

union, but a business." Or as Rabbi Philip Alstat put it; "A capitalist Labour Federation. This sounds like a paradox, a contradiction in terms, but it is nevertheless true... The Histadrut however, is a strange creature. It is not only a federation of employees who work for capitalists in their private enterprises, but is itself a huge capitalistic organization and a leading employer.... Capitalists generally must borrow money from banks to finance their private enterprises. But who finances the capitalistic enterprises of the affiliates of this labor federation? Instead of applying for loans from ordinary banks, they borrow from the Histadrut's own banking system.... Thus, the Histadrut is not only a labor federation and a capitalistic organization, but also a banking institution!"

ITALIAN WORKERS RESPOND ENTHUSIASTICALLY TO ANTI-AMENDOLA DRIVE

Nov. 19 (IPS)--When Giorgio Amendola, the leading CIA agent within the Italian Communist Party (PCI) launched his latest attack on the working class, he forgot what Italian workers have always thought of him.

While the bourgeois press pictures Amendola as the PCI standard-bearer, ELC organizers hit the streets with Nuova solidarieta (the Italian-language New Solidarity) lambasting this Rockefeller servant. There were two kinds of reaction: the hysterical one ("You don't have to touch Amendola; you are fascist if you do") and the reaction of hundreds of workers who wanted to discuss the campaign to drive Amendola out of the PCI, even while defending him.

Beyond that, there were the people who expressed their rage against this working class traitor. One said, "You say that you want to expel him; I would burn him." Another: "If what you say about him is true, I will spit in his eye." Several Communist Party members told us that their cells regularly receive Nuova Solidarieta, and everyone is reading it carefully. One mechanic took papers to his garage to bring his friends the news of the drive to expel Amendola.

Workers are starting to organize around the newspaper which they see as the only means to fight; the old PCIers suddenly remember the true meaning of being Communist. "The PCI has forgotten the very word revolution," one man told us. The discouragement of so many years of defeat is turning to enthusiasm as they discover a working class organization capable of leading a European United Front battle against the Rockefeller forces.

The mechanic told ELCers: "Finally, after the 20 years that I have been waiting, somebody is moving."