery, it went so far as to manipulate the Red Brigades. The author of this detailed denunciation is not a conspiracy theorist or an international spy, but Lyndon H. LaRouche, a 70 year old, a refined and appreciated scholar, proponent

of an economics subordinated to the laws of ethics and the higher interests of nations.

"Taking advantage of a minor tax evasion (a pecuniary distraction), the U.S. authorities sentenced him to the maximum penalty. . . . For two [sic] years he has been in prison, treated like a common criminal.

"Lyndon H. LaRouche . . . allegedly committed the 'grave error' of pointing out, to Americans and non-Americans, the necessity and importance of a 'national' road to economic development, counterposed to the 'multinational' route to development pursued by the mightiest financial and banking lobbies which, LaRouche says, have looted, sacked, and impoverished nations and peoples.

"Here are, in summary, a few points of his thinking with respect to the reform of the monetary system: A) nationalization of the central banks and consequent creation of national banks. B) In the U.S.A., nationalization of the Federal Reserve (the U.S. central bank), currently the property of a dozen private banks (Citibank, Chase Manhattan Bank) who sit down at a table and decide the economy of the country. . . ."

ing *EIR*, "is the ideal instrument to implement the Anglo-American objectives. Here is why the Northern League is supported by the City of London and Wall Street-controlled media (*Economist*, *Financial Times*, and *New York Times*). Connections have been discovered, according to the report, between some foundations owned by certain Italian industrial groups and such centers, through Lazard [Frères].

"Bossi would be moving exactly toward the destruction of the national state, a very clear target for his international sponsors. Mafia witness Leonardo Messina would know the CIA project, coherent with the Northern League project, to 'divide Italy,' and has spoken about it in front of the parliament's anti-mafia commission."

After reporting on the strategy to devalue the lira and buy up Italian industries cheap, the daily wrote: "The Amato government could still save the ship by reintroducing exchange controls, freezing a part of the public debt (sparing the small savers), and launching an aggressive investment policy."

Agnelli group getting hit

But maybe the most important, politically and in terms of readership, is a prominent article run in the Milan daily *Corriere della Sera* on March 10, in which economic editor Danilo Taino reports *EIR*'s analysis of the international attack against the lira and integrates this with the "conspiracy theories" of German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and former French Premier Raymond Barre. *Corriere della Sera* is not only the most influential Italian daily, but it is owned by the Agnelli family, whose power in Italian politics has historically been unchallenged except only by the Catholic Church.

Observers see in this a reaction to the fact that the "anti-corruption" investigation, which a group of Milanese judges are leading on a national scale, has hit the Agnelli group, with the arrest of Fiat financial manager Paolo Mattioli. Maybe Agnelli, like Craxi, has understood that the "anti-corruption" investigation is promoted by the same international forces that are leading the economic assault against Italy.

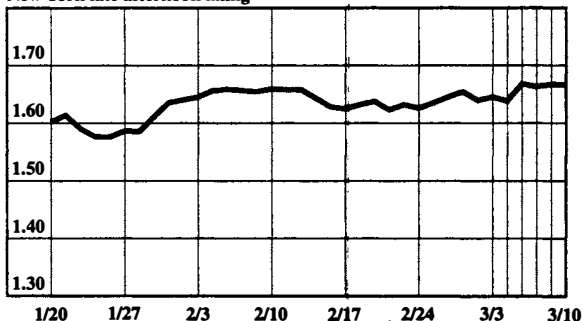
While we are writing, Parlato is raising a third parliamentary inquiry, which more deputies from different parties are expected to join. Thanks to information provided by *EIR*, the new question raises the name of Andreatta, a radical free-marketeer who was on the queen's ship on June 2 and who today, together with Treasury Minister Barucci, is pushing for "shock therapy" in the privatization issue.

Andreatta is opposed by Industry Minister Giuseppe Guarino, author of an industrial policy plan where, instead of selling state companies piecemeal to foreign interests, they would be first integrated into a modernization plan, and then gradually sold to Italian purchasers. Guarino insists that the "traumatic social effects" (i.e., unemployment) of industrial modernization have to be avoided. Guarino's supporters, who have the majority in Parliament, want to force a vote on this policy, and eventually bring down the Amato government over the economic issue.

Currency Rates

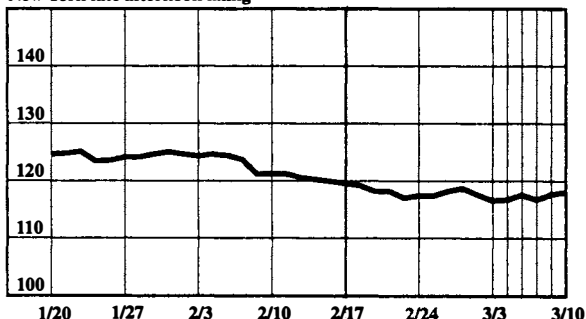
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



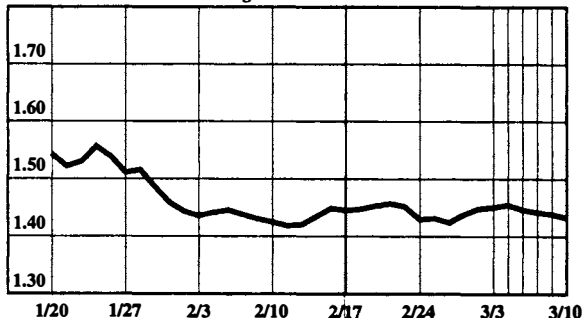
The dollar in yen

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

