

Given the disastrous financial situation of Italy, which makes the lowering of living standards an inevitable and consciously-pursued policy, Trentin's and Masucci's "threats" are in reality the first signals of the further self-destruction of one of the most powerful trade union forces in the Western world.

#### BRITISH GOVERNMENT IMPOSES ENERGY CUTBACKS

Dec. 12 (IPS)--Only a day before Rocky's Oil Minister Shiekh Yamani of Saudi Arabia, announced that his government would no longer accept "funny money" (pounds sterling) from the British Government in exchange for their real oil, Britain's Energy Minister Eric Varley announced that British workers will be forced to decide how energy will be allocated in their industries.

Varley demanded that Britain must cut its energy consumption by 10 percent. This is the same austerity "guideline" established by Rockefeller's International Energy Association, in which Britain is an enthusiastic participant. He blamed this call for unbearable austerity on Britain's worsening balance of payments deficit, largely caused by the increased cost of imported oil.

The British working class already exists at a perilously low level of energy consumption. Britons can usually afford to heat only one room in their homes; impoverished elderly are left to freeze to death; and lack of hot water exacerbates already deteriorating health conditions. Any further energy cuts can only put Britain into the status of a Third World country.

Every area of life will be transferred into misery under Varley's cuts. Gasoline prices (already at \$1.50 per gallon) will rise by another 20 cents per gallon, forcing workers into collapsing, and in some areas non-existent, public transport to get to and from work.

Government offices and public buildings will lower heating and lighting levels as an example to domestic households, which are encouraged to lower heating to 68 degrees.

Part of Varley's proposals includes a systematic study of how individual companies allocate energy resources, thus supposedly making substantial savings in industry. Besides appointing an energy manager, companies will be asked to promote joint discussion between management and unions over efficient uses of energy on the job. Faced with threats of layoffs because dwindling energy resources, workers will "choose" to give up such "luxuries" as heat, decent lighting, and hot meals (including hot tea!) in their factories.

But the energy crisis will force an even greater upheaval in the lives of British workers. As the value of the pound continues to drop on international currency markets, the only way the Rockefeller interests (via the oil-rich Arabs) will be able to be paid off will be through the misery of British workers and their families. Immediately, as the government moves to improve the strength of the currency, by offering "real goods" instead of the zero-value pound, large sections of British industry will fold as credit to them is cut.

Unemployed workers will then be redeployed to work camps in North Sea oil, and selected profitable industries such as the nationalized interests like coal and steel. Others may find that their "winter cruise" to the Mediterranean is a one-way ticket to development projects in Iran and Egypt.

#### IPS UNCOVERS TRILATERAL MEETING-CELEBRATION

Dec. 12 (IPS)--The Senate vote of 90 to 7 to confirm Nelson A. Rockefeller came as he was preparing to wrap up a quick session of his own Commission on Critical Choices in New York City. This well-publicized meeting was attended by the nominal President of the United States of America, Gerald Ford, and a select handful of Rockefeller's "academic" stooges including Mad Doctor Edward Teller. Meanwhile, David Rockefeller's Trilateral Commission was wrapping up a four-day Executive Committee meeting in Washington.

The Trilateral Commission dinner, which capped a four-day parley, had been planned over a month ago as a "victory party" for Nelson Rockefeller's imminent ascension to high office. It was called by David Rockefeller and Commission Director Zbigniew Brzezinski to issue the next set of major marching orders and policy directives to their top agents from North America, Western Europe and Japan. Held at Georgetown University's "International Club"--home of the Center for Strategic and International Studies "think-tank," operated by the CIA--those in attendance included the Rockefellers' top corporate heads, international bankers, "think-tank" operatives, select parliamentarians, and labor leader agents. Among them: David Rockefeller and CIA agent Brzezinski; I.W. Abel, President of the United Steelworkers; West German industrialist Kurt Birrenbach; Umberto Colombo, a director of the Supranational Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; Chujiro Fujino, President of the Mitsubishi Corporation; Karl Kaiser, Director of the Research Institute of the German Society for Foreign Policy; Cesare Merlini (representing FIAT chairman Giovanni Agnelli) from the Italian Institute for International Affairs; William Scranton, former Governor of Pennsylvania; Norwegian shipowner Otto Grieg Tideman, that country's former Defense and Economics Minister; Lord Patrick Gordon Walker, former British Foreign