

# London's 'Democratic Party' Is Pro-Globalization, Anti-FDR

by Claudio Celani

On April 25, former French Presidential candidate François Bayrou announced that he will form a new party in France, called the Democratic Party (DP), adding that he, together with Italy's Romano Prodi and Francesco Rutelli, had already founded the European Democratic Party in 2004. Meanwhile, in Italy, the two main coalition parties, Rutelli's Margherita and the Democratici di Sinistra (Left Democrats; DS), have just held their dissolution congresses in order to join together in the new Democratic Party next October.

The birthdate of this new "format" for a political party in the era of globalization, can be traced back to Jan. 30, 2001, when Prime Minister Tony Blair received Rutelli, then, the outgoing mayor of Rome and candidate for Prime Minister of a center-left coalition. According to the Rome daily *La Repubblica*, "From the tête-à-tête with the Labor leader, the idea being shaped is, instead of an old and defunct Third Way, a sort of 'European Labor Party' which should have Tony Blair as engine number one and Rutelli, if he wins the elections in Italy, the second engine."

Eventually Rutelli—a political chameleon, who has changed colors from the Radical Party, through the Green Party, to conversion into a theo-con liberal with the benediction of Rome's black aristocracy—lost the election. Ironically, this is inherent in the "centrist" strategy of cutting the left out of alliances, which is exactly the idea of his Democratic Party project. Had Rutelli included the leftist Rifondazione Comunista (Refounded Communists; PRC) in his alliance, he would have won a majority against Silvio Berlusconi.

Nevertheless, in July 2005, the project gained a new thrust when Rutelli was sent to the United States to meet George Soros. Rutelli's sponsor for this trip was financier Carlo De Benedetti, "Democratic Party Cardholder No. 1," as he describes himself in the media, and a former partner of Soros. "The visit marks a takeoff at the top level of the project to give birth to an alliance among European and American democratic forces," Rutelli boasted at the end of the trip, announcing missions and contacts with other "democratic" forces in Asia and Latin America.

Rutelli's delegation met with the Blairite, pro-globalization faction in the U.S. Democratic Party, represented by Al Gore and the Democratic Leadership Council (DLC). This faction, financed by bankers such as Felix Rohatyn, and speculators like George Soros, calls itself "the new democrats"

and is adamantly opposed to the tradition of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Lyndon LaRouche. A press release issued by Rutelli's party La Margherita on July 1, 2005, reports that Rutelli "was, in particular, favorably impressed by the fact that in one think tank, the Brookings Institution, one of the nine Supreme Court judges was present."

The release then revealed that: "Today, before leaving to return to Italy, the Margherita delegation had a long—about two-hour—meeting with Soros, at his Open Society Institute. A wide-ranging discussion, during which issues, such as the future of Europe, were discussed, and the crisis of the European Union after the "no" to the new [European] Constitution from French and Dutch voters." Soros explained that he opposed George W. Bush, but, "as Lamberto Dini explained, Soros's view overcomes the left-right divide, because, in general terms, the open society can come from one side as well as from the other side," even if, in this moment, it is closer to the democratic opposition."

Rutelli then explained that the next opportunity for another meeting with Soros "could be the meeting, organized by the European Democrats at the end of September in Venice, dedicated to the relationship between democracy and Islam."

## London Gives the Signal

After Rutelli's return from his meetings with Soros, in December 2005, a national conference on the future Democratic Party was organized by De Benedetti, who participated personally and, in an interview with Italy's leading daily *Corriere della Sera*, promoted Rutelli and (current) Rome Mayor Walter Veltroni as the candidates to lead the party. A few days earlier, the London *Economist* had given the signal, by promoting Rutelli and Veltroni as trusted *condottieri* for the "modernization" of Italy. The *Economist* also promoted former fascist Gianfranco Fini and CCF (Congress for Cultural Freedom) relic Marco Pannella on the "conservative" side.

On that occasion, De Benedetti endorsed Prodi for Prime Minister, as a transitional solution. Prodi knew that, in order to win the elections in the Spring of 2006, he had to include precisely those leftist parties which the Democratic Party project had excluded. De Benedetti and his ilk hate that, as those parties have an anti-free-market disposition. However, he endorsed Prodi on the condition that Prodi would introduce more flexibility on the labor market. "If Prodi fails," he

said in an interview with *Corriere della Sera*, "we have nobody left, other than a Cardinal or a General."

