LaRouche Holds Dialogue With Italian Senators on New Monetary System

by Liliana Gorini and Andrew Spannaus

"I am convinced that LaRouche's ideas must be spread. They may be the vision of a 'madman,' but usually, history also moves forward based on the visions of such madmen." These words of former Italian Economics Minister Giulio Tremonti, presently vice-chairman of the Italian Parliament and of the Forza Italia party, pronounced during a conference organized by *EIR* in Rome on June 6, are indicative of what many politicians had to say about American statesman Lyndon LaRouche in the course of his three-day visit to Rome, June 4-6. "I have always appreciated the depth of the views in LaRouche's magazine," Tremonti said, and added that he shares the view that we are in a time which is not ordinary, in which we will see profound transformations.

Tremonti was speaking with LaRouche and Alfonso Gianni, Italian Undersecretary for Economic Development, at a June 6 roundtable discussion entitled, "The Future of the Economy: Market Radicalism or New Deal?" at the Hotel Nazionale in front of the Parliament in Rome; the forum was recorded by both the LaRouche Political Action Committee (LPAC) and Radio Radicale (see below for speeches by LaRouche, Tremonti, and Gianni).

Gianni also expressed his agreement with LaRouche's view of a "new international economic order," and the fact that the model of productive economy in which the state plays a key role is under attack from hedge funds and pension funds, the private financial interests which are "overpowering the economic policies of states and the real economy." And although Gianni noted his disagreement on the questions of the environment, and on the role of the four major powers—the United States, Russian, China, and India—which LaRouche indicates as key to effecting a shift in world politics, what is fascinating, is that these words of appreciation for LaRouche's proposals come from politicians and members of both the government and the opposition, from left to right, who normally quarrel about every issue; the situation was different with LaRouche. Italy is being torn apart by a deep economic crisis, by social conflicts which were clearly visible during LaRouche's visit—there were trade union demonstrations all day in front of the Parliament; it is a country which is more accustomed to ungovernability than any other in Europe, as LaRouche has emphasized on a number of occasions, but in which leading politicians are searching for a vision, and finding it, in LaRouche's proposals: his FDR-style policies not only for the United States, but for the whole world, in a framework of a new global economic order represented today by such great projects as the Bering Strait rail-tunnel.

Official Testimony to Defense Committee

LaRouche's visit to Rome had started a day earlier with official testimony in front of the Defense Committee of the Italian Senate, announced and reported in the official proceedings of the Senate as "an investigation of the present state and perspectives of the defense industry and cooperation on armaments: hearing of Prof. Lyndon LaRouche." The hearing, which was attended by about ten members of the Senate, was opened by committee chairman Sen. Sergio De Gregorio who thanked LaRouche for being there. LaRouche's introduction focussed on the "dual use of the economy" for defense and civilian purposes, which gave LaRouche the opportunity to present an historical "excursus" on the relationship between economy, science, and warfare, from the Council of Florence (1438-39) and the 15th-Century Italian Renaissance, up to the Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt war mobilizations.

LaRouche also emphasized the difference between Roosevelt's conception of a mobilization of the economy in order to win the war against Nazism, and today's so-called "revolution in military affairs," and privatization of the military promoted by Dick Cheney, which is destroying the U.S. armed forces. "Today there is an attempt to destroy this legacy," he said, "with a revival of the ancient Peloponnesian Wars, a long war in Iraq, and a potential war in Iran."

After the hour-long hearing, which was both videotaped and stenographed, members of the Senate, from both the left and the right, spoke up to thank LaRouche for his report, and to express their agreement with his view that such "revolutions in military affairs" are very risky for nation-states and their ability to defend themselves. Sen. Gianni Nieddu of the center-left government coalition, emphasized that, "not only should the United States not give up its sovereignty in military affairs, but no European country should either," and he added that, in Europe as well, "there is an attempt to relinquish national defense, and entrust it to the European Union." Sen. Silvana Pisa (see her interview with *EIR*, Feb. 23, 2007), who belongs to the same party as Italian Foreign Minister Massimo D'Alema, thanked LaRouche for his presentation, and asked about the BMD system and Russian President Vladimir

EIRNS/Flavio Tabanelli

EIRNS/Flavio Tabanelli

(Left to right:) Lyndon LaRouche joined Italian political leaders Giulio Tremonti and Alfonso Gianni in Rome, June 6, for a roundtable discussion on "The Future of the Economy: Market Radicalism or New Deal."

Putin's opposition to it.

