

ble “zone of stability” by building a new “Limes” wall beyond which the “zone of instability” (i.e., 85% of the world) will be allowed to sink into chaos—are utter nonsense.

We need a reasonable industrial policy for Germany and for Europe. As chancellor, I would do precisely the same as Felix Klein did with the Göttingen Circle in the last century: I would meet regularly with top representatives from industry and science, and would set priorities for production and research for the upcoming period.

It almost goes without saying, that certain economic sectors serve the common weal and are prerequisites for the development of industry, even though they are initially unprofitable in and of themselves; among such sectors are modern infrastructure—such as the European-wide expansion of the Transrapid—energy production and distribution, and telecommunications. In these sectors, it is necessary that the federal government take over the startup financing, so that the benefits can be distributed throughout all other branches of production.

Certain specific priorities are obvious. Germany is still barely clinging to its lead in magnetically levitated train technology; this must be turned into a top export item, along with the inherently safe high-temperature nuclear reactor. Daimler-Benz should rethink its priorities, and should not assemble cheap consumer goods abroad, and must return to promoting the high-technology sector. MBB’s Sanger project, and space travel in general, must open up future markets as they bring about advances in current production through the introduction of new materials and industrial processes.

This must go hand-in-hand with tax legislation to favor production and research, and to make speculation highly unattractive.

Precisely because of the dangerous world situation, our security and defense policy must not yield to panic over the government’s bankruptcy, but must truly proceed from the interests of Germany and of Europe.

Do we really want to merely look on as the violence among children and young people grows to monstrous proportions, as their games become simple imitations of the horror videos now flooding the market? And, as a recent advertisement in the French daily *Liberation* asked, do we really want to wait until the process of Americanization becomes so far advanced that Europe can no longer recognize its own interests?

It is urgent that we return to the Humboldt ideal of education, which puts the formation of the individual’s character at the top of the agenda, and which seeks to convey universally valid values of history, values which are the sole means of enabling the young person to develop his or her inborn creative potential.

We have arrived at a dramatic point in our history. We urgently need a quick change of course. I would like to call upon all readers of this newspaper to join with me in a debate over the issues I have sketched out here.

## Italian vote polarized by free-trade insanity

by Claudio Celani

Naples, 1994. At the economic summit of the Group of Seven industrialized nations, President Clinton lands, emerges from his helicopter, and is greeted by the mayor—Mussolini. A nightmare? It could very well come true if the Italian Social Movement (MSI) candidate in the Dec. 5 runoff for the mayoral elections, beats her leftist opponent. Alessandra Mussolini, granddaughter of the Duce, placed second in the first round of mayoral elections on Nov. 21 with 30.8% of the vote, and will now challenge Antonio Bassolino, a traditional communist who came in first as a candidate of the PDS (the reformed Communist Party)-centered leftist coalition.

A choice between a “communist” and a “fascist”? Yes, sir, and if you vote in Rome, 200 km to the north, your choice on Dec. 5 will be between another “fascist,” MSI Secretary General Gianfranco Fini, and another “communist,” Francesco Rutelli. In Genoa, the choice is between “communist” and former prosecutor Adriano Sansa, and a representative of the separatist Northern League. The list is endless. The polarization of political life is everywhere. One has to go to minor cities to find traditional “moderate” parties in the runoff, such as in Macerata, where the Christian Democracy (DC), the main government party, made it past the first round.

The general picture is total left-right and north-south polarization, with the Northern League confirmed as the largest party in northern Italy (although failing to achieve a “breakthrough to the sea”), the left emerging as the leading party nationally, and the right wing undergoing tremendous growth in central and southern Italy. The DC, which in the general elections last year still got 30% of the vote, collapsed to about 10% on average. Its main coalition partner, the Italian Socialist Party (PSI), has practically disappeared from the scene. If general elections were held now, the government coalition would barely get 15% nationwide.

### Revolt against austerity

It is clear that the gigantic corruption scandals which hit government parties and have dominated political life for the last year and a half are a crucial motivating factor behind the vote. But Italians are no puritans. They can live with scan-

dals. What determined the revolutionary vote of Nov. 21 is the tremendous economic crisis and the unpopular austerity measures of the current government, a government of "technicians," led by former Bank of Italy boss Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, who have made a religion out of budget cutting and privatization, i.e., the selloff of state-owned industry.

The revolution was triggered when the Ciampi government recently reformed the legislation dealing with public employees. Since the foundation of the Italian state, a state employee could never be laid off. This ensured a secure job for hundreds of thousands of Italians and, at the same time, a secure constituency for government parties. The decision of DC Secretary Mino Martinazzoli to support the government, which has announced layoffs in the public sector and has raised the income tax rate on the middle class to the highest among OECD nations, could yield no other result. In addition, Martinazzoli, who, contrary to most Italians, is a bit puritan, reformed the party away from local political machines involved in "corruption," and these machines turned *en masse* toward the MSI, as they did in Rome and Naples. Or, where the DC (and the PSI) had a working class base, such as in Genoa, they lost it to the PDS and the Northern League.

### A different story in Palermo

In Palermo, the story is different. In this city, the DC formerly won up to 50% of the vote. After the regional party leader, Salvo Lima, was killed by the Mafia, and his national faction chief, Giulio Andreotti, accused by former mafiosi of being the boss of Cosa Nostra, the DC disintegrated. Its place has been taken by Leoluca Orlando, a former Christian Democrat who has turned Jacobin and has founded a movement called La Rete. Orlando has run with the slogan "No to the Mafia." He won 75% of the vote in Palermo, where mafia votes have always been decisive. Has the Mafia disappeared? Hard to believe.

Orlando is a strange character. A recent article in the weekly *Epoca* reported that his father was close to the Mafia. That may be a reason why his son changed his name from Cascio to Orlando. Former Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti accuses Orlando of being behind the conspiracy that accuses him of being chief of Cosa Nostra.

It is a fact that Orlando has close ties to the FBI. In 1985, he made a trip to the United States with a Fullbright grant and came back totally changed. And it is the FBI which controls mafioso witnesses, such as Tommaso Buscetta, who periodically release statements which are used for political ends.

This leads us to the involvement of foreign interests in the destabilization of Italy, which we have dealt with already in several articles in the past. An entire establishment, which has ruled the country for 40 years, is being replaced, and the choice is between former communists, separatists, and neo-Fascists. If we do not want to see the picture in black and

white, however, one has to say that the Communist Party in Italy has always been different, having been part of defining the democratic Constitution. The PDS, furthermore, became even more "westernized," although in the wrong period, thereby assuming all the trappings of decaying western politics, such as environmentalism, cultural relativism, malthusianism, etc. Therefore, the main candidate to run the next Italian government looks more like a mixture between the U.S. Democratic Party and the German Social Democracy.

Their candidates reflect this. While the front-runner in Rome, Francesco Rutelli, is a radical environmentalist, the one in Naples, Antonio Bassolino, is linked to the trade unions and has "traditional" views on industry and privatizations. The PDS candidate in Genoa, Adriano Sansa, is a Catholic former prosecutor who became famous in the 1970s investigating corruption linked to the private oil industry.

"The election has shown that Italian voters want a Democratic Party and a Republican Party, or Labor against Tories," Mariano Pane, a shipowner from Naples who has many friends in U.S. conservative circles, told *EIR*. Pane is hoping that such a system could develop out of the PDS-MSI face-off, but he is skeptical. "There is too much stupidity on both sides," he said. He, like many others, thought that business leaders such as media tycoon Berlusconi would tilt the balance toward that evolution, but he was disappointed when Berlusconi, making his entrance into politics the day after the vote, declared that he supports MSI chief Gianfranco Fini in the Rome runoff.

For those who wish American-style politics, neither Fini nor his PDS counterpart, Occhetto, are suited to lead the progressive-moderate scenario. "Let us see how the IMF [International Monetary Fund] and the EC [European Community] react when the PDS gets into the government, because the PDS wants to have a spending policy," Pane said. Other commentators, such as London *Sunday Times* columnist Norman Macrae, worried on Nov. 28 that a "populist" force could emerge out of the right-wing front that would endanger Italy's support for free market schemes. Macrae compares what he calls "the Italian disease" to Ross Perot's opposition to the North American Free Trade Agreement and to France's revolt against the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

In fact, much of the vote which went to the MSI has nothing to do with fascism, but could easily take a positive, nationalist direction. But maybe the *Sunday Times* commentator was simply shocked when he read an article from Giorgio La Malfa, former head of the Republican Party and guru of the pro-IMF and free-market faction, in the Milan daily *Corriere della Sera* on Nov. 18. "I repent," La Malfa wrote, admitting that unless a big investment program in high-technology infrastructural projects were urgently promoted, the current social and unemployment crisis could turn into total chaos. La Malfa found an immediate echo in the PDS leadership. Is this the "Italian disease" which the monetarists fear?