IPS

Agnelli's Allies

The program is also being pushed by Giuseppe Petrilli, president of IRI. IRI is a multimillion dollar public holding that was formed during the 1930s, under Mussolini. It consolidated by gobbling up the vast numbers of smaller industries which collapsed in the last Great Depression. Today, IRI is one of the four major entities responsible for planning large-scale fascist development projects in Southern Italy, the Italian version of the U.S. Rocky Mountain slave-labor projects.

IRI is behind another proposal: the elimination of national contract negotiations with unions. IRI claims that, since whatever the national contract calls for is usually modified regionally and locally, thus negating the clout of national contract, the "obvious" conclusion is that there is no need for a nationwide contract. According to Petrilli, a "non-written [gentleman's] accord" should be reached with the unions. He adds the ironic proviso: "in so much as it does not violate the reciprocal autonomy of both parts."

Petrilli backs up his proposals by threateningly urging the unions to act now "before the possibility that in the fall a raging devaluation of the lira or mass unemployment render impossible or perhaps even useless any negotiations." Umberto Agnelli, ex-playboy Gianni's brother, is more open in his blackmail of the unions. In one of his "dialogues" with union representatives he declared: "Either you [the unions] support the 'mobility of labor' clause, or there will be 100,000 unemployed by next fall" (20,000 workers in auto and 80,000 in related industries).

Petrilli Seeks Government Support

In order to implement his programs, Petrilli suggests that the government intervene and exercise its dutiful rights by participating in the solution of problems proper to government activity, such as defense of employment, creation of social services, and the "mobilility of the working class." This is the clarion call for legislation of the Italian version of social fascist Senator Mondale's bill before the U.S. Congress, which calls for the legalization of massive relocation of workers into slave-labor projects.

ELC Campaign for Italian Debt Moratorium Splits PSI

July 23 (IPS) — The impact of the European Labor Committees' organizing for a moratorium on Italy's foreign debt is already being felt all over Europe, as the following excerpt from today's Quotidien de Paris testifies:

"Mr. Zoccali, a member of the Central Committee of the FGSI, youth organization of the Italian Socialist Party (PSI), was demoted and brought back to rankand-file status during the July 20-21 session of the leadership of that organization.

"Mr. Zoccali had supported the idea of a moratorium on the Italian foreign debt, a measure advocated by the "ultra-leftist" (gauchiste) European Labor Committee (ELC)."

July 25, Mr. Zoccali will give a press conference in Rome. He will announce the formation of a tendency within the PSI/FGSI whose purpose will be to further the cause of "all left sources united for socialism."