

establishment. It never had a popular base and is not going to survive as a party. Its leader, Giorgio La Malfa, wants to join the left, but has a bad image since he was accused of corruption.

Socialist Party: The PSI is the party most hit by corruption scandals, and has almost disappeared from the electoral map in recent votes. Its leader, Ottaviano Del Turco, wants to dissolve it and join the PDS. The faction led by former Prime Minister Bettino Craxi will not follow him, and is looking for a place in the "moderate" bloc.

Social Democratic Party: The PSDI has consistently been a member of Italy's government coalitions, but today it is not going to survive, and its leaders are looking for a place in the "moderate" bloc.

Christian Democracy: The DC, hit by corruption scandals which many see as steered by international Freemasonry, has dropped many old constituency groups and changed its name to the **Italian Popular Party**, thus going back to the name of the DC's predecessor party founded by Luigi Sturzo in the 1920s. A defensive step, this has two negative connotations: First, the name "Christian" was dropped as a concession to secularization; and second, Sturzo's Popular Party was more oriented toward free market liberal economics than the DC. Sturzo himself, in the postwar period, opposed industrialist Enrico Mattei's strategy of national independence through the state presence in the economy. Mattei's friends in the old DC leadership are all out now. The present head of the PPI is Mino Martinazzoli, but he is soon to be replaced. Candidates for leading the party are Soros's friend Romano Prodi and neo-conservative philosopher Rocco Buttiglione, who recently characterized himself as one who chose "not to be on Saddam's side during the Gulf War." The PPI is expected to receive no more than 10% of the votes in the upcoming election.

Northern League: Dominating northern Italy with an average of 40% of the votes, the League is absent in the rest of the country, and therefore is seeking alliances. Its leader, Umberto Bossi, has recently abandoned the idea of establishing a separatist Northern Republic, maybe as a result of blackmail around an investigation into illegal financing of his party. The League is pushing, however, for considerable fiscal autonomy of regional administrations, a total absence of the state from the economy, and a full deregulation of the labor market. In an interview with *EIR* (see below), the League's number two-man, Roberto Maroni, says that he would not oppose selling Italian industries to speculator George Soros.

Mario Segni: A media product, Segni is a former Christian Democrat and the son of a former President of the Republic. He has led a campaign for the reform of the electoral system that many have described as corresponding to the "Plan of Democratic Rebirth" written by Licio Gelli, head of the famous Propaganda-2 (P-2) secret freemasonic lodge.

Segni is suspected of being a Freemason, but nobody can prove it yet. He recently founded a movement called Pact for Italy. He has been courted both by the left and by the right to run as prime minister. He has not yet decided, though, leaning more toward the "moderate" portion of the political spectrum.

Italian Force: This is the network of "clubs" created by media magnate Silvio Berlusconi. Berlusconi's TV empire is second in the world only to Ted Turner's Cable News Network; he owns three private channels in Italy, one in France, and one in Poland. He owns also a supermarket chain and a construction operation. Berlusconi is not liked by the international financial markets, which dropped the day he announced his entrance into politics. That is probably due to the fact that he does not push for the globalization of the economy as much as everybody else does. Berlusconi is a friend of French President François Mitterrand and of former PSI leader Bettino Craxi. He has been a member of the secret P-2 freemasonic lodge, but he explains that he joined the P-2 only because he had been promised investments in Latin America. Projected electoral results: not more than 10%.

Italian Social Movement: After dramatic electoral growth in recent local elections, especially in Rome and Naples, the MSI changed its name to **National Alliance**. MSI Secretary General Gianfranco Fini is trying to abandon the party's Mussolinian image in favor of a more moderate one; at the same time, his party was favored by the candidacy of the Duce's granddaughter, Alessandra Mussolini, who was almost elected mayor of Naples. Accused of being the last defenders of "statism," the MSI is, like every other party, moving toward free market positions. As for foreign policy, Fini was pro-American until 1989, and takes a pro-Serbian position on the Balkans. The MSI has been ostracized and kept out of the attempts to form a "moderate" coalition. The MSI is viewed by many traditionalist Catholics as the genuine defender of family-centered values.