Earlier, De Benedetti had explained his views in a long interview with Raisat television, in which he developed two points: 1. Italy has no future as a manufacturing country; 2. We must get used to thinking as consumers and no longer as producers. He recounted how he tried to convince old PCI (Italian Communist Party) secretary general Enrico Berlinguer that "the working class does not exist any more. Today, the worker is a consumer, a wage-earner, and a taxpayer. If you think to protect him only from the standpoint as a wage-earner, you cheat him on consumption and on taxes." To the question, "Do you think that a country with an advanced industrial democracy, or at least formerly industrial, could anyway live on services?" De Benedetti answered: "I believe it absolutely. Italy's mission today is not to look backwards with nostalgia, but to look at the future based on what Americans would call 'competitive advantage,' that is, advantages in respect to others. And we have formidable ones, which in my opinion go under the large label of 'aesthetics.' Aesthetics means eat well, art, culture, landscape, *savre viver*. ... You ask me: but can a country live on this? You bet! Anyway, manufacturing is closed, but not only for Italy, it is shut down in Europe. In ten years, Europe will be left with heads, I hope, of the research centers, the command centers of large corporations that have no nationality anymore."

Around that period, De Benedetti announced that he would directly manage his media companies, *La Repubblica* and the weekly *L'Espresso*, starting in 2007. And, in January 2007, his

life-partner, Prince Carlo Caracciolo, bought a 30% stake in the Paris daily *Libération* (the other shareholder is Rothschild), as part of the transnational Democratic Party project.

In the meantime, the birth of the Democratic Party in Italy appears to be a flop. Opinion polls give the future Democratic Party fewer votes than the sum of its components, the Margherita and the Democratici di Sinistra. An entire faction, representing 25% of the DS, left in disgust to join other leftist forces. But this is no surprise, as the whole policy cooked up in London aims more at destroying than building anything.

Additionally, Siamese twins Rutelli and Veltroni lost the two party congresses of La Margherita and the DS (April 18-23, 2007) which elected delegates to the coming Democratic Party founding convention next October. In La Margherita, the former Christian Democrats (Popolari) got 65% of the votes. In the DS, the faction led by Foreign Minister Massimo D'Alema won. This means that these two factions will have to decide who gets the leadership posts at the October DP congress.

Rutelli is, for the moment, out of the picture. He will not be elected as deputy chairman of the new party (the chairman being Romano Prodi). Veltroni has a better chance, but he will have to cut a deal with D'Alema. Cutting deals is the essence of politics, "adaptation" is the name of the game in a political landscape populated by dwarfs. Adaptation means that even anti-globalization forces in the DP will tend to adapt to the agenda dictated from London; but they will adapt as well if there is a shift in the U.S. Democratic Party organized by the LaRouche movement. The Italian section of the LaRouche movement is making sure that this option is visible in Italy.

## LaRouche Youth Bring FDR Policies to Italy

The LaRouche Youth Movement made headlines April 20 at the national convention of the largest partner in Italy's coalition government, the Democratici di Sinistra (DS) party. LYM representative Claudio Giudici of Florence was interviewed by the daily *La Stampa* on the second day of the convention, as a "critical voice" against the "free market" policies pushed by the DS (Left Democrats). Giudici called on the convention, which is expected to announce the dissolution of the party in order to join a new-born "Democratic Party," to look back at the FDR tradition, as represented today by the American statesman Lyndon LaRouche.

"Together with a group of friends, I have started to study the experience of the U.S. Democratic Party, the Roosevelt faction led by economist Lyndon LaRouche,

who does not want to throw away the great dirigistic tradition," Giudici was quoted in *La Stampa*. "Who said that the Democratic Party must be super free-market in economics? Both [Prime Minister Romano] Prodi and [DS chairman Massimo] D'Alema, have recognized that in words. But in deeds, the direction taken seems to be the [free-market] one. ... This Democratic Party being born now—is it just the party of the likes of Soros or of the oligarchs à la Felix Rohatyn?" Giudici and LYM member Flavio Tabanelli had intervened at the convention, which took place in Florence, distributing 500 pieces of literature on LaRouche, FDR, and the Global Warming swindle.

On April 21, the Italian LaRouche Movement intervened also in Rome, at the national convention of the Margherita party, the second leg of the future Democratic Party. About half of the 1,400 delegates received directly a copy of the mass tabloid *Solidarietà e Progresso*, and a special discussion paper on the Democratic Party. Claudio Giudici was interviewed by a private satellite TV channel, which aired the short interview the following week.

—Claudio Celani