

held Segni's referenda as constitutional. They will therefore take place between April and June. This ruling marks the end of the current regime, since it is evident that public opinion, after all the political scandals and the economic collapse, is in a state of revolt against the regime. Italians will vote for a stronger executive. This is precisely what the money lords demand. They want to destroy the social state, buy off public industry for a song, and impose the savage austerity which, in the absence of development policies, the public debt mandates. Craxi, who failed to do this in the 1980s, is being replaced.

The second republic

These referenda will be "a plebiscite . . . against the first republic and in favor of the second republic" wrote political analyst Angelo Panebianco in the influential daily *Corriere della Sera*, on Jan 8. It will be a different concept of democracy, explained Panebianco: no more the idea, implicit in the "proportional" system, of "giving representation," but the idea, implicit in the "majoritarian system," that democracy must "first and above all govern" (emphasis in original). Doesn't this vaguely remind one of the postures and policies of "Project Democracy," the State Department plan of implementing "democratic" dictatorships worldwide?

The convulsions of the dying elite are pitiful to watch. But it is even more pitiful to see the excitement of the little men, the underdogs of the regime, who see the moment to rise up, after having been the servants of their crumbling masters, and take their place, in a sort of travesty of the old regime. Claudio Martelli is a case in point. He was Craxi's aide, and has been agitating for months in the PSI to kick Craxi out. Now that Craxi unravels, he dreams of triumphing. He has gotten his connections to the U.S. establishment; as justice minister he traveled several times to the U.S.A. and set up cooperative ties with the FBI. He wants to appear more loyal to the transatlantic masters than Craxi was, and maybe hopes to become a little Italian Clinton.

Bad as Craxi was, Martelli is worse. It was he who cancelled the Italian nuclear energy program in 1987, and who now, as justice minister, has been pushing for drug decriminalization. But the onrushing stream of the breakdown of the First Republic will carry his political corpse too, together with many more has-beens. For sure the system will be changed; at least a portion, if not all of the state companies will be sold. But what will happen next is yet to be decided.

A solidaristic culture

The free-market hoaxsters and austerity-mongers are running into some resistance as a result of the fact that Italian political culture is largely based on solidarism, a concept embedded in the social doctrine of the Catholic Church. If the Socialist Party is sinking and trying to cover for its misdeeds, the Church hierarchy has declared that the corrupt must go and make room for new leaders: The new Christian

Democratic leader Mino Martinazzoli is trying to do that. However, only a minority of his party is rising to the moral standard of defending the national interests, as in the battle for state industry.

The emerging public outcry for morality can find an answer only in political leaders capable not of theatrical gestures, but authentic moral stands and national policies—or else there will just be a rebellion full of demagoguery, as exemplified by the current stand of the North League, which one day pushes for secession, another for tax revolt, but has no political program.

Nearly 15 million people—the biggest audience a politician ever had, one-fourth of the Italian population—listened to the year-end address read on television by President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, a politician whose moral standards are untested. "There might be some who hope that this democracy

North League power bid stinks of masonic plot

In early January, the leader of the North League (Lega Nord), Umberto Bossi, announced that his party is dropping the claim of founding a separatist state in northern Italy, and that it would fight for a "federalist" reform of the state, similar to that of Switzerland. At the same time, Bossi announced that the League would run candidates for the national government. Such a turn, making the League appear like a "normal" political party, no longer a "danger" to the national unity of Italy, was no surprise to insiders. It was only the confirmation that the League, far from being the "sociological phenomenon of the 1990s," is a perfect product of the very system it claims to fight.

For months, Giorgio La Malfa, scion of a political dynasty tied into London and Wall Street financial interests, who inherited from his father Ugo La Malfa the thimble-sized Republican Party, had scrambled behind the scenes to build a political alliance between the League and other forces, in order to reach an alternative majority in the national Parliament. La Malfa's aim was—and is—to build such an alliance with anybody except the Christian Democracy. Bossi's announcement was the signal that such an agreement had been reached.

In the very next days, negotiations started at the local level for setting up municipal governments between the League, the Republicans, and the former communist party, now the Democratic Party of the Left (PDS). Such an agreement was reached in Varese, a major industrial town

will fall—die. There might be some who are tired of living as free persons,” said Scalfaro. “But can we ever be tired of freedom? I hope not; none will be tired.” Scalfaro explained that corruption must be punished, but “let us be careful not to undermine the very basis of democracy with the prospect, however valid it may be, of cleaning up” the country.

