

The corporatist plan for Europe's labor force

The bureaucrats who drafted the plans for an integrated European 1992 Domestic Market claim that their program will create some 2-5 million new jobs within five years. This was the boast of Paolo Cecchini, in a European Commission report issued in June of this year.

But there's a catch: The Cecchini report concedes that the "first phase" of the European integration process "may" witness the drastic reduction of employment in such sectors of the economy as: agriculture and food-processing, transportation, pharmaceuticals, telecommunications, auto, and public services. That is not to mention steel, which has already been massacred by the EC's "rationalization."

The idea, as the map on the cover of this magazine shows, is that most of Europe's industrial centers will be turned into "rust belts," leaving a few pockets of manufacturing, supplied by a cheap and mobile labor force, traveling about the continent in search of a livelihood.

Naturally, this means destroying what little remains of the power of the labor unions to defend the living standards of their workers. Already, employers' associations are putting out the line that strike laws and other labor and social regulations will have to be scrapped, and that workers will have to be prepared for "rough times."

The integration schemes of Europe's financial cartels were mapped out at a meeting in Stuttgart, West Germany on Feb. 5, 1988, organized by Deutsche Bank and Baden-Württemberg Prime Minister Lothar Späth, the leading spokesman for corporatism inside the German Christian Democratic Union party. Among the firms represented at the meeting were Daimler-Benz, IRI, British Steel, Total, Nestlé, Bosch, and Crédit Suisse.

The meeting developed a catalogue of sweeping de-

mands: "Administrative impediments" costing the European economy about DM 40 billion a year have to be removed; there must be more deregulation, more privatization of industry, and fewer subsidies for "old" industries. Deutsche Bank's Alfred Herrhausen insisted that the cartels need absolute freedom in their decisions, including "a regionalization of wage levels." In other words, industry will invest in your area—just make sure the wages are low enough!

Not long after the Stuttgart conference, the president of the Federal Association of German Industry (BDI), Tyll Necker, made this austerity policy even more explicit: "In the future, labor law and social law, laws governing labor-management relations and co-participation, job protection, work time, and unemployment compensation, will become factors of competition. This has not been recognized adequately in the Federal Republic."

The model for the proposed restructuring of the European labor force is "the Swedish way," itself nothing but a modernized version of Mussolini's corporatism. In August of this year, a delegation of the West German Social Democratic Party traveled to Sweden for a firsthand look at the economy which has a remarkably low 1.3% official jobless rate. The German Socialists attributed this to the unusual degree of cooperation among the Social Democratic government, large industry, and labor. They praised the fact that Sweden has eliminated subsidies to "old industries" (meaning the world's most modern shipbuilding and steel industries).

What they failed to point out is how Sweden's corporatism has allowed savage reductions in wages and living standards—all "democratically" imposed. Low unemployment has been achieved by creating a monstrous state bureaucracy and the world's highest per capita taxation level. "Early retirement" programs take people off the employment rolls often by age 55, and sometimes even at age 20! Even more devastating, is the fact that a recent study comparing European wage levels found that after-tax wages in Sweden were the *third lowest* in Europe, after Portugal and Greece.

greatest threat to its power. Free and proud citizens in a feudal state? Impossible.

The un-Holy Alliance

The so-called Holy Alliance hastened to reintroduce the feudal corporatist state, and in so doing, was most un-holy, in that it proceeded to deny the majority of the population the exercise of its God-given human rights. In this battle of Holy Alliance forces lies the beginning of universal fascism, which

proliferated at that time throughout Europe, as well as in North America, as a countermovement to the ideal of a free citizenry. It was from this current of thought that Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, and Dostoevsky were later to emerge. From Nietzsche's *Herrenmenschen* to the master-race and *Untermenschen* of the Nazis, was but a small step. The Pan-Europe ideas of Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi and his eugenics movement represent another element in the continuity of this fascist conception of man and state.