

French President Calls For 'Saving The Environment' A La Carter

FRANCE

President Giscard d'Estaing kicked off a campaign for French environmental legislation, "the toughest in the world," in a television appearance on Feb. 28.

Calling on all Frenchmen to build a "French style environment" Giscard designated Jean-Jacques Servan Schreiber, an opponent of nuclear energy for public or military use, to head the reforms. Servan Schreiber's role will be akin to that of energy czar Schlesinger in the U.S.: to use environmental impact studies and radical ecology movements to cancel industrial projects and halt the building of nuclear power plants. "Footdragging will no longer be tolerated" said the President referring to the pro-development political and business figures (Gaullists or the Republican Independants of his own party — ed.) who have been stalling on carrying out the environmental decrees.

Support comes from a ragtag of Maoist grouplets which have intensified their propaganda against nuclear energy and led commando operations to sabotage the construction of nuclear plants.

leader, René Dumont spoke on governmental radio France Inter Feb. 27 on the need to impose the "Chinese model" in France: replacing costly technological investments by labor-intensive industries. "France's energy consumption should be reduced to bring its yearly rate of growth from about 4 percent to 1 percent said Dumont. Asked about the relations between his movement and the President, Dumont answered "We will support the President once he halts the nuclear power plants program."

The President indicated his willingness to carry out Dumont's wishes when he stated: "Nuclear energy is essentially a substitute source of energy for countries deprived of other energy sources," thereby opening the way for a shift, away from the nuclear energy commitment of the National Electricity program and towards using France's 'national resources' such as coal in labor intensive coal gassification projects. There are "grave environmental and security problems with nuclear energy, problems which must be carefully looked into" the President added.

Who Is René Dumont?

Rene Dumont became known in France when he ran on the ecology "Friends of the Earth" ticket in the 1974 presidential elections. As an agronomist he worked for the Food and Agricultural Organization starting in 1942 before it was incorporated into the UN. Dumont traveled widely studying one underdeveloped country after another and has a history of being thrown out of progressive countries, notably Algeria and Cuba. Cuba exposed Dumont as a CIA operative. It is reported that Dumont was once invited to an official party in Algeria where the national dish, Mechoui, (roast lamb) was served. Dumont gave the guests a lecture on how Algerians should stop eating mutton and eat grass instead, which he proceeded to do as a demonstration. Dumont prides himself of being a close friend of Club of Rome head Aurelio Peccei and the two collaborate in studies on zero-growth.

Bullock Report Debate Spreads To Europe

BRITAIN

The findings of the Bullock Committee on Worker Participation has sparked an intense debate which has spread from Britain to the rest of Europe and even to the United States. At issue is not the number of workers on a company board, their responsibilities, accountability, etc.

sion of "industrial democracy" to an increasingly skilled working population to lay the basis for technological change and industrial growth throughout the European economies.

The belief of Lord Bullock (chairman of the Committee) that "we are at the beginning of a change which will spread to all countries of western Europe," was

borne out by the active organizing efforts of Luciano Lama, the general secretary of the Italian Communist and Socialist national trade union confederation. In West Germany for meeting with West German trade-union leaders in preparation for the Confederation of Trade Unions, Lama cited the Bullock Report as a model for industry and trade-union co-operation in the creation of a European-wide industrial development policy. Lama stressed that the May meeting would specifically discuss how a Bullock-style plan can although t

The majority report of the Bullock Committee, drawn up by a panel of leading trade unionists, industrialists, and academics after a year of study of existing worker participation systems in use in other countries, calls for equal representation of trade union and shareholder representatives on company boards as the necessary

precondition for implementing technological change in industry.

Swedish systems as "sham and token," the Bullock Report stresses that "trade union involvement is fundamental to the industrial strategy, not simply because such involvement is necessary to forestall negative resistance to change, through their trade unions, have a positive role to play in combating industrial stagnation and in stimulating much-needed change in industrial structure and performance."

The government of British Prime Minister James Callaghan has pledged to introduce legislation on industrial democracy during this session of Parliament, but after allowing for full discussion of this critical issue with trade union and industrial leaders. The government is currently engaged in negotiations with all parties involved to try to reach an acceptable compromise on the key questions so that legislation can be introduced.

While there is some opposition to the majority report within the trade union movement, whether it would abrogate free collective bargaining rights of the trade unions, the most vociferous opposition to the Bullock Report has come from industrialists who fear the extension of trade-union power.

CBI (Confederation of British Industry) director general John Methven, leading members of the CBI into a meeting with government ministers March 1, gave a

strong warning that although they were prepared to work out an agreement on "two-tier" boards on the West German model, majority report was completely unacceptable.

"previously balanced between recovery and decline," Methven said, Bullock report "could be a major factor in tipping the scales towards further decline."

Further threatening Callaghan's program for economic recovery through industrial investment, head of the American Chamber of Commerce in London, Hugh Parker, could suffer if the government pushed ahead with the Bullock proposals.

Parker said "There is already enough apprehension about the general situation in this country. more which goes against the American ethic is going to create even greater apprehension."

While extremely upset about the implications of the Bullock Report, have nothing against co-participation in general — but advocate the "cooptation" formulas which invariably enforce self-policing onto the workforce.

proponent of such systems, Tavistock Institute in London conveniently put forward his counterproposal for corporatist worker-management councils which has the backing of top City of London representatives, including Lazard Brothers bank, are intent on blocking the Callaghan government policy.

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