

Faxist party battles to destroy Italy's national sovereignty

by Claudio Celani

Italy is truly ruled by a Faxist party. That is no spelling mistake! Italy's new *squadristi* use a modern weapon, the fax machine, just as Mussolini's punitive squads used the *manganello* (night stick) and poured liters of cod liver oil down their opponents' throats, in order to intimidate them. At least, the effect is the same. The modern Faxist party has no more than 1,000 militants, who obey orders coming from a group of prosecutors based in Milan, called the Clean Hands Pool—a tool of the international financial oligarchy. Since at least 1992, when the go-ahead was given on board Queen Elizabeth's yacht *Britannia*, as it anchored off Italy's coast, the Faxists and the Pool have dictatorially run Italy, eliminating politicians and entire political parties which opposed globalization and the looting of Italy's national resources.

Here is how it works: As soon as Parliament or anybody in the government moves in a way that the financial markets dislike, the Pool orders the Faxisti into action. They inundate newspapers and party offices with messages threatening revenge from "offended public opinion." If the target is deaf to this first blast of intimidation, then the "leaders of public opinion"—i.e., the Pool itself—proceed by eliminating, by judicial means, the uncooperative politician or the party.

In the last seven years, Italy has proceeded a long way down this path, so much so that the descent into anarchy and dictatorship might already be irreversible. Now, a new phase of this destructive process has started, coinciding with the second round of the Asian-driven meltdown of the international financial system. In this new phase, however, if national forces do not continue to act according to profile, they could wage a successful battle to turn the process around, and Italy might even become the first member of the European Union to break out of its self-imposed annihilation of national sovereignty.

Target: Berlusconi

The current target of the Milan Pool seems to be opposition leader Silvio Berlusconi, founder and leader of the Forza Italia party, who has already been sentenced three times on charges ranging from illegal party financing, to bribery and false accounting. He received the last two sentences on July 7 and 13.

Irrespective of the truth of the matter, Berlusconi was convicted on the basis of a judicial "theorem," according to

which he, as the head of a huge media conglomerate, "should have known" about illegal financial transactions involving his company. The leaders of all of Italy's anti-communist postwar parties have been indicted and sentenced on the basis of that very same procedure. The most famous case is that of Bettino Craxi, former Prime Minister and head of the Socialist Party, who has exiled himself in Tunisia, in order to avoid a prison term. Craxi received several prison sentences on the grounds that he "should have known" that his party was the recipient of illegal financing. Some of these verdicts against Craxi have since been reversed on appeal.

As for Berlusconi, he is no angel, and his role as a media tycoon and formal supporter of "free-market" values in politics, has not exactly been therapeutic for the country. But the real target of the investigations and the charges against him (including the charges of collaboration with the mafia that will soon be added to the rest, according to rumors), is the political class as a whole. There is even the suspicion that the Pool does not want to *get* Berlusconi, so much as to push the conflict between the judiciary and Parliament to a new level of intensity. Even if Berlusconi decides to step down, the next judiciary operation is ready, this time against a faction in the government. The Rome-based daily *Il Messaggero* has correctly compared the assault to U.S. special prosecutor Kenneth Starr's politically motivated campaign against Bill Clinton.

For this reason, at the beginning of July, Parliament was reaching a consensus on establishing a committee to investigate judiciary abuses. The aim of the committee would be to find out, by hearing testimony from witnesses and promoting independent investigations, whether the Milan Pool has been politically motivated in the "anti-corruption" fight that started in 1992. Such a mandate would empower the committee to investigate connections between prominent Pool members and, for instance, intelligence and financial circles. It could establish whether the Pool's actions were an element of a destabilization strategy, including the famous meeting on board the *Britannia* and the massive speculative attack against the Italian currency that, in September 1992, forced the lira out of the European Monetary System. It could also ascertain whether the wholesale privatization of Italian state-owned firms (in 1997 totalling more than \$55 billion, the largest in the world), was an included target of the same strategy. In



Former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi is one of the latest to be targeted for political prosecution by the Clean Hands Pool.

other words, whether the “globalization” of Italy and the progressive destruction of its state system was part of a plot, in which the Milan Pool played a central role.

