

PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION PLANS INDUSTRY-WIDE BRAINWASHING

WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 14 (IPS)--On the eve of Nelson Rockefeller's ascension to official power, a streamlined National Commission on Productivity (NCOP) held its first meeting in a year at the White House Dec. 12. Rocky will take personal charge of NCCP immediately upon his confirmation. The results, discussions, even names of those attending the meeting have evidently been deemed secret. The White House blacked out all information on the commission meeting on the excuse that one new Commission member has not yet been cleared by White House security.

In an IPS interview, an NCOP spokesman revealed the real story of that meeting--the drive to increase productivity by replacing the trade union structure with an American Nazi Labor Front.

The meeting itself, according to the spokesman, was primarily an "indoctrination" session. Discussion focused on the need to expand throughout all industry the steel speedup model of in-plant labor-management committees which was presented jointly at the meeting by United Steelworkers President I.W. Abel and R. Heath Larry, Vice Chairman of the Board of U.S. Steel. The real work of the Commission will begin when "the new Chairman" (Rockefeller) appoints working subcommittees, including "specialists not officially on the Commission," early next year to implement his slave-labor mandates in specific areas. While maintaining the Nazi ideal that "full employment is an absolute necessity for high productivity," the spokesman also insisted that productivity efforts require "a threshold of trust and personal security." Referring to Hitler's Minister of Armaments, the spokesman noted, "In Speer's slave-labor plants, productivity was low and getting lower....You can't use machine guns to increase productivity."

Hail Mr. Trist

The spokesman praised Rockefeller as a "natural" for the job, "because he commands brainpower--all those foundations." The real brain in Rocky's arsenal, the spokesman said, is Dr. Eric L. Trist, identified numerous times by New Solidarity as the top international brainbutcher, former assistant director of leading brainwash research center, the Tavistock Institute of London, and mastermind of both the British and U.S. coal miners' strikes. Trist, "easily the most distinguished scholar in Europe...who has influenced Scandinavian productivity developments [the Swedish Way] more than any one man," has "a soft, non-threatening personality, so the workers really trust him."

A major thrust of the Commission is to expand the "40 or 50" brainwashing projects already going on throughout the U.S., based upon the ideal of democratizing the workplace, "heading off grievance-type things by non-adversary discussions away from the bargaining table," in situations where "the foreman becomes

less of a boss and more of a coach." Revealing the clenched fist hidden within this velvet glove, the spokesman warned, "But there is still a boss....We're not after an Athenian democracy, you know....Humans react more often to threats than to promises of the future."

Sand Kicked in Woodcock's Face

The failure of just-removed NCOP member Leonard Woodcock, autoworkers president, to implement the steel speedup model in auto points up the fatal flaw in all NCOP's efforts. When asked about this failure, the NCOP spokesman first hedged, "Woodcock doesn't think the time is right....You know, for union leaders, timing is just as important as what they do." He then admitted, "The auto industry is in too much turmoil....Woodcock doesn't want to do anything until the dust settles." Labor Party organizing has indeed kicked up a storm.

BURMA DECLARES MARTIAL LAW

Dec. 14 (IPS)--The Burmese military dictatorship of General Ne Win declared a state of martial law Dec. 11 to quell riots and demonstrations led by Buddhist monks and right-wing students who were protesting the burial procedure for U Thant. The demonstrations could provide a cover for the dumping of Ne Win's "leftist" regime and the implementation of the Pacific Basin regional development project conceived by the Hudson Institute, a CIA think-tank based in New York City. Thirty-five persons were sentenced to long prison terms and as many as 2,000 reportedly were arrested at the demonstrations.

Following the government's decision Dec. 9 to shut down educational institutions, the demonstrations, which began in early December, spread and took on an anti-Ne Win line. Two days later, the government declared martial law and sent in 1,000 soldiers to raid Rangoon University. Diffusing the students, who had seized the body of the former UN Secretary-General, the soldiers touched off large-scale looting in the business section of Rangoon.

The anti-Ne Win sentiment expressed through these anarchist actions has been building for months and represents a clear breakdown in the so-called "Burmese road to socialism." Last July an extremely poor rice harvest led to a breakdown in the government rationing system and severe shortages on the city markets. Burma has traditionally been the main rice producer in Southeast Asia. The city market shortages led to riots by workers and a mobilization of the military to collect extra rice supplies from hoarding farmers. The resulting austerity measures exacerbated the unpopularity of the Ne Win regime.