
Conference Report

Royal fest for Club of Rome bodes ill for Europe's future

by Mark Burdman

Is it any wonder that the western world is in such disarray, if its leading figures elaborately patronize an organization which attacks the idea of progress, fosters the creation of an "ecologically sustainable steady-state economy," and seeks to phase out manufacturing and industrial investment in favor of a "service economy" and "non-material activities"? This is the question any sane person would pose, observing the 25th anniversary ("Jubilee") of the Club of Rome at Hanover's garish Maritim Airport Hotel from Dec. 1-3.

More obscene than the fact that the ghouls of the Club of Rome were gathering from around the world to pat themselves on the back for the damage they have done to humanity since they published their *Limits to Growth* fraud in 1972, was the lavishness with which the event was patronized by leading business, banking, and political institutions of Germany. This was in evidence not only at the official proceedings at the Maritim Airport, but at receptions at the eminent Herrenhausen Castle and Kestner Museum in Hanover, and other events. There were certainly no "limits to growth" of the midriff bulge of participants gorging themselves at luncheons and banquets as they discussed how to reduce world population and to make the planet "sustainable."

The whole event was choreographed like a coming together of royalty. Spain's Queen Sofia was the royal "fairy" presiding over the event, sitting at the same podium with former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachov at the opening session Dec. 1. Gorbachov had absolutely nothing of importance to say during the week, but the paparazzi and media mavens were out in force observing every movement he or his wife Raisa made. He was photographed literally rubbing noses with Queen Sofia.

High society was otherwise represented at the hotel in the person of Baron "Heini" Thyssen-Bornemisza from Madrid, one of the richest men in the world, and at the Kestner Museum dinner on Nov. 30, in the person of the daughter of the Princess of Hanover, who happens to also be the Duchess of Braunschweig and Lueneburg. As the guests at the Kestner ate the mutton and eel delicacies for which Lower Saxony is famous, Mayor Herbert Schmalstieg declared it to be "an honor that the

Jubilee gathering of the Club of Rome is taking place here in Hanover."

So, as boring, pompous, and vacuous as many of the speeches might have been during the three days of sessions—such as Russian systems analysis bigshot Dzherman Gvishiani's senile dribblings about his first meetings with Club of Rome founder Aurelio Peccei some 30 years ago—the high-level support for the Club of Romers underscores that a faction of European elites wants to promote the ideas that the neo-malthusian organization expounds.

Aside from the presence of the glitterati, there was also the matter of conference financing, to the tune of several million dollars, from a host of Germany's more influential institutions, including the Bertelsmann Foundation (Bertelsmann is one of the largest publishing houses in the world), Siemens, Norddeutsche Landesbank, Volkswagen, and others. In the case of VW, the company's much-publicized cost-cutting policy obviously does not extend to the Club of Rome. The formal organizer of the event was a Hanover-based grouping called the International Partnership Initiative E.V., which includes on its board of governors top representatives of VW, the Robert Bosch electronics giant, Siemens, and Deutsche Bank, as well as Club of Rome President Ricardo Diez-Hochleitner of Spain.

'A break with the old idea of progress'

The conference title was "Europe Vision 2020: Its New Responsibilities in a Changing World." The Club of Rome's patrons are hardly unaware that Europe is entering a period of profound crisis, and that the neo-liberal ideas of the 1980s no longer work. This awareness is reflected in the many criticisms of "liberal free trade," "International Monetary Fund shock therapy," etc., voiced in various speeches or papers at the conference. What is needed, they are aware, is a new post-liberal "paradigm." But this paradigm must absolutely *not* be one that favors the revival of the physical economy and production, along the lines of Lyndon LaRouche's "Productive Triangle" infrastructure development program for Eurasia. Club of Rome insiders are well aware that, from the period from the last weeks of 1989

to the present, LaRouche's program has received massive circulation and growing support in East and Central Europe. They are perfectly willing to steal and co-opt LaRouche's diagnoses, while seeking to channel ferment into fascistic directions, by counterposing the virtues of austerity (although not for Club of Rome activities) and "ecologism" to the banes of the "hedonistic, materialist" West and to the ravages caused by shock therapy policies.

