

## International Credit by William Engdahl

### Davos conference maps union busting

*What was Senator Bill Bradley doing hobnobbing with Prince von Thurn und Taxis in a Swiss resort early this month?*

**M**ore than 600 of the leading industrial, banking, and political figures of the world met in Davos, Switzerland for the week of Feb. 1-7, to receive policy direction from the top levels of European financial and industrial oligarchy.

The conference, "Davos '85," would be notable only for the list of personages present. After a keynote by German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, participants heard Karl-Otto Pöhl, president of the West German Bundesbank; U.S. Treasury Undersecretary R. Tim McNamar; M. Kurosawa, president of the Industrial Bank of Japan; Sergio Quintilla, economic adviser to Brazil's new civilian President Tancredo Neves; the heads of such industrial giants as Volkswagen, Nissan motors, French Total; and political figures including such has-beens as French ex-Premier Raymond Barre, ex-U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Jeanne Kirkpatrick, and former Bank for International Settlements head Fritz Leutwiler.

One of the most significant figures present was the Bavarian financial wheeler-dealer, Johannes Prince von Thurn und Taxis.

The major theme of the conference, according to witnesses, was a blood-curdling cry by Prof. Herbert Giersch of the secret neo-feudalist economic brotherhood known as the Mont Pelerin Society. Under the cover of a fraudulent argument that "structural rigidities" of European economies, termed by the witty Giersch "Eurosclerosis," the head of

the Kiel Institute for World Economy demanded abolition of trade unions and along with them, minimum hourly wages. "The role of the trade unions in Europe will assume decreasing importance," the former economic adviser to the Willy Brandt regime of West Germany said. "In reality, we can say that the trade unions have no future in Europe."

Giersch couched his call for union smashing in terms of solving Europe's rising unemployment problem, ignoring, of course, that policies he and his cohorts advocated for stopping technology transfer from Europe to the developing world are the main source of industrial collapse and unemployment. Giersch is the stalking-horse for the Mont Pelerin crowd of European oligarchic families centered around such industrial groups as Olivetti Corp. and the Thurn und Taxis family, reputedly the wealthiest in Europe.

Giersch flaunts the plans of the top oligarchic financier families and key industrialists to wage an all-out war to break unions and smash living standards and social-security protection built up over decades. Raymond Barre echoed Giersch's call by attacking "inflexible labor unions" and the reluctance of workers to relocate. Barre tried to disguise what amounts to a series of fascist economic proposals for reorganizing a Europe-wide economy in a depression by claiming that labor concessions will help European industry to "unleash the entrepreneurial spirit."

Davos is important as a collecting

point. Once a year, under the aegis of the Geneva-based European Management Forum, Europe's titled families disseminate policy, under the cover of a week-long seminar in the relaxed resort village of Davos. With ample liquor and other refreshments, major industrial and political figures from around the world are subtly manipulated by speeches such as Giersch's to impose policies directly counter to industrial or long-term national self-interest. This time, themes included how to turn Japan's industrial economy into the next target for speculative cannibalization, how to make Brazil commit industrial suicide under its new civilian government, and how to open reluctant developing countries to asset grabs and resource takeover by international financial families. Such considerations could be suspected as fundamental to the desire by the mysterious Thurn und Taxis to be at Davos.

One panel, euphemistically titled "Business and Protection of the Environment," featured the heads of Volkswagen and Nissan Motors. The topic dealt with the controversial issue of placing platinum catalytic converters into the engines of European autos. The process, due to begin in West Germany following a fraudulent "debate" started by the Greens and their oligarchic allies, will cost the European auto industry billions of dollars and could actually increase environmental damage. Reliable sources have reported evidence linking the Thurn und Taxis interests to a New Jersey company which stands to get the prime contract for the platinum process essential to the new catalyzers. This is the kind of "environmental concern" which lies behind the Davos meeting.

In this light, it is interesting to ask why New Jersey Democratic Senator "Dollar" Bill Bradley was at Davos, along with Republican Jack Kemp of Buffalo, N.Y.