

The social chemistry of widespread Rockefeller support falling in line behind Strauss, now emanating from the FDP and CDU, is a modern-day reworking of the 1931 Harzburg Front--when the IG Farben empire and its banker allies threw in their weight behind Adolf Hitler.

CHASE ADMITS WORKERS' OPPOSITION BLOCKS ENERGY STRATEGY

NEW YORK, N.Y., Dec. 16 (IPS)--A Chase Manhattan Bank energy expert admitted to IPS today that workers' opposition to energy austerity and slave labor jobs has blocked progress on Chase's energy plans.

Since Chase spokesman John Winger estimated last week that \$3.1 trillion would be spent worldwide on energy projects during the next ten years, the expert admitted there has been "nothing" new in the doldrums which have afflicted the labor-intensive energy field.

He said, "It's a very complex problem and the solution will take a long time. The solution is not going to come from the Camp David meeting" of government energy experts yesterday. "President Ford wasn't even there," Chase complained. "There will have to be quite a few tough sessions of the new Congress, and quite a few sessions of the International Energy Agency, and consumer-producer meetings, and so on before anything gets done."

Asked whether popular opposition to a conspiracy to impose appropriate kinds of austerity was really the problem, he said, "I agree. The population has real problems believing this. It's very difficult to get people to believe that there is a serious problem."

He added that apart from a tough government energy policy, plus relevant legislation, the key to "unclogging" energy development was a "massive education problem on energy."

RESTRUCTURING THE STEEL INDUSTRY: ROCKY'S "CHOICE"--LAYOFF OR LABOR POOL

Dec. 16 (IPS)--Workers at the U.S. Steel plant in Gary, Indiana, told U.S. Labor Party organizers today that they have been given a critical choice: either take a 30-day layoff (politely termed an "unpaid vacation") or be assigned to a labor pool in which all job classifications have been eliminated.

This criminal choice has been posed again and again to steelworkers as part of Rockefeller's Brazilian-style restructuring of the steel industry, a restructuring which calls for large-scale layoffs, intensive speedup, and the breakdown of job seniority and job classifications--all of which have been aided and abetted by steelworkers' union leader, I.W. Abel, the Tri-lateral Commission's chief productivity expert.

Mine Construction Strike Covers for Layoffs

The process is now being noticeably intensified. The Big Two steel companies, Bethlehem and U.S. Steel, are using a mine construction workers strike to force steelworkers into submitting to speedup under threat of being laid off--without Supplemental Unemployment Benefits (SUB) pay. The strike, which began Nov. 11, is a continuation of the United Mineworkers (UMW) strike which Rockefeller had set up to cover for mass layoffs, especially in auto and steel.

Prevented by Labor Party organizing from keeping the UMW strike going long enough to achieve its desired results, Rockefeller is apparently depending on the less-publicized mine construction workers strike to recoup his losses. Sam Littlefield, the head of the 4,500-man mine construction workers bargaining unit, died under suspicious circumstances during the UMW negotiations. This week, the Sparrow's Point steel plant in Baltimore announced 2,700 more layoffs, while steel companies in Bethlehem, Pa. and Lackawanna, N.Y. announced approximately 500 layoffs each.

IPS investigation, however, shows this strike to be just as much a hoax as the parent UMW one. The CIA-controlled Associated Press issued a release, dated Dec. 16, alleging that continued picketing by the mine construction workers at coal sites has idled half of the country's 120,000 coal miners. But UMW representatives contacted by IPS contradict the AP release, stating that its figures are exaggerated. At Bethlehem Steel in Baltimore, company spokesmen told IPS that employment figures would be changing daily because of the strike; but workers at the plant told Labor Party organizers that the company had more than enough coal stockpiles to continue production at present rates.

Despite this, steel companies have lost no time in using the new strike and resulting coal shortage to lay off more workers and to refuse to rehire those who have already received their pink slips. U.S. Steel, for example, has rehired only 10 per cent of the 18,000 workers who got the boot since November. Mr. Starkbury, U.S. Steel executive, reports that the company's "coal pipelines are still empty" as the excuse for the "more firing-no rehiring" policy. In addition, the company has curtailed production by restricting the use of blast furnaces and coke ovens. Those steelworkers lucky enough to get their jobs back face the same choice confronting the Gary workers.

Preliminary indications are that some of these workers may be absorbed back into the industry--under harsh working conditions and poor wages--as it gears up for Rockefeller's economic restructuring and expanded military production. A U.S. Steel spokesman told IPS today that the 8 per cent-plus price rises announced by the concern yesterday were for structural steel--the kind of steel that would be used for the conversion of a substantial portion of U.S. industry to war production.

N.Y. BUREAUCRATS HELP EMPLOYERS PUT SICK TO WORK

Dec. 16 (IPS)--Under a program set up by area unions here, members whose doctors have recommended surgery are now required to undergo a "second screening" or face loss of hospitalization benefits. Union officials have boasted that in that way they have managed to cut down on surgical operations recommended by the original doctor by 28 per cent.

The "second screening" program is already compulsory for the members of Local 2 of the Storeworkers Union and is voluntary, "though strongly recommended," for other unions, including District Council 37 of AFSCME, the city's largest municipal union. According to the New York Times, New York City is thinking of adopting the program for its more than one million employees to cut its health insurance costs.

Nazi Model

The program is explicitly based on methods employed by the Nazis during the 1934-45 period to attempt to cut down on man hours lost due to sickness. Under Nazi law, workers were required to see "company doctors" if they felt sick. The doctors, under pressure from Labor Front kapos and the company "Fuehrers," told workers that they weren't sick and that they should stay on the job. With a general decline in nutritional and other living standards, the effect of workers "working sick" was to destroy the health of the German working class. Eventually, with epidemics of influenza spreading through the population, the Nazis were forced to make allowances for sick workers: they set up special work areas for those who were sick or "recovering," so that they would not affect the productivity of their comrades.

The butchers who run the program are aware of its implications. Dr. Eugene McCarthy, the doctor from the Cornell Medical School which designed the program, has publicly bemoaned the fact that there is "no systematic followup" on the cases whose requests for surgery were turned down. According to Dr. McCarthy, the doctors in charge don't have any real idea what happens to them.