Sen. Lidia Menapace, a member of the Defense Committee, and chairwoman of the Committee to Investigate the role of depleted uranium in a number of deaths of Italian soldiers in Kosovo, expressed appreciation for the historical depth of LaRouche's presentation at the Senate. "I listened very carefully to what Mr. LaRouche had to say," she said, "and I hope I am not being offensive if I say that one normally does not expect such cultural depth from an American politician, so I consider him a European." Sen. Luigi Ramponi, a general, belonging to the opposite political coalition of that of Senator Menapace, also thanked LaRouche for his testimony at the Defense Committee, adding that he had been following *EIR* for a long time, and "what you said about the financial collapse has turned out to be prophetic. I am also fascinated by your programs for infrastructural development, including the Bering Strait project, which is the key to true peace" (see *EIR* March 18, 2005, for an interview with General Ramponi). At the end of the official testimony, the office of Senator Menapace issued a press release on it entitled, "The Other America," which contrasted LaRouche's report to the visit in Rome of President George Bush two days later.

The next morning, LaRouche and Senator Menapace held a joint press conference at the Senate, which turned into an two-way dialogue, since the press was too busy following the ongoing vote and possible government crisis at the Senate, to show up to hear what "such an important mind has to say," as the Senator herself put it, in refering to LaRouche. Menapace started the dialogue by saying she was particularly impressed by the connections that LaRouche had made between infrastructural development and military technology, which "reverses the order of what is normally said.... I was also impressed by what Mr. LaRouche said about the peaceful use of nuclear power," the Senator added, "because I cannot accept the fact that the Italian Left rules out the use of nuclear energy, and I share LaRouche's view that science and human creativity can solve all of our problems, and nuclear science can go beyond the use of nuclear weapons." When LaRouche mentioned that it was unnecessary to drop the nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and that this was the conscious policy of Bertrand Russell to make sure that no war could ever be won if not with nuclear weapons, Menapace, who is 80 years old, and was an anti-Fascist partisan during the rule of Mussolini, responded by saying: "It is interesting that you say so, because when I was 21, I wrote one of my first articles attacking the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as useless and unnecessary, as you said. It turns out that we were already in agreement then."

LaRouche recalled for the Senator his friendship with Max Corvo, then head of the OSS in Italy, who was personally involved in the negotiations with the Emperor of Japan to convince him to surrender to the Allies. The dialogue concluded with a report about the LaRouche Youth Movement and how it has demonstrated that the lack of scientific education today can be overcome if youth between 18 and 35 years of age relive original discoveries directly, without relying on university education.

FDR Policies Gain Notable Support

The event at the Hotel Nazionale was a major step forward in breaking open the debate over the economic measures necessary to deal with the ongoing global crisis. LaRouche's proposal for a New Bretton Woods reorganization of the international monetary and financial system has been the subject of numerous political initiatives in Italy in recent years, which, in April of 2005, resulted in the passage of a motion in the

Chamber of Deputies calling on the Italian government to work to bring about an international conference for the reorganization of the global financial system.

In February of 2007, LaRouche was invited to speak at the prestigious Sala del Cenacolo inside the Chamber of Deputies, by Hon. Andrea Ricci, an economist who has written a book about Bretton Woods, in which he cited LaRouche's proposals. That conference was sponsored by *EIR* and the Rifondazione Comunista political party, a leftist party whose younger generation is eager to demonstrate that it is not anti-American, but rather against the policies of the current U.S. Administration.

While the February event was supported and attended by members of numerous political parties, the June 6 event took the discussion to a higher level, due in particular, to the participation of Tremonti, a leading figure in the center-right coalition, who has occupied high-level positions such as "Superminister" of Economics and Vice-Prime Minister in the governments of former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. Tremonti is somewhat of an anomaly, as much—but not all—of his own party and coalition present themselves as economic liberals. And while Tremonti does publicly campaign for tax cuts, and boasts of expanding private pensions, he is widely recognized as a champion of infrastructure projects, and small and medium-sized enterprises, the backbone of Northern and Central Italy's productive wealth.

Tremonti has also been at the center of some of the most interesting political fights in Europe in recent years. In 2003, when Italy held the rotating presidency of the European Union, he proposed an expanded version of the original Delors Plan for European-wide infrastructure projects, to be financed with bonds issued by the EU. Despite ostensibly having the support of two of the largest EU countries, France and Germany, the plan was shot down quickly, as it threatened to break the monetarist stranglehold the financial and banking oligarchy holds over economic policy.

Tremonti presented a somewhat similar plan for infrastructure projects in Italy, called Infrastrutture Spa, a state-sponsored, but privately owned financing agency, which was an attempt at getting around the budget restrictions imposed by Maastricht. He also launched a frontal attack on the Bank of Italy—and implicitly on the European Central Banking system itself—for its failure to curb the type of speculative practices which have led to financial disasters, such as the bankruptcy of the Parmalat Group at the end of 2003. For daring to take on this sacred cow, he lost his job as Economics Minister.

One year later, however, he was back in the government, and had even been promoted, assuming the post of Vice Prime Minister. And although he is now in the opposition, he is active in various associations and institutes which play a leading role in making policy. The fact that he has decided to openly associate with LaRouche, is one indicator of the potential for a sea-change in Italian, and international economic policy.