Of course, it could also turn out that the members of the parliamentary committee will fail to accomplish all this, and instead, like tragic characters on stage, will use their powers only to carry out acts of personal revenge—i.e., that they would limit themselves to hitting certain local puppets, without exposing the international string-pullers.

Craxi threatens to ‘tell all’

A taste of what could happen was given in an interview by former Prime Minister Craxi, broadcast by the second channel of the national television network RAI on July 15. Rightly fearing that the broadcast version of the interview would be heavily cut, journalist Augusto Minzolini published the hottest parts in the Turin daily *La Stampa*. Craxi, casting himself as the Little Napoleon waiting to come back from exile, decided not to play by the rules. “The 1992 Clean Hands investigation,” he said, “was a coup to destroy political parties. I was eliminated because I was going to become Prime Minister again. If a Parliamentary committee is established, I could come back under immunity and tell everything. The Milan prosecutors could be indicted for violating the Italian Constitution.”

Craxi then said a few words that had the effect of political

hand grenades: He accused current Prime Minister Romano Prodi of being a collaborator of international speculator George Soros, something which *EIR* revealed first. Behind the 1992 coup, he said, “there are international financial circles which do not accept the mediation of politics still in fashion in Europe. Large financial groups wanted to grab the public economy of this country. See how they have eaten it up and are still eating it? Look at the banks. According to this scheme, government must be run by advisers to the large groups. What is Prodi, if not an adviser to George Soros?”

Craxi also accused the initiator of the Clean Hands campaign, former prosecutor and Milan Pool member Antonio Di Pietro, of being an intelligence agent. Di Pietro, who is now a senator, but is still campaigning against Parliament, “was a fourth-tier man in the secret services—military intelligence, I believe.”

Craxi’s televised interview was watched by 2 million Italians, but the above passages were cut out, due to a preemptive action by the Faxisti faction inside state television.

The Faxisti against Parliament

Things looked favorable for a large parliamentary majority in favor of such an investigatory committee, especially after State President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro had given a prominent, although indirect, endorsement of the initiative. Scalfaro, himself a former prosecutor, was speaking at the yearly meeting of the Supreme Council of Magistrates, the self-governing body of the judiciary, of which Council the Italian President is the chairman. Referring to an episode in 1994, when the Milan Pool issued a warrant against Berlusconi, who was then Prime Minister, timed to coincide with the beginning of an international conference against crime in Naples, Scalfaro indicated that the Pool action was objectively destabilizing. Nothing would have changed, Scalfaro said, if they had issued the warrant one week later, rather than the very same day that Berlusconi was scheduled to open a conference with international heads of state and government, including Bill Clinton.

Instead, a climate of political instability was created, which was also used as pretext by the London financial markets to speculate against the lira.

The Pool reaction came immediately, through Di Pietro, who accused Scalfaro of being a “liar,” and said that the investigating committee would be an instrument for the comeback of “corrupt” politicians. “The people will not accept it,” Di Pietro declared.

That was the signal for the Faxisti to go into action. Newspapers and party offices were deluged with hundreds of hysterical messages. As a result, the Senate group of the largest government party, the Left-Wing Democrats (Democratici di Sinistra, DS), reversed their position and voted *against* the idea of a committee. Now, Parliament is split. Most probably, a vote will take place on a motion by the opposition. As things stand now, with the help of a few votes from the majority bloc, the resolution should pass.

The British call for blood

The British oligarchy has already announced that, whatever the outcome of the current conflict, blood will flow. The *Wall Street Journal*, which since 1992 has put out the British oligarchy's line on Italy, wrote on July 16: "Whatever the outcome, the battle of the magistrates is likely to be bloody and a drain on the valuable political energies of many of Italy's best public servants." The newspaper also indicated that Berlusconi deserves to disappear from the political scene, because he did not keep his promises to "liberalize markets."

