

leader of the FLM and now a national secretary of the UIL confederation.

Now Benvenuto has obediently gone public with an endorsement of Ginzberg's specialty — slave labor. At his March 8 "Conference on Youth Employment" in Milan, Benvenuto praised "the revival of manual labor" for youth and called for an end to compulsory education, to solve the "problem of educational elitism." So drastic was Benvenuto's deschooling proposal that even the hatcher of the terrorist Red Brigades, brainwasher Francesco Alberoni, came to education's defense.

The next day in Florence, a national metalworkers' conference — the first to allow students to participate — took up youth manual labor as a solution to youth unemployment. The meeting turned immediately into a brainwashing confrontation between the 1,200 official FLM delegates and the "autonomous Maoist students." Up went the call for the "involvement of youth in the workplace" as a centerpiece in the industrial recon-

version bill, a bill presently pending in the parliament which would provide 2 trillion lire for state industries in new capital formation for trade. Insertion of a slave-labor clause would postpone the approval of the bill by another three months at least.

The FLM conference also officially endorsed slave labor over productive employment as the focus of trade union struggle, an argument stressed particularly by the Altanticist agents in the Italian Communist Party (PCI) centered around Giovanni Berlinguer (brother of the PCI's General Secretary) and Giorgio Amendola. Berlinguer announced that the PCI youth would now initiate its own push for slave labor. "We have fought for a long time for productive employment," he said, "now we will push for any kind of work."

And finally, the FLM sanctioned a general strike on March 18 aimed explicitly against the Andreotti government.

Senators Ask Gardner: 'Is Italy Going To Make It?'

At a series of hearings of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee March 7 on a series of Carter Administration appointments to the State Department, Senators Javits (R-NY) and Percy (R-ILL) heard testimony by Richard Gardner, named U.S. Ambassador to Italy.

In their questioning of Gardner and related comments, Javits and Percy assumed that Gardner was to be no mere Ambassador — a point widely acknowledged in Senate circles who observed yesterday that as one of Carter's earliest supporters, Gardner would only settle for an ambassadorial appointment if "there were a very, very important job to do."

Javits led off the discussion on Gardner's confirmation by commenting: "Mr. Gardner's appointment reminds me of one of the last great American Ambassadors to Italy, Mr. Zellerbach (of the Crown-Zellerbach family —ed.) during Italy's troubled postwar period (a period of extensive documented CIA covert operations in Italy —ed.). Here, in Mr. Gardner, we have someone of comparable stature and Italy is in comparable trouble." Javits bluntly inquired: "Is Italy going to make it?"

Gardner replied: "The major problem for Italy is the question of energy and oil imports. The U.S. must ensure there is greater energy conservation throughout Europe. Italy's other major problem is financial and I hope the IMF can take care of the situation."

Sen. Percy drew a parallel between Italy's financial crisis and that of New York City, observing: "Much as we have learned in New York City, when someone asks a banker for money, he should expect to receive friendly, but firm, advice from his banker. The advice for Italy should be of the following nature: the problem in Italy is inflation due to wage increases. There are no incentives for productivity. Don't you think wage increases must be slowed?"

"Yes, the problem has been that the trade unions have been reluctant to accept any substantial modifications in the cost of living agreement. We do have to slow inflation because labor costs have risen by 17.5 per year — wage inflation is the main problem. (Prime Minister) Andreotti has been courageously attacking this, but it's only a beginning — he must be more aggressive."

Sens. Percy and Javits praised Italian curbs on energy imports, prompting Gardner to exclaim, "Isn't it wonderful, the Italians pay \$2 a gallon for gas."

Javits concluded the questioning by remarking, "I hope you can come back in two to three months and report on whether Italy will make it."

A U.S. Labor Party spokesman presented testimony against Gardner's confirmation, citing Italian statements protesting Gardner's appointment and predicting he would play an on-the-spot coordinating role for Carter destabilizations of the Andreotti government. The committee had no questions, and adjourned.