Interview: Roberto Maroni

'We want a free market and a welfare state'

Mr. Maroni is the number two man in the Northern League, and heads its caucus in Italy's Parliament. He is the closest collaborator and friend of Umberto Bossi, the head of the

League, who gave him a special deployment: to take over the constituency of the Party of the Democratic Left (PDS). Therefore, he tends to have a "left" profile. He was interviewed by telephone by Claudio Celani on Jan. 3.

EIR: Bossi described, in an interview Dec. 22, a visit which he, together with you, paid to Mr. Giulio Andreotti a few years ago. According to the published account, Andreotti told Bossi that he had "shut up" a political party that annoyed him, by having the financial police start an investigation of them. Can you confirm that statement?

Maroni: Yes, sure.

EIR: Which party was that?

Maroni: Well, it is an easy guess.

EIR: I know about a party that underwent such an attack and was closed down. It was the LaRouche party.

Maroni: Oh, no, it is not that. Andreotti meant the Communist Party.

EIR: Did he say that explicitly?

Maroni: Yes, he said the PCI, the Italian Communist Party. It was Christmas 1990, and that action was decided on the basis of a failed attempt to get all parties to agree on new legislation for party financing.

EIR: Mr. Maroni, in 1990 Andreotti was prime minister. It is not very credible that in his position he would say such things openly.

Maroni: In fact, I think it slipped through his tongue [laughs].

EIR: The League has recently been under attack, accused of illegal financing. Do you think that Andreotti is behind that?

Maroni: Well, there is the Christian Democracy, the party system. For sure, Bettino Craxi is behind the Sama affair. [Sama, the former manager of Ferruzzi, has revealed that he gave 200 million lira illegally to the League—ed.] Craxi had tried already once, unsuccessfully, to stop us through Castellazzi, a former League leader who split, but failed miserably. Now he is trying again.

EIR: What do you think their aim is? To have you join the so-called moderate pole, with Berlusconi?

Maroni: No, they simply want to stop us. We had already made our choice at the Congress, to declare our availability to join a moderate alliance that excludes the MSI [Italian Social Movement].

EIR: You are the "left wing" of the League. Don't you feel in trouble now, after that choice?

Maroni: No, our policy does not change. It is still the policy of taking away a large chunk of the constituency of the PDS. We are not right-wingers, and if we criticize the present "welfare state," it is because we are in favor of a real welfare state. We are for the free market, but against savage liberalism.

EIR: If you want votes from the working class, you have to promise them concrete things: jobs, pensions, health care.

Maroni: We do. We tell them that they need a better social system, not like the present one. For instance, we are for the presence of the state in the health sector, in support of the weaker part of society, and so on. But the state must get out of all those activities which are better done by private firms.

EIR: Talking about privatization, it is now proven that Italian companies are being bought by their international competitors, just to close them down.

Maroni: That is what is going on now, with privatizations done by the present government. We are against such "remote control" privatizations. Therefore we propose that nobody can buy more than 0.5% of a privatized company. In this way, everybody can participate, also from abroad.

EIR: What about international speculation, are you also liberal on that?

Maroni: No, as I said, we are not for unbridled liberalism. We must introduce rules at the European Union level.

EIR: We proposed a tax against speculation, especially against derivative instruments.

Maroni: What are they?

EIR: It is when you bet money on the future performance of a currency, or of a stock market index, things like that. I know that you are against taxes, and you may be right in that. But this is a tax against something wrong, against speculation.

Maroni: I do not think you can be effective with that. Real speculation, the speculation that causes great damage, is not going to be put under control through such means. We need a total change, from the bottom up.

EIR: Would you sell an Italian company to George Soros?

Maroni: Why not? With one condition: that he does not run it. We have to go back to a distinction between industrial culture and financial policy. In this context, we have to put under control the real "financial mafia" represented by Mediobanca. That is the structure through which economic power legislates for itself. If you take Agnelli, De Benedetti—these are no industrialists, they are financiers. But their time is over. They have to step aside.