The London *Economist* intervened even more heavily, in an editorial on July 18, calling Berlusconi "a thrice-convicted criminal." "If you accept Mr. Berlusconi's explanation of what is going on, Italy is a country whose judiciary acts politically. If you reject his explanation, it is a country whose opposition is ready to follow a leader who is a criminal. Either way, Italy fails the normality tests." Thus spoke the organ of a British establishment which distinguishes itself by killing members of its royal house, in the tunnels of Paris.

Such provocations, which normally would be considered a diplomatic insult, are instead taken as orders by some. The arguments given by the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Economist* will become the axioms of the brainwashed minds of Italy's global Jacobins. And thus the prophesy will become reality.

Economic typhoon hitting Italy

A third official mouthpiece of the British oligarchy, the London *Financial Times*, touched on the economic background of the political destabilization, predicting that the Italian government "is heading for a rough autumn." This has a bit more to do with reality.

Italy has already been hit by a combination of the Asian-centered financial typhoon and the effects of the self-imposed Maastricht budget austerity. New figures show that more than 10% of the population is living in poverty, concentrated mostly in the Mezzogiorno, Italy's south. Official unemployment rose to 12.5% (but, according to studies by Rome University, real unemployment is around 20%); and even the much-touted financial recovery, which had brought Italy into compliance with the Maastricht budget deficit parameters, is over. Due to the collapse of the internal market and the slowdown of exports, the GNP has stopped growing. In the first quarter of 1998, GNP declined 0.4% compared to the previous quarter. In the second quarter, predictions are that there will be a further 0.6% negative growth compared to the first quarter.

As a result, revenue flows into the state Treasury have decreased. In June, the state budget showed a surplus of only 18,000 billion liras, compared to the 48,000 billion of June 1997. Experts predict a further hole of 8-10,000 billion in tax revenues, for a total of 30-40,000 billion. This means that, in order to stay within the Maastricht guidelines, the government will have to promote equivalent cuts in next year's budget. It will have to do what the financial markets

have so far demanded: start privatizing pensions and the health system.

But this is not the whole story, because it is based on a linear projection of current trends. In fact, the effects of the Asian crisis have just begun to hit, and they will increase in a non-linear manner in the near future.

Already, trade unions have announced autumn mobilizations, calling for investments. Both unions and business agree that jobs must be created in industry and infrastructure, through capital investment. The Faxist-directed government, instead, has cut off any dialogue with either labor or business, and announced a make-work program based on the introduction of the 35-hour work week and labor-intensive programs. A timid attempt to promote industry in Italy's impoverished Mezzogiorno, through tax breaks for investments, was turned down by the supranational authority of the European Commission, led by the Britain's Neil Kinnock, as "a violation of fair competition rules."

"Our only resort is a general strike in September," said trade union leader Sergio D'Antoni, in an interview with *Corriere della Sera* on July 23. D'Antoni complained that the government is bypassing agreements reached between labor and business, and cancelling infrastructure projects like the modernization of the Milan-Genoa railway line, and is opposing construction of the "project of the century," the bridge across the Messina Strait. Parliament voted in favor of the

Videos Provide Evidence of DOJ Corruption

In August-September 1995, a group of distinguished state legislators and others, with the aid of the Schiller Institute, pulled together independent hearings "to investigate misconduct by the U.S. Department of Justice." They examined three types of cases: Operation Fruehmenschen against black elected officials; the LaRouche case; and the cases brought by the DOJ's Office of Special Investigations (OSI), including that against John Demjanjuk.

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bridge project, but rejected a more ambitious text, in favor of a government formulation which does not mention any deadlines.

“Public works spending between 1996 and 1997 diminished by 6.5% in southern Italy,” said D’Antoni. “This government is happy only when it can say ‘no’ to the Messina Bridge, ‘no’ to the Turin-Lyon and the Milan-Genoa high-speed railway.”

As recently as 1995, Italian unions brought millions of people into the streets, when they mobilized against pension cuts. A general strike today, if D’Antoni’s proposal goes through, would be a similar show of force. Who will be the arbiter of the country’s destiny? Millions of workers or a few hundred Faxisti?

Italians rebel against Clean Hands inquisition

by Umberto Pascali

“If Kenneth Starr lived in Italy, he would be one of the stars of the ‘Clean Hands’ Pool,” wrote Alberto Pasolini Zanelli, Washington correspondent of the Milan-based *Il Giornale*, in a “letter to the editor” to his own newspaper, published on the front page on July 3. “He has the same aggressivity . . . and, above all, the peculiar conviction that . . . it is legitimate to overturn the natural order of the law: Instead of ascertaining that a crime has been committed and looking for the guilty party, one identifies the ‘guilty one’ and, then, goes hunting for crimes that he could have committed; crimes that are supposed to become evidence to corner him. . . . In your editorial the other day, you, dear editor, defined as ‘avenging judges’ some of the Clean Hands’ magistrates. Maybe you did not realize it, but you were drawing the portrait of Kenneth Starr.”

This unusual “letter to the editor” was a symptom of the growing rebellion on the part of many Italians against six years of “legal” destabilization of their nation, and the beheading of the country’s leadership by the “anti-corruption” exploits of the Clean Hands Pool of magistrates. After the recent conviction of opposition leader Silvio Berlusconi (see previous article), demonstrations against the Pool took place in front of the Milan courthouse. A large majority of Italians now declares their opposition to the Milan magistrates, breaking free of the Jacobin demagoguery that trapped them for years in an infantile, populist, and suicidal rage against “corruption in high places.”

The Clean Hands International

The question now is: When will Italians be able to identify and to mobilize against the real plotters against their nation’s

sovereignty? A large enough rebellion in Italy could trigger a broader reaction against the process of undermining of the nation-state that has been launched all over the world—and especially in the United States—using the magic words “fight against corruption.”

Thanks especially to *EIR* and other publications of the LaRouche movement, a growing number of Italians now have an idea of the international control apparatus behind the Clean Hands Pool. They know that Milan prosecutor Antonio Di Pietro explicitly planned an international “Operation Clean Hands,” in which Italy was to be only the first step. They also know about the role of the supranational “anti-corruption” octopus known as Transparency International (TI) and its close connection with the Clean Hands Pool. They know about the role played by Britain’s Prince Philip in the creation of TI. They know that this organization is just the “enforcer” for the main institutions of the international oligarchy, such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, from which TI borrowed its leaders, including its chairman, former World Bank executive Peter Eigen.

It was IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus who launched the worldwide “French Revolution” strategy, at a meeting of TI in Paris, calling for ever closer collaboration between the IMF and TI (see “Transparency International: Camdessus Unleashes Anti-Corruption Pimps,” *EIR*, June 12, 1998).

On the other hand, the same forces that brought Italy Operation Clean Hands, are doing everything possible to focus the debate in a narrow, localist way.

Interestingly, one of the images recently used in Italy to attack Clean Hands and its sponsors, is to label them as “Jacobins,” referring to the most extreme faction of the French Revolution that unleashed the Reign of Terror. “The Flight Before the Jacobins” was the title of a recent front-page article in the main Italian daily, *Corriere della Sera*, which denounced the cowardly subservience of most of the political parties to the Pool.

The reaction by the main media supporter of the Pool, the daily *La Repubblica*, was swift and harsh. The paper, edited by Jacobin Eugenio Scalfari and owned by financier Carlo De Benedetti, who is very close to former U.S. President George Bush, countered: “Scrambled Jacobins and Clams Liberal,” trying desperately to be ironical.

It is noteworthy that at the end of June, Bush was in Italy, as the guest of De Benedetti, who organized a semi-secret summit for the former President and the chairman of Merrill Lynch Italia, Reginald Bartholomew, along with key Italian bankers, businessmen, and economists. De Benedetti was indicted for corruption himself, but, uncharacteristically, the “avenging magistrates” were sympathetic to him, and he never saw the inside of a prison, unlike many politicians and industrialists, some of whom died in jail.

Finally, a book is widely circulating in Italy, *The Italian Guillotine, Operation Clean Hands and the Overthrow of*