

Italian Taxi Union Leader Puts LaRouche Economics in the Spotlight

Claudio Giudici, the head of the Italian taxi union (Uri-taxi) in Florence, has rocked the euro-bosses back on their heels with his fearless leadership of the resistance to the austerity measures recently imposed by Italy's technocratic government.

Giudici is an activist with Movisol, the LaRouche political movement in Italy; his name is becoming a household word after numerous TV and radio shows interviewed "the taxi driver who wrote to the Financial Times." Giudici's most prominent intervention was on the Jan. 12 popular TV political talk show Servizio Pubblico, conducted by former RAI journalist Michele Santoro. Giudici exposed the government's intention to liberalize professions such as taxi drivers, pharmacists, news vendors, and others as "a weapon of mass distraction," to avoid addressing the real problems. He also called for a Glass-Steagall-like banking separation and invited the host to interview LaRouche.

His interview on Italian TV can be viewed at <http://www.movisol.org/audioupdate.htm>. Coverage can also be found at <http://www.larouchepac.com/node/21168>.

Giudici was interviewed on the weekly Internet radio program, The LaRouche Show (www.larouche.com/pub.com/radio), by host Harley Schlanger, on Jan. 14.

Harley Schlanger: I'd like to welcome to the program a man who is taking on the British Empire, a leader of the taxi union in Florence, Italy, and a political activist, who is challenging the coup against his nation, which is run by agents of the British Empire in the form of Mario Draghi, the new head of the European Central Bank, and [Prime Minister] Mario Monti, who was imposed as a financial dictator of Italy by the City of London.

Claudio Giudici is joining us from Florence, and we will have a translation from [Movisol Secretary] Andrew Spannaus, who is in Milan. So, Claudio, welcome to the program.

Claudio Giudici: Thank you very much. Nice to meet you.

The Monti Government Has Been Blocked

Schlanger: You have become a very famous man in the last weeks, a recognized figure for opposing the euro coup against Italy, with major coverage in the press, including a television clip which I think we're making available on our website. You were on a program watched by well over one and a half million people.

But why don't you begin by telling our listeners what has happened since you and your union of taxi drivers decided to organize opposition to the privatization of your work?

Giudici: The Monti government has essentially been blocked. They're in a situation, at an impasse, for all of their attempts at privatizing and liberalizing, that is, deregulating, various sectors of the Italian economy.

So we are currently in a phase of escalation of our protest. Whereas it started out with leaflets, with working through social networks, with one-to-one communication, now we've gone to a different level in the media, which began with the *Financial Times* in London publishing a letter that I wrote.

So after the *Financial Times* published this letter, then it went to another level, because this had a great deal of resonance in Italy, and the leading media in Italy, have been contacting me, and involved me in both the print media and on television. And now we'll see what happens next.

Schlanger: Claudio, how did you define the issue that caused the response that you got?

Giudici: The response came in particular because what we did is, we denounced, we pointed out the higher level that people have to think on when you consider what's happened, what the Monti government is trying to do. That is, that any attempts at deregulation



Servizio Pubblico
Italian taxi-driver union leader Claudio Giudici (inset), appearing on the TV program Servizio Pubblico (above) Jan. 12. Giudici and his union are successfully challenging the power of the “sharks of global finance” to destroy the nation of Italy.



collapse of the international banking system, financial system, and the attempt to continue with free-market policies—that is, with Adam Smith-style policies—instead of Franklin Roosevelt-style policies, and those of Lyndon LaRouche today.

Schlanger: Now, I saw the interview with you where you brought up the connection of Mario Draghi to the *Britannia*.¹ Are people getting the idea that this is being imposed on Italy from the outside?

Giudici: I don't think that people understand the full process. I think they have an inkling of it, as time goes by. At the beginning, it was very much a gut response to the attacks on the labor force, but each day that goes by, I think people's minds are opening up to the higher level of what's going on.

and privatization of various sectors of the economy—we defined this as strategic for the economy as a whole, and for the entire labor workforce. We compared this, for example, with the fight between [former British Prime Minister] Margaret Thatcher and the miners in the United Kingdom; or between [former U.S. President Ronald] Reagan and the air-traffic controllers in the United States.

And then there are two other things that we pointed out. One, we called this an operation of mass distraction. And secondly, we said that this is a way of giving entire sectors of the economy over to what we call the sharks of global finance, people who would come into these sectors and buy them up.

So, this led to a situation where Thursday [Jan. 12], just two days ago, I was on this national TV show which you mentioned, and what I said is that people are being distracted from the real problem: the

‘The Power of Reason’

Schlanger: I saw also that the government has agreed to a meeting with the taxi union, but that you're planning on going ahead with a major demonstration in Rome later this month. Could you tell us about that?

Giudici: On Tuesday [Jan. 17], the government will meet with a delegation of the taxi drivers. However, I think that the government is now in a difficult situation, because what I was able to say in front of millions of viewers on television the other night, has had a very big impact. To speak about Glass-Steagall, Franklin Roos-

1. *Britannia* refers to the British royal yacht by that name, on which deals were made, on June 2, 1992, between City of London bankers and pro-British Italian businessmen, financiers, and civil servants, including the Director General of the Italian Treasury Mario Draghi. The program being implemented in Italy now by Monti has been described as “*Britannia II*” by many commentators.

evelt, and Lyndon LaRouche, and to go after Monti and Draghi the way I did—I think that this has triggered a process that is going to create great problems for this government.

So the strength of these ideas, the power of reason, as LaRouche has called it, is demonstrated by this: that public opinion generally has had a very negative view of taxi drivers. They're seen as dishonest, not having a positive role in society; but the ability to go on to television and speak about these ideas, important ideas in this manner, has started to clean up this image, and get this idea out of people's minds. And it's not me. It's not that I did something great. It's that there are powerful ideas which I was able to talk about, which has brought people's thinking to a different level.

Schlanger: Claudio, this is very important, because this is one of the key points Mr. LaRouche has been making: that you have a bankrupt financial system that can only continue because of the fear of the population to speak of these things. For example, when you speak of Mario Draghi and the *Britannia*—this is something which they tried to keep out of the public discussion, and yet, it's a fact. So, are people now responding on these ideas on a higher level?

Giudici: Yes, it definitely helps people to concentrate on what's really important. It seems that certain ideas are almost magical, in the sense that it helps people get out of the cage, the mental cage that blocks their creative processes, in their everyday life. And now, being able to speak about this higher level, people are freed from this cage, and become more effective in the way that they look at things.

Schlanger: I have another question for you, which I know a lot of Americans are wondering about: How do you get the courage to stand up and say things that other people have been afraid to say?

Giudici: I must say that I haven't thought about this, thought about it in that way. I realize that what I was able to do on Thursday was important, that I was not overwhelmed by the situation, that I was able to



Wikimedia Commons

Mario Monti's attacks "aim at exploiting the lower instincts of the population to create a real war among the poor," Giudici said in his Servizio Pubblico interview.

bring out important ideas in that situation for millions of people. I don't want to disappoint you, but I must say that I haven't really reflected on this interior aspect of how I was able to do it, but more about the fact that I was able to do it.

We Have Nothing To Lose

Schlanger: Well, I think also the fact that somebody *has* to do it. That seems to be one of the problems: that people are waiting for someone else to do it.

Giudici: One thing that I have done, and that I recognize, is that Lyndon LaRouche has been able to see things, and he's been telling us about these processes, ahead of time.

That he's been seeing them from the beginning, and how they developed, and where they're going. So, I listened to what LaRouche has been telling us, and I realized that we do not have a lot of time. And therefore, in a certain sense, we have nothing to lose. We have to have the courage to challenge, and change our own habits about what we're doing in order to fight, and to fight against injustice.

Amelia Boynton Robinson² has said often that either we fight evil, or we become a part of it. And I think that listening to these people, and following these ideas—that's what has helped me do this.

Another aspect that I just thought of right now, during our discussion, is a sense of being part of a team, a team that helps you, that protects you, that encourages you. For example, all the other people who I work with and discuss things with—such as Andrew Spannaus, Claudio Celani, Liliana Gorini, Flavio Tabanelli, Aureliano Ferri—the people in Italy—these are all people in Italy involved in Movisol, in the organization, in the movement here in Italy. I feel a debt to these people, and therefore, when I have the opportunity, I have to be able to transmit ideas, and do things in an effective way. Otherwise, I would have been unable to do what we

2. Amelia Boynton Robinson is an icon of the American Civil Rights Movement, who fought alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Selma, Ala. Mrs. Robinson is well-known in Italy from her many visits there as vice president of the Schiller Institute. She turned 100 years old in 2011.

discussed among ourselves, in public, for the population, which is what I really want to do.

Schlanger: You mentioned Mr. LaRouche's forecasting. One of the things he has been emphasizing is that the euro system, as part of the trans-Atlantic system, is dead. Last night, the report came out that Standard & Poor's had just downgraded the debt of France and Austria, among others, and so now we're seeing a spread of the collapse of the euro. To what extent are you involved in discussing the post-euro system, going back to the lira, national sovereignty, as opposed to this imperial demand for deregulation and austerity?

Giudici: We discuss this often. On radio shows, or talking to other people, and actually, already, two or three years ago, we talked about the ontological failure of the euro system, of the euro, because it does not represent a culture. It does not represent a community of people. So this is an issue we have been working on, and I think that now actually is a time that is very open—the population is very open to being able to understand at this point.

So today, in fact, there's a leader of a major political party, [former Prime Minister Silvio] Berlusconi's party actually, surprisingly—and this is to point out that there is a change going on in the population, and even in this case, in the political institutions—a leader of this party named [former Justice Minister Angelino] Alfano—he actually came out today and made a public statement about how the euro, the European Union, are not positive for Italy. So this is a big change, and this is what I mean when I say that the time is ripe for people to understand the problem.

No One Is Too Powerful To Challenge

Schlanger: Claudio, I'd like to thank you very much for joining us, and we'll make sure that your activity is covered on the LaRouchePAC website. I know it will be on Movisol. Do you have anything to say to the Americans who think that Obama may be too powerful to challenge?

Giudici: There is something I do want to say to the Americans: that *no one* is too powerful. No one is too powerful, if we base our operations, our actions, on truth. Because the truth is powerful, and it's more powerful than any person. No one can defeat the truth with lies, or in any other way that goes against the truth. Because the truth is actually indestructible. It may take some time, but in the long term, natural law will always win.