

## Interview: Edoardo Pontecorvo

### 'Repeal Visentini's plan'

*Edoardo Pontecorvo, a lawyer and adviser to the Italian Lawyers' Council in Rome, gave EIR the following interview.*

**EIR:** At the press conference held by the National Lawyers Council in Rome, you said that Visentini's plan "takes us far away from the Western fiscal system." What did you mean by that?

**Pontecorvo:** The most advanced fiscal systems, for example, the American or the British, would not accept systems such as the "inductive assessments" foreseen in Visentini's plan. The "inductive assessments" system is uncivilized, because it is not based on any checking of the income source of the taxpayer, but on the uncertain, failing, arbitrary criteria of every imposter. Normally the individual citizen pays taxes in proportion to his real income, but with Visentini's inductive assessments, he can be forced to pay taxes on the suppositions and denunciations of any spy. In this way, Visentini thinks he can solve the inadequacy of the tax offices, which is supposed to check real incomes.

**EIR:** Does this mean that, for example, Benvenuto's "fiscal brigades" could denounce somebody they want to see in jail, simply saying that he is suspected of evading taxes?

**Pontecorvo:** Exactly. On the basis of "inductive assessments," anybody can declare, "In my opinion, lawyer so and so earns X amount," and he can be arrested for that. You can also use the inductive method when the tax-payer's legal records are completely in order.

**EIR:** The Lawyers' Council has announced that it will take this issue to the Constitutional Court. What in your opinion are the chances of having the Visentini plan declared unconstitutional?

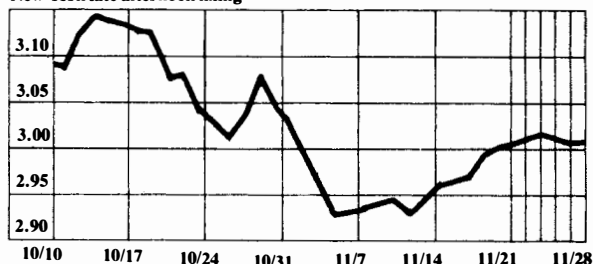
**Pontecorvo:** Visentini's plan violates various paragraphs of the Italian Constitution, for example, Paragraph 53, which says that "each citizen is bound to contribute to the public expense in proportion to his capacity to contribute"; or Paragraph 24, according to which each citizen has the right to defend his interests. We have been able to achieve the elimination of a paragraph in Visentini's plan which would have forced us to keep a daily book of all our activities, but the plan as a whole is nevertheless unconstitutional.

If we find a judge who has some backbone, we will advance our request. If the Constitutional Court decides it is unconstitutional, the plan should be repealed.

## Currency Rates

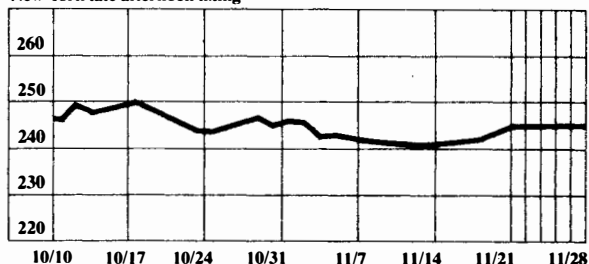
### The dollar in deutschmarks

New York late afternoon fixing



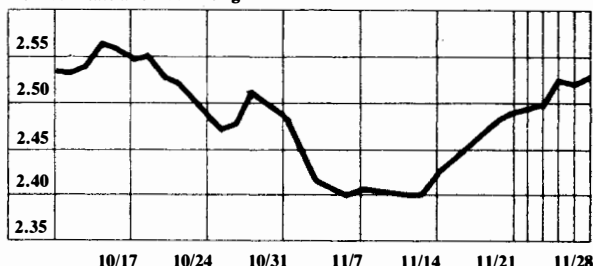
### The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



### The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing



### The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing

