

## Movisol Takes Lead in Anti-Austerity Fight

by Nancy Spannaus

Jan. 20—Tuscany taxi union leader and Movisol representative Claudio Giudici is becoming well-known throughout Italy, after numerous TV and radio shows interviewed “the taxi driver who wrote to the *Financial Times*” (see interview, below). Giudici is turning the spotlight on the solutions to the existential financial crisis facing Italy and the trans-Atlantic financial system: those laid out for decades by Lyndon LaRouche.

Giudici’s most prominent intervention was on the Jan. 12 political TV talk show Servizio Pubblico, where he was interviewed by journalist Michele Santoro. In a discussion viewed by an estimated 1.7 million people, Giudici exposed the government’s intention to liberalize (deregulate) businesses including taxi drivers, pharmacists, news vendors, etc., as “a weapon of mass distraction,” to avoid addressing the real economic problems. He also called for a Glass-Steagall-like banking separation, and invited the host to interview LaRouche.

In the immediate aftermath of this appearance came two significant developments. First, Prime Minister Mario Monti’s office agreed to a meeting with the national taxi union, Uritaxi, on Jan. 17, prior to the time the government was scheduled to implement the measures that represent an attack on their standard of living. Second, there was a further explosion of media coverage, including the re-airing of an April 25, 2003 Italian TV interview with LaRouche, which showed him, in the words of the TV host, to have been a “prophet” on the economic crisis.

### Taking on Monti

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. Monti presents workers, such as taxi drivers, as privileged. The real problem, he continued, is that in 1993, the Draghi Act “abolished the Glass-Steagall standard. That is the principle of separation between investment banks and commercial banks. Commercial banks are those banks that use our money, give it to business, to families; investment banks are those banks that speculate.... Today, we should be speaking about reforming the banking system. We must go back to Franklin Roosevelt. Unfortunately, they push Adam Smith!”

Giudici’s polemics were well-received by the overwhelmingly young audience, both those in the studio as well as the viewers at home. Soon after his intervention (see <http://www.movisol.org/audioupdate.htm>), hundreds of comments were posted on Facebook, mostly of this sort:

- “Think about that: a taxi driver knows more than an economist, professor, senator for life, Chairman of the Council of ministers, former university dean and friend of the State president.”
- “I would propose this taxi driver as minister for Finance and Reforms and maybe even interim Prime Minister. Great!”
- “A genius. The reference to epistemology is sensational.”

Giudici also appeared on the Raiuno “Uno Mattina” morning program, and the national radio show Radio24,



Italian taxi strikers, Jan. 13, Milan: The sign, addressed to the prime minister, says, “Mario Monti Back Off!”

among others, and was interviewed by *Il Foglio* on Jan. 14. Meanwhile, taxi drivers staged spontaneous protest actions in large cities, and in some cases suspended their service.

### **Then, LaRouche**

Clearly, Giudici's message, as well as the long-term intervention of the LaRouche movement in top Italian political circles, resonated far beyond the taxi union "issue." On Jan. 17, Raidue announced that it would feature LaRouche on its evening program. Veteran journalist Giovanni Minoli produced a documentary on the financial crisis, starting off with an interview given in 2003, with LaRouche, in which he forecast the coming collapse of the financial system.

The 40-minute program started with a video clip from that interview, with a close shot of LaRouche saying: "The entire financial and monetary system is close to a collapse."

It then shifted to Minoli in studio, who said: "These words were spoken in May 2003; I repeat, May 2003, by a prominent American economist, Lyndon LaRouche."

Again the 2003 video, with the introduction: "LaRouche is an economist who sounds like a preacher, with a record of prophecies that would make Nostradamus jealous: From the fall of the Berlin Wall to the collapse of the Internet bubble." It then reports what LaRouche's detractors say, and what his admirers say. "The Mighty Ones want to shut him up; the Vatican, Russians, and Chinese receive him with honor."

Then LaRouche is shown explaining his "Triple Curve" ([http://www.larouchepub.com/lar/2002/2903trip\\_curve.html](http://www.larouchepub.com/lar/2002/2903trip_curve.html)), explaining at length why the system is going to collapse.

Then, Minoli in 2012: "In substance, we have, above, the financial curve: paper without production. And below, the production curve. The two curves are increasingly distant. But when did this rush start?"

Again a clip from the 2003 interview, with LaRouche saying: "In 1964, along with the Indo-China war, there was a shift from a producer economy to a consumer economy. The United States and Great Britain started to loot Third World economies. Great Britain wanted to build a new Empire based on the model of the Roman Empire. People have not yet realized it, but we have destroyed our productive sector, industry and agriculture. The very support of the financial economies was destroyed."

LaRouche then explains the difference between a conjunctural crisis and a collapse crisis.

Next, Minoli says: "And the collapse has come, at least this is the perception among people today."

Following the section with LaRouche, which lasts about five minutes, the program reconstructs the "counterposition between financial and real economy," from 1929 to the present day. The reconstruction is biased with the prominent (and wrong) role attributed to John Maynard Keynes, and other approximations, but it shows nevertheless how the phase of prosperity inaugurated by President Franklin Roosevelt and revived by President Kennedy came to an end, first with Thatcher, then with Reagan. The fall of Communism was the victory of free-market ideology and the triumph of Von Hayek, but the outbreak of the global financial crisis showed that free-market ideology has failed, it stated.

It concluded with a patchwork of previous programs but, according to *EIR* sources, was aimed exclusively at boosting LaRouche. Indeed, the video posted now on the Raidue replay site does not have the original headline ("Krisi"), but is simply headlined "Lyndon Hermyle LaRouche."

### **The Next Step**

The fight to defend the living standards of the population against the push for radical free-market reforms will now likely expand. The Monti government has an EU mandate to use executive decrees to liberalize and privatize, in the name of "saving the euro."

For the first time in recent memory in Italy, though, protest actions are being undertaken by numerous sectors of the population without being constrained to a single political position; it's not simply the left against a right-wing government, or vice versa. The vast majority of the political class has chosen to go along with the blackmail coming from the financial markets, and thus the population increasingly finds itself fighting against the political and economic institutions as a whole.

Clearly, the spread of this ferment represents both a great opportunity, and a significant danger, if the unrest were to be manipulated and cross the line into violence. The only solution is for key individuals and groupings in society to take prompt action to bury the bankrupt global financial system and begin a shift towards policies that promote the general welfare.

*Claudio Celani and Andrew Spannaus  
contributed to this article.*