Ironically, the event was staged in Hanover, which, as more than one speaker recalled, is known as the "Leibniz city," in honor of the long years in which Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, the great universal thinker of the 17th century, resided there. Just one weekend later, the co-thinkers of Leibniz's greatest living admirer, Lyndon LaRouche, held their own conference in another part of Germany, to discuss how a Leibnizian direction can be found out of today's world crisis, based on the theses LaRouche recently presented in his article on "History as Science" in the Schiller Institute publication *Fidelio* (Fall 1993).

The opposing perspective guiding Club of Rome participants was stated by Lower Saxony Gov. Gerhard Schroeder, the official conference patron. At the introductory session Dec. 1, flanked by Gorbachov and Queen Sofia at the podium, he welcomed the Club of Rome by saying: "The mem-

bers of the Club of Rome represent a break with the old idea of progress." The Club of Rome is bringing "respect for nature and people back into central focus." Schroeder was seconded by Club of Rome co-founder Dr. Alexander King, speaking on the afternoon panel of Dec. 1. "Have we forgotten that economics is for people, as it was in the days of Ricardo?" he exclaimed. Economist David Ricardo (1772-1822) was an outspoken opponent of technological development and improved social conditions, and an admirer of Parson Thomas Malthus.

Insisting that the Club of Rome's members "are not zero-growthers," King got to his main point: "But the fact is that economic growth cannot go on forever, and this is something that economists have forgotten. John Stuart Mill foresaw a steady-state economy, with the concentration of effort on the growth of *quality*. We have to look at the matter of growth from a long-term perspective, and look more at quality and not at quantity." He soon thereafter reminded his audience that the "carrying capacity" of the earth was such, that if "American-level standards of living" were guaranteed for every inhabitant of the planet, there could only be 1.8 billion people sustained.

Club of Rome General Secretary Bertrand Schneider had made the same points, in essence, at the previous day's press

Club of Rome promotes 'ozone hole' fraud

A leading collaborator of Club of Rome co-founder Dr. Alexander King confessed that the Club of Rome practices scientific fraud as a matter of course, but insisted that this practice must be continued, in order to maintain and strengthen its global influence. During a private discussion with *EIR* following the Nov. 30 Club of Rome press conference in Hanover, this individual brought up the fact that internationally there has been great exaggeration of the role of man-made chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in depleting upper-atmospheric ozone. He reported that the scientific community is now realizing that volcanic eruptions are vastly more important in sending chlorine up into the atmosphere than are the industrial processes using CFCs. Even beyond this, a Club of Rome researcher Mohammed al-Kassas of Egypt, who is an expert on desertification, has come up with findings which prove that chlorine sent up into the atmosphere from the desert dust is of central importance. Also important are the winds which carry chlorine from the oceans into the upper atmosphere.

This source stated candidly, "Our pride forces us

to exaggerate the impact that man makes on the biosphere. Man has less impact than we have said he has." At first, he blamed "the media." However, when asked whether the Club of Rome itself may have created a "global Frankenstein," by having induced a whole generation of experts and young people into believing that man's productive activity is inherently destructive, he responded, "That may be the case, indeed. It all may have gone too far. A younger generation in the Club of Rome is less convinced of this notion of 'limits,' the problem is the older members who have gone so far out on a limb that they have created a trap they can't get out of."

He also noted that the past years have proven that the methods and statistics used in the Forrester-Meadows *Limits to Growth* report were all wrong, but "it was the best they could come up with at the time; it was not conscious fraud."

Beyond all this, this individual insisted: "I have different views as a businessman and scientist than I do as a member of the Club of Rome. As a businessman or scientist, I find many scientific breakthroughs compelling and attractive. But I am cautious as a Club of Rome member, concerned about 'sustainability.' The Club of Rome, you see, is an important institution, it has a lot of influence, including with many governments, and I would hate to see that influence challenged, even if some of the directions the Club has taken are dubious."

conference, in response to a question from *EIR* on the Club of Rome's view toward building a "wall" (or "Limes," to use the Roman Empire's term, which is becoming popular again) between the countries of the North and the South. Without directly responding in the affirmative, Schneider ranted that the problem is that western "governments, technocrats, enterprises and engineering companies" had insisted on bringing "large, spectacular projects" to the South, rather than meeting the "primary needs" of the populations there.

