

Brennan Rumored Out

Rumors of the imminent sacking of Labor Secretary Peter Brennan are circulating. Brennan, the former head of the construction trades in New York State, lacks the sophistication to pull the Department together for Rockefeller's drive. Today the Wall St. Journal, a leading business newspaper, speculated that Brennan may be named Ambassador to Ireland.

Slave-labor and speedup expert John Dunlop, who has led the way for corporatist policies, is reported to have been offered Brennan's position, according to "high Administration officials."

FRENCH PRESS TOUTS STRAUSS TO INTIMIDATE PCF

Dec. 31 (IPS)--Le Nouvel Observateur, a French weekly closely related to the CIA-controlled Socialist Party, is raising the specter of German fascism in the person of West Germany's Christian Democratic Union chief Franz-Josef Strauss. This maneuver is a blatant attempt to intimidate the French Communist Party (PCF) into toning down its leftward turn and dropping its blistering attacks against Socialist Party General Secretary Francois Mitterrand. Le Nouvel Observateur warns that unless the PCF drops its turn, falling back into the arms of the Socialist Party, they will be faced with the dreaded "law and order" alternative exemplified by Strauss.

The article in Le Nouvel Observateur Dec. 30 plays on the demoralization which has permeated the ranks of the ruling West German Social Democratic Party as a result of the policies of Rockefeller men like Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. Schmidt's anti-working class agency has caused resounding defeats for the Social Democratic Party in recent elections, even in traditional socialist bastions. "The specter of order has taken hold even in the midst of the Social Democracy," Le Nouvel Observateur gloats, "but Schmidt's severity [in kicking out leftists, notably ELC sympathizers] is not enough....The Germans are calling for an even stronger man."

The article then describes the many purges of West German Communist Party members in state teaching or civil servant positions. Hardly taking the pains to hide his real colors, Schmidt has been heard to declare that Strauss' neo-fascist movement is just what he needed to get rid of pro-Communist elements in the Social Democratic Party.

There is evidence at this point, however, that the PCF will not get sucked in by such a scare tactic. The Dec. 23 issue of the French Communist Party's weekly journal, France Nouvelle, points out that the existence of a mass-based Communist Party in France makes the kind of operation envisaged by Strauss virtually impossible.