

Inside Canada by Pierre Beaudry

A friendly fascist society

Trudeau is imposing post-industrial policy and a major labor congress has fallen for corporatism.

The Trudeau government will soon announce the creation of two institutions whose purpose is to impose austerity through government-business-labor corporatism. The backdrop for this development is the emergency measures passed by Order in Council in June 1981 which include the creation of "civilian internment camps."

Although this will be announced as a measure to cope with rampant unemployment, the real aim is to turn the Canadian workforce into a model for a post-industrial "friendly fascist society" based on "work sharing."

On July 25, Trudeau and his cabinet ministers met with U.S. economist John Kenneth Galbraith and labor leaders at Val Morin, Quebec, to implement a new "social contract" on "how to divide up the nation's income." At that meeting, the decision was made to move ahead at full speed with the Canadian side of the policy discussed between Trudeau and some 20 top American executives at a meeting held in Ottawa on Oct. 16, 1982 (see *EIR*, Nov. 16, 1982).

On Aug. 1, the news came out of the Couchiching Conference at Geneva Park, Ontario, that the post-industrial society has arrived. Therefore, "people must be prepared to share work and develop new jobs in the human services," said Stuart Smith, chairman of the Science Council of Canada. "The only way to share the wealth," he said, "is by sharing the work." The Science Council of Canada, under Minister of State for Science and Technology, Donald J.

Johnston, was created at the instigation of Aurelio Peccei, head of the Club of Rome, in 1973.

This scenario was fully elaborated in 1982 by Kimon Valaskakis, director of the Club of Rome front group called GAMMA at the University of Montreal. In his script for the Canadian government titled "The Management of Time in a Conserver Society," Valaskakis proposes a "Mafia model" of contract work sharing as the alternative to the traditional work schedule. "The advantage of contract work for an institution is that it can 'rent' people rather than 'buy' them. . . . This alternative is, of course, not new. The Mafia . . . has been using it for years."

The bottom line for both Canada and the United States was given at Couchiching by Vincent Mosco, professor of communications at Temple University in Philadelphia. "The majority of jobs created in the high-technology world won't be glamorous or stimulating, but low skilled, low-paying, low-benefit work requiring little education," Mosco said. He added that "the industrial worker who is replaced by a robot may find his next job sweeping floors or serving hamburgers. The people who will find the most job opportunities are fast-food workers, janitors, and sales clerks."

It was decided at Couchiching, and reported in the Montreal *Gazette* by Richard Gwyn on Aug. 3, that Employment Minister Lloyd Axworthy, the kingpin of the "work sharing" scheme we exposed this spring (see

EIR, May 24), will set up an Industrial Labor Market Analysis Institute to replace his own Canadian Occupation Protection System (COPS).

The other new institution set up will be called the Canadian Institute for Productivity and Employment Growth (CIPEC), to be administered by Industry Minister Edward Lumley, the keynote speaker at Couchiching.

Just as the COPS apparatus was designed to police the work force, ILMAI and CIPEC's job will be to channel labor displacements from the remains of the industrial society. During the latest weekend close session at Val Morin, ending August 7, Axworthy announced to the *Globe and Mail* that there are already 14,000 work-sharing agreements involving more than 300,000 workers, and that he wants a "permanent work-sharing program," which he considers a "revolutionary way to ease unemployment."

As for organized labor, it is "coming inside the tent," as Gwyn put it. Canadian Labor Congress executive vice-president Shirley Carr will co-chair the steering committee of CIPEC in collaboration with Tom Aquino, president of the Business Council on National Issues. The only sane reaction came from Tom McGrath, national vice-president of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Transport and General Workers, who told the *Globe and Mail* August 9 that work sharing is "people sharing the poverty, not sharing the goods."

The Couchiching conference was set up by the Canadian Institute on Public Affairs (CIPA), a Club of Rome think tank headed by Nona Macdonald, who is also a board director of the Empire Club. One of CIPA's executive officers is Janet Smith, assistant secretary of the Privy Council Office.

Next year's conference is titled "What's Left? What's Right? What's Next?" What will be left, indeed?