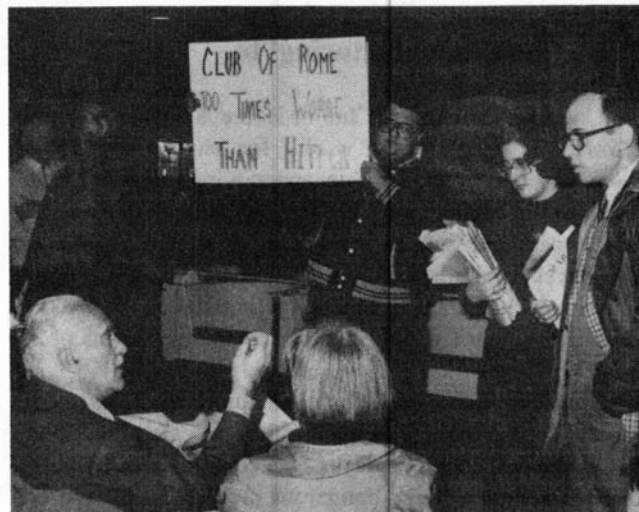
'The conventional wisdom has collapsed'

The Club of Rome is aware that the key battleground is in the field of ideas. American consultant Martin Lees, who works in France, told attendees: "The conventional wisdom on which everything has been based for the last 40 years has collapsed. The difference, now, is that people are willing to admit that. We are at a turning point in the history of thought. We must dramatically change the concepts on which human activity is based."

Frenchman André Danzin had his own way of attacking the "conventional wisdom," combining what would appear to be a cogent attack on "free market" policies with a demand that Europe move into what he calls the "non-material" age. According to Danzin: "Planned economies are now bankrupt. Free market economies are headed for a major accident. The economic breakdown will shock the established industrial countries if the plague of unemployment becomes insupportable: One-quarter of all young people will not have jobs, university diplomas will be useless, executives will lose their jobs at middle age. This kind of social situation will have severe repercussions throughout the world. . . . Contrary to today's popular opinion, classic free market economic theory is incapable of supplying the necessary answers for the chaotic modern world; the theory is based on laws established during the industrial age, and it does not express the laws which dominate the economy of non-material activities. Consequently, the solutions proposed by the nations which are apparently the most powerful, especially the G-7, are anachronistic and contribute to the chaos. The economic crisis and the unemployment problem in the countries of the OECD will not be solved by a cyclical return to growth. This theory confuses the therapy needed for a cold with that of advanced cancer."

But Danzin's solution would seem to be to treat advanced cancer by giving the patient AIDS. He insisted that Europe redirect its energies to the areas of "information, communications, intelligence, and non-materials."

A more lurid version of the same view was that presented by German textile magnate Klaus Steilmann, one of the initiators in Germany of the strategy of industrial "relocation"—or, to avoid neologisms, shifting parts of the industrial process of a firm to where labor is cheaper. Steilmann, who only joined the Club of Rome in 1992, is now one of its most outspoken and enthusiastic members. He circulated, gratis, copies of his new book, *System Transformation—As Seen by*



In 1982, associates of Lyndon LaRouche confronted Club of Rome founder Aurelio Peccei, sitting at left, with the fact that his policies meant the murder of billions.

an Entrepreneur: Practical Steps for the Introduction of a Market Economy to Eastern Europe.

The book is sprinkled with calls for a "Marshall Plan for the East," attacks on International Monetary Fund shock therapy policies, and sensible ideas for the creation of a corps of small and medium-size high-technology enterprises, similar to Germany's *Mittelstand*, in the countries of the East.

However, that is his secondary point; Steilmann's central thesis is that there must be an all-encompassing effort to "reconcile economics and ecology," and that "the legal system must put human rights and nature's rights into effect with equal emphasis. . . . Man and nature are not separate, but form a dialectical unit which cannot accommodate any priority given to human interests without considering those of nature." This proto-Marxist verbiage is mixed with praise for the ecological work of U.S. Vice President Albert Gore, the work of the 1992 "Earth Summit" in Rio de Janeiro, and so on.

The publicity-hungry Steilmann is known in the German press as the "ecological-entrepreneur." He is an honorary consul of the Ukraine and Presidium Member for Germany in the International Committee for Economic Reform and Cooperation in the Commonwealth of Independent States. This only gives a taste for how the Club of Rome strives to pervert the legitimate aspirations of the populations of the formerly Communist domain of East and Central Europe and the former Soviet Union.

