

ficial pay code either, since the coal industry is government-owned.

A repetition of spring 1974, when a bitter confrontation between the Conservative government of Edward Heath and the National Union of Miners took place, is extremely unlikely, since few sane trade unionists want to see Callaghan replaced by Tory leader Margaret

Thatcher. However, Callaghan's credibility is undergoing its most crucial test. To the extent that he continues to enforce austerity-level pay policy without enunciating strategy for industrial growth or joining ongoing Franco-German efforts to bring sanity to the world monetary system, Callaghan's future may be as bleak as Healey's.

Gaullist Chirac on 'Mastering the Future'

From public statements, it appears that the Gaullist Party of France, otherwise known as the RPR, has made a "left turn" in the words of the leftist Parisian Le Matin. The Gaullists have come to realize that only by "recapturing the working class electorate of General de Gaulle" can the party grow and insure victory for the majority in the March elections. The government majority coalition currently consists of the RPR and the Independent Republican Party of President Giscard d'Estaing.

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Gaullist Party chairman and Mayor of Paris, Jacques Chirac, has been campaigning throughout the country for a program of national growth and national economic planning reminiscent of the de Gaulle era. Chirac's campaign platform is largely the result of the influence of Michel Debré, former prime minister under de Gaulle.

Here are excerpts from Chirac's campaign statement which appeared in Le Monde on Nov. 4 under the title: "Mastering the Future."

"Less than 80 years ago, Paris was the capital of invention and technical innovation. After Germany and Great Britain, France honorably achieved the first stage of industrial development, that of coal and the steam machine. But the enrichment of the nation was hard on the humble and the condition of the workers (was) miserable. A little more than 20 years ago, electricity and oil permitted a new leap forward. But this time the conquests of progress were better shared: the buying power of the French wage-earners more than doubled during the 20 years that preceded the present crisis.

"It is this progression, better controlled socially, which is now at stake. But prospects exist. Nuclear energy, electronics, biology lead to decisive practical applications, opening new, fabulous horizons, even if they are sometimes a cause for concern. We have no choice. We must enter this "new age" of human destiny. It is a question of mastering the future. Only those nations which achieve this will be able to preserve their political independence...

"There exists in France a long and constant intellectual and moral tradition, fed according to the ages by very different input, but always in a state of more or less open hostility towards economic and technological progress... Saint Simon had sketched the most authentic

socialism, with an organization and morality of producers. Unfortunately his thought did not prevail."

At this point, Chirac addresses the antiproduction ideology which was "characteristic of the aristocracy" and which the 1789 revolutionaries "did not eliminate."

Chirac appeals at great length to former Premier Mendes France and other socialists to come out of the closet and assert their commitment to industrial development, against the predominant nonsensical and destructive zero-growth ideology that is put forward by Socialist Party leader François Mitterrand.

Chirac then outlined a program to get the economy back on its feet:

"What is needed is a real, determined, precise national will, which means national planning, the plan being nothing more than the instrument of the political will applied to the economy. And since, except in a dictatorship, such a political will can only come from the sovereign people, the latter must pronounce itself on the goals and means of its future.

"The electoral period will really be profitable for democracy if the country were to become conscious at that time that it must, above all, come out for the development of nuclear energy, as well as energy savings (that is, oil — ed.), for production of high technology qualifications, and a high surplus value, for a powerful agro-food industry, in short for what will constitute the precondition for progress as opposed to decadence."

Chirac outlines the necessary solutions as:

1) fighting unemployment through relaunching the economy by credits to capital intensive investments in industry,

2) State economic planning for a growing economy, setting up goals, and the financial means to achieve those industrial development plans.

Finally Chirac speaks of the need for "workers participation" which he locates in the upgrading of labor power that alone makes possible a worker's share in economic decisions. "Automation will take over more and more of the fastidious, repetitive and badly paid tasks. The effort accomplished in the area of education and professional training will, in a parallel fashion make each Frenchman into a highly skilled technician. At the price of heavy investments, a country like France, if it chooses the option of progress, will be in a position to upgrade each year hundreds of thousands of jobs, making them more productive, more interesting and much better paid..."