

Cheminade Nails Sarkozy

April 13—When French President Nicolas Sarkozy, who is campaigning for reelection, came on stage for a televised interview on Canal+ on April 10, he was told the first question would come from Jacques Cheminade, who had asked it the evening before when he was the guest on the same show.

Then Cheminade appeared in the studio on a giant screen, stating, “Mr. Sarkozy is saying that we have just come out of four years of crisis. If we are out of the crisis, why are we being told to tighten our belts, and why is a garrot being imposed on Greece? Is it in order to save the investment banks?”

Sarkozy replied that, yes, we have come out of four years of a phenomenal crisis, which almost

drove Europe to the edge of the abyss. As for Greece, we have not imposed a garrot, he said; rather, Greece’s debt of EU225 billion has been reduced to EU110 billion, thanks to negotiations in Europe; the worst of the crisis is behind us, and we have to save the euro, blah, blah, blah.

Next episode: Cheminade gave an interview April 11 on LCI, a cable news channel, where he kept up the polemic, by first mentioning Sarkozy’s reply to him, claiming that the crisis is basically over; and then went on to blast the incompetence of political leaders.

The first question to Cheminade came from someone who said he had heard that if François Hollande, the Socialist Party Presidential candidate, is elected, he would appoint Cheminade as his Economics and Finance Minister. “Not true at all,” Cheminade replied. “If he is elected, I would have a more useful role outside the government.”