The conference, indeed, had an impressive representation from these countries. Aside from Gorbachov, there was Hungarian President Arpad Goncz; Bronislaw Geremek, deputy chairman of the Democratic Union of Poland; top Russian scientist S. Kapitsa; and a number of others from Russia, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, and Croatia.

From 'pure manufacturing' to 'service economy'

One arena where the Club of Rome is concentrating its efforts is in the "future of work," for which a special task force has been created. Alexander King introduced this theme at the beginning of the Nov. 30 press conference. He proclaimed: "Full employment as we've known it in the past will never happen again. We need different approaches to activity, with a smaller part of the population involved in gainful employment and a larger part in other forms of activity."

This leitmotif of "work" (or perhaps no work) and "solving the unemployment problem," was repeated incessantly during the first couple of days of the conference. Obviously, there is a very real and dangerous problem in Europe and other parts of the world with growing unemployment, but finding a real solution, based on increasing production, has nothing to do with the Club of Rome approach. Hence, in his opening address, Lower Saxony Gov. Gerhard Schroeder praised to the skies the new Volkswagen arrangement of a four-day work-week, as a positive "crisis-management alternative" to layoffs. VW, of course, is one of the big supporters of Club of Rome activity.

Another angle on this was presented Dec. 2 by Orio Giarini, head of the Geneva Association, the think-tank of the big insurance and reinsurance companies.

Giarini, a Club of Rome "economist," claimed that the solution to the problem of unemployment lies in realizing that the world has moved out of the era of manufacturing to that of services. What has been happening since the 1970s is not, in fact, a problem of "limits to general economic growth," but rather "a period of turbulences due to the transition from the great cycle of the classical industrial revolution which lasted for two centuries." There has been a new form of "growth" emerging since the 1970s, as an alternative to the previous form "based on the development of bigger and faster tools and of productive investment essentially in hardware rather than software, in machine rather than organization, in tangible projects rather than communication." The trend is toward decreasing emphasis on "hardware tools and agricultural produce," and toward "service-type functions," he said, adding that the 25 years of exceptional economic growth following World War II, the "Golden Quarter-Century" is giving way to a 'service economy.' "Therefore, "pure manufacturing activities" are no longer in a position to "add to employment in the traditional way. . . . Even within manufacturing activities, service functions have become dominant."

According to Giarini, "the undeterministic idea of uncertainty" is replacing the "deterministic philosophy of certainty," and this is linked to "the redefinition of basic concepts such as economic value, productive activity, the function of prices, etc." Giarini is the co-author of a book released earlier this year, entitled *The Limits to Certainty*.

LaRouche and the war of ideas against the Club of Rome

by Mark Burdman

Since its inception in 1968, the Club of Rome has been the quintessential counter-movement to the Leibnizian Academy movement created by Lyndon LaRouche during 1966-68. Hence, it is ironic that the Club would choose to hold its 25th anniversary get-together in Hanover, the city of Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, whose philosophical writing inspired LaRouche during his teens.

In the 1966-68 period, LaRouche was building the seed-crystal of what would later become the International Caucus of Labor Committees, by drawing out from the anti-Vietnam War and student protest movements in the United States, those individuals who were willing to fight against the countercultural trends prevailing among their peers, and devote themselves to creating a renaissance based on the most advanced concepts of science, technology, and physical economy.

At the same time, the founders of the Club of Rome—primarily the Italian Olivetti corporation's Aurelio Peccei, Soviet systems analyst Dzherman Gvishiani, and British science quack Dr. Alexander King of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris—were preparing to launch a movement, among youth and others, in favor of neo-malthusianism, "ecologism," irrational rejection of science and technology, and hatred for mankind.

It was out of the Club of Rome's efforts, in large part, that the movement known as "environmentalism" or "ecologism" came into existence. This was the goal, accomplished with the help of the corrupt western media, of the fraudulent *Limits to Growth* study released in 1972. At the time, LaRouche blasted the Club of Rome book, authored by MIT systems analysts Dennis Meadows and Jay Forrester, in a pamphlet, "Blueprint for Extinction." All of this was occurring at a crucial point in world history. LaRouche had, beginning in the late 1950s, accurately forecast the financial-economic upheavals that were to manifest themselves on Aug. 15, 1971, with the end of the Bretton Woods system officially marked by President Richard Nixon's decision to decouple the U.S. dollar from gold. After Aug. 15, 1971, LaRouche's