In a not-so-veiled reference to the monetary assault that hit the lira in 1992, Scalfaro said: “Europe is feeling the re-emergence of economic, monetary, and political nationalisms. Italy wants Europe and works for Europe. Today she collects pedantic and distressing condemnations which come from far away, or inauspicious prophecies which come from ill-wishers, filled with arrogance and meanness.” He called for a truly united Europe, from the Atlantic to the Urals, based on peace and cooperation.

The Catholic daily *Avvenire* on Jan. 15 ran a banner

headline attacking the policy of privatizing the state industries, while it praised the policies of Ezio Vanoni, the postwar economist and minister who had a crucial role in the definition of the state holdings in industry and banking. This outlook is supported by factions among the former and present Communists, the Democratic Party of the Left (PDS) and the left-wing daily *Il Manifesto*. This paper has started a campaign to convince its readers that the Christian Democracy is veering toward the left, because it defends the national economy against the aggression of big finance capital. But the PDS, instead of coming close to the Christian Democrats, has moved toward the North League, by deciding to support a League government in the northern Italian city of Varese. Many hope that the PDS, whose alliance with the League has caused an uproar in the party, will backtrack on this.

north of Milan, where the League has formed a government with the PRI, and the outside support of the PDS (that means, that the PDS is not in the government, but won't oppose it).

Such an alliance is extraordinary, since the League program, if it can be called such, is an ultra-free-market policy so draconian in its attitude toward labor that it puts Mussolini to shame. In an interview with *EIR*, a League economic expert who works in the parliamentary staff explained that the League has a program “in support of medium and small industries” which consists in eliminating “social burdens.” Social burdens are contributions for health care and pensions, which are paid partially by the state, and partially by the employer. The League calls for eliminating these altogether, since they insist that the state has to stop any intervention in the “free market.” Furthermore, the labor market must be “totally liberalized,” i.e., the employers have to be allowed to fix wages as they wish, contrary to the present, regulated market, where the minimum wage is fixed by the state.

The League calls for a radical privatization of all state-owned companies, including services like electricity and transportation. They insist on cutting all state financing for industrial projects in the underdeveloped South, which instead should develop only agricultural and tourism activities. Although Bossi has abandoned all claims to a separatist northern state, the League policy, if implemented, would ensure that such a disintegration of the national state occurs.

Not by chance, the most recent endorsement of the League came from an American magazine, *Telos*, run by Paul Piccone, who wrote in a special 90-page feature dedicated to the League, that its model “can be extended to all of Europe.” Piccone used to be a Marxist in the

1970s, when he supported leftist extremist and terrorist formations, like Worker Autonomy and the Red Brigades. He is connected to Warren Bennis, who comes from the Tavistock Institute, the psychological warfare center of the British secret services.

Separatism is the future policy of the European oligarchy. To facilitate that development, a new “Northern Jurisdiction” of Italian Freemasonry has been founded by Michele Maramarco, an emerging star of Freemasonry who decided to split from the national Grand Orient which, he charged, is lacking in “spirituality.” His lodge, Maramarco explained to *Corriere della Sera* newspaper on Jan. 16, agrees “with the northern federalists.” Maramarco explained that they are connected to the “Old Catholic” networks, a split from the Catholic Church which in Europe is led by the Archbishop of Utrecht, and is linked to the Anglican and the Orthodox Church. He claimed that his lodge will finally reintroduce “spirituality,” the real nature of Freemasonry, since the Grand Orient, in his words, had almost transformed Freemasonry into a “Rotary Club.”

Spiritualism is the most satanic current in Freemasonry, and it is indicative that such currents are coming out into the open now. German Nazism was born out of the spiritual branch of Freemasonry, whose lodges practiced anti-Semitism long before Hitler. Maramarco had a strong reaction when we mentioned the name Albert Pike (the American mason, Confederate general, and founder of the Ku Klux Klan, whose statue in downtown Washington, D.C. has become the target of a national outcry and demand for its demolition in the U.S.). “Albert Pike was great, but a bit confused; look at his statements about Negroes,” he said, after which he became suspicious: “Who did you say you are, by the way?”—*Claudio Celani*