

look (which the Council on Foreign Relations likes to dub "neomercantilist"). It is time for the president to smell a rat (or a Socialist mole), in his own camp.

Giscard's problem is that he has allowed the monetarist management of his prime minister, Raymond Barre, to lead the country's economy into an impasse summed up by the following figures: 14 percent inflation; FF 60 billion trade deficit; 1.6 million unemployed. Social unrest is so strong that Giscard is by no means assured of his re-election. And if he begins another seven-year term, the success of his policies is in doubt. Drastic measures will be required, starting the day after the balloting.

Already, Giscard is being pushed to effect a "Socialist turn" and go ahead with the "reforms" indicated in the Nora-Minc report. Mitterrand supporter Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber gave the proposals a popular form recently in his international best-selling book *Le Defi Mondial (The Global Challenge)*, and a good many of Giscard's supporters and advisers are now pushing in the same direction.

One of Giscard's possible choices for prime minister is the Paribas-supported, New Left-linked Chaban-Delmas. Among the more "right-wing" profiles, some of Giscard's own ministers have bought the technetronic perspective lock, stock, and barrel through the think-tank influence of the *Nouvelle Droite (New Right)* and its intellectual center, the Club de l'Horloge, which represents important components of Giscard's organized electoral support.

Giscard's trusted personal friend and adviser Michel Poniatowski has himself not been immune to the French version of the Club of Rome's technetronic outlook. In the sphere of science—his principal area of activity—he has presented policies that mix equal parts of the informatics follies of the Socialist International (along with its sister, telematics—telecommunications, bio-engineering, and so forth) with proposals for the development of controlled thermonuclear fusion. This is not to say, of course, that there is anything inherently wrong with advanced electronics and telecommunications industries. It is to state that they can only be effective if they enhance global productivity of fusion-powered, capital-intensive forms of production and employment.

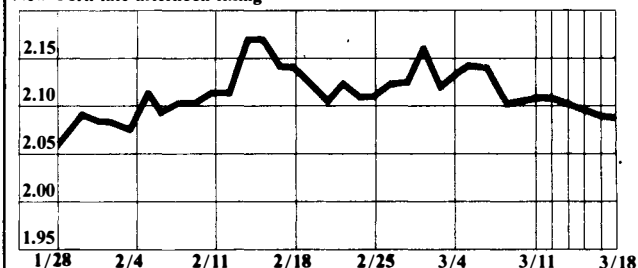
In the past few months, France has undertaken sales, or negotiations for sales, of nuclear technology to Brazil, South Korea, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, and Nigeria—a far cry from the Club of Rome's policy of stopping technology transfer to the Third World and imposing starvation on Africa.

This is the choice that faces France and President Giscard, the fight shaping the election, and the actual international stakes behind the French presidential elections.

Currency Rates

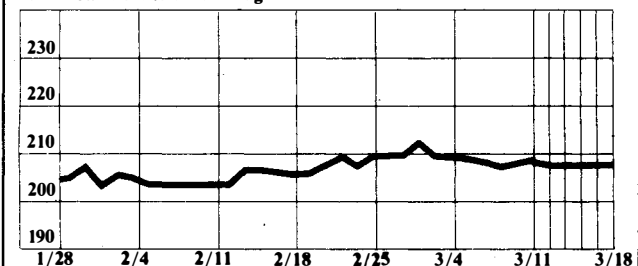
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



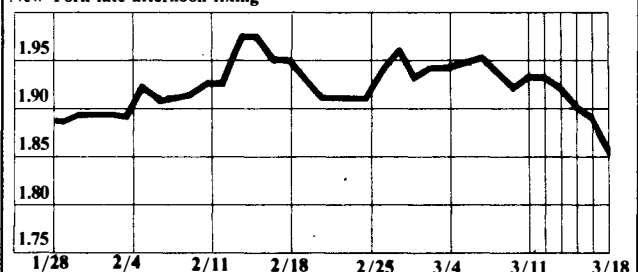
The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing



The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing

