

has ever been written in Basque, primarily because the local bishops kept the population in a state of rural idiocy so crass that the only real Basque liberation movement was that for introduction of the Castillian tongue and industrialization, which arrived together in the nineteenth century—at which point, showing great courage in opposing the likes of Victor Hugo, most Basques sensibly “unlearned” Basque.

Among native Basques today, according to figures published in 1982 by the pro-terrorist paper *Egin* itself, not more than 20% understand or speak Basque, and those who do are mainly in rural areas, which explains why the first killers recruited by ETA priests went straight from the sheeps’ udders to the machine gun. Less than half of that 20% can read anything in Basque; *Egin* never exceeds 10% Basque-language content in its pages.

### Re-schooling the Basques

Faced with these unpalatable facts of life, Arturo Campion attempted, solidly backed by the bishops, to stamp out Spanish-language education in Basque schools, and even created an association to that effect, led by Becerro de Ben-goia, Sebastián Montel, and Fermín Herrán.

This was followed by a campaign to prevent generalized school-learning altogether, which Campion explained in 1903 as follows: “Spanish-speaking school teachers are destroying this magnificent monument of prehistoric times, the Basque tongue [emphasis added].”

Campion referred explicitly to the Basque provinces as Arcadia, an earthly paradise, to be defended tooth and nail against industrialization: Vast factories called for hundreds of thousands of immigrant workers from Andalucía and Extremadura, provinces with a very marked Semitic (Arab and Hebrew) racial element, to which Campion’s successor Sabino de Arana would refer as *maketos* or “darkies” from the French, *meteque* meaning “of mixed race.”

The Basques, according to Campion, expressed the deep religious feeling prevalent in the rural areas, whereas “the darkies” represented a dangerous, secular, urban tendency. To him, culture is defined by race, and his slogan, like that of the Carlists to whom he subscribed, was, literally: God and Our Feudal Privileges.

He wrote: “The *fueros* are the luminous revelation of the intimate essence of our people”—in *La Paz*, June 30, 1876.

In 1877, Campion founded the Asociación Euskera, declaring that the Swiss linguistic and canton system was the model for his Arcadia, and that modern communications and travel to the Americas were the gravest political obstacle to be surmounted.

All the while, the Basque bishops intervened most actively: the Association’s first president for Navarre was the priest Esteban Obanos, and in 1882, the Bishop of Pamplona declared that the catechism would be taught in *Euskera* only, which, had it been implemented, would have meant entirely cutting off those children from the modern world.

## ‘Let France produce

by Garance Upham Phau

Imagine an electoral race in which the two opposing candidates embody the struggle between industrial capitalist republicanism and feudal oligarchism. That is the kind of campaign that is now under way in the mountainous French agricultural region of Auvergne, where Jacques Cheminade, general secretary of the Parti Ouvrier Européen (POE) and an associate of Lyndon LaRouche, is challenging former President Valéry Giscard d’Estaing in the latter’s own fiefdom, Chamalière, the second legislative district of Puy de Dome, where Giscard wants to relaunch his political career by gaining a seat in the National Assembly.

Giscard is a big feudal-style landowner in the region since he purchased the castle and estates of one Admiral d’Estaing—along with the latter’s noble title! At the market, one can still see “peasants” (for they cannot be called farmers) coming hat in hand, offering hams to “Lord” Giscard!

Socialist President François Mitterrand, who met with Giscard in Chamalière on July 6, has ordered his party to present only a token candidate in the region. Cheminade alone offers an industrial capitalist alternative to the de facto alliance of nobles and socialists.

Despite Giscard’s effort to avoid addressing national and international issues in his campaign, the very fact that the former President is running gives the Chamalière race a national focus. With the nation’s industry and agriculture a shambles, partly as a result of the austerity policies of the Mitterrand government, and with the ongoing collapse of the political institutions of the Fifth Republic, Cheminade is using the campaign against Giscard to rally the French nation behind his program for relaunching economic development and for the defense of Europe from the Soviet threat.

In his first campaign statement issued on Sept. 2, Cheminade explained why he has chosen to challenge Giscard. “I am campaigning,” he said, “against the neo-feudal and neo-liberal order around which the whole official Opposition [to the Mitterrand government] has rallied. All the leaders of the Opposition—Giscard, Le Pen, Barre, and Chirac—are taking up the monetarist themes of Milton Friedman, who was himself inspired by Nazi Economics Minister Hjalmar Schacht. . . .

“M. Giscard d’Estaing cannot pretend to keep this election at a local level. Because of his past and the ambitions he has for the future, he cannot claim to be seeking election solely on the basis of local interests. . . . We live in a very

# and defend herself!

dangerous period, we are confronted with three major challenges: a Soviet military escalation, a world financial crash, and a food crisis which the hunger cartels—Cargill, Nestle—are preparing and organizing.”

## The gutting of French agriculture

The European Community's bureaucracy in Brussels, through the good offices of the Mitterrand government, has implemented policies which threaten the utter destruction on the U. S. model of French agriculture, but much faster. Farmers are being paid to take dairy cows out of production, and already for 1984 the decrease nationwide in milk production will be 1.8 million tons. One million cows are slated to be taken out of the market in five years, half of them in the next two years.

Cheminade is counterposing to this genocidal policy a program for agricultural support, cheap credit, and food exports to starving African nations. The Cheminade electoral team has become nationally famous for its bumper-sticker in Chamalière: the drawing of a cow with her udders tied into a knot, and the slogan: “Let Her Produce!”

At the end of September, Cheminade will welcome a team of Texas farmers to Auvergne to pursue the work undertaken by U.S. vice-presidential candidate and Mississippi farmer Billy Davis when he toured France, Italy, Germany, and the Scandinavian countries in June, seeking contacts with European farmers to rebuild world agriculture.

There is not a moment to lose if France's agriculture is to be saved. There was a 10% drop in farmers' income in 1983; the meat markets are collapsing; the agricultural machinery producers can't sell a thing; and, while the most modern, best-equipped farms are contemplating bankruptcy, the less productive farmer finds it more profitable to rent his land out to provide hunting grounds for rich oligarchs!

The industry of the region has also been hard hit by the economic crisis, particularly the Michelin tire company in the vicinity of Clermont Ferrant, where thousands of layoffs are imminent. By the end of the year, it is expected that France will have 3 million unemployed.

One can see the reversal of 500 years of history. For then it was that the first great statesman and nation-builder, King Louis XI, took a land devastated by the oligarchical Hundred Years' War, fallow and unpopulated, and offered credits to those mountain dwellers less decimated by the war—such as

the people of the Pyrenees and Auvergne—to come down to the plains, join other farmers from Germany or Italy, take a piece of land and get state credit to cultivate it. In so doing, Louis XI not only restored French agriculture; he planted the seed of the agricultural revolution in Europe, brought to America a few years later.

Today Giscard and the rest of the “neo-feudal” Opposition are out to smash that heritage of French “dirigism,” the alliance between the state and industry in the interests of national development. The former president has been most outspoken on this count since his fall from power and his “treatment” at the Orthodox monastery at Mount Athos in Greece. In his book *Two Frenchmen Out of Three*, Giscard demands an end to “that state-corporation coupling begun in the Middle Ages and continued by Colbert.”

Under the influence, perhaps, of the Mount Athos monks, Giscard continues: “The human brain has two parts, each devoted to one function: The right brain is affection and intuition; the left brain is rational and cold.” In the chapter on the economy, Giscard divides “economic consciousness” into two parts, “an individual compartment and a social compartment.” From all of this he reaches the Malthusian conclusion that there is “a shortage of natural resources and an overpopulation of the globe.”

At the cattle market in Giscard's district, a team of Cheminade organizers met Giscard and tested his brain function. Their picket signs read: “The world needs more milk, send the quotas [for reduction of milk production] to the slaughter house.” Giscard came around and was stopped by one of the organizers who asked him, “Mr. President, what do you think about the agricultural crisis in the world?” Giscard patted the organizer on the shoulder a couple of times and said, “Ah, it's the POE!” Then he mumbled: “I built Europe. I created the European Monetary System. I was the architect of the Franco-German rapprochement.” The organizer then asked, “So, why are you hanging around with Henry Kissinger today?” Giscard turned pale, his right brain furiously consulted his left brain about what to do, but, finally, there must have been a short circuit, because he stared vacantly, then turned and walked away.

## The defense of Europe

The other principal focus of Cheminade's campaign is the growing Soviet threat to Europe. The candidate gave a press conference in Paris on Sept. 7, along with World War II Resistance leader Marie Madeline Fourcade, military strategist Col. (ret.) Marc Geneste, and other prominent figures to demand that France take urgent measures to prevent a Soviet attack on West Germany. Cheminade recommends: 1) placing the French forces on alert status; 2) the mass production of the neutron bomb, to be deployed along the West German border with the East; and 3) French cooperation with the United States to achieve a beam-weapon defense shield for the alliance.