

Toia: Given that I am a convinced abolitionist, and I think that capital punishment should never be used, I think that the Barnabei case forces us to reflect even further on this question. A young man who was convicted on questionable evidence is being sent to his death. In Italy, no one could be sentenced to life in prison—we don't have capital punishment, fortunately—on the basis of such thin evidence. Therefore, I believe that the Governor of Virginia should seriously consider the possibility of intervening, since even the Holy Father intervened on this question, in a beautiful statement. On the other hand, the death penalty is one of the points which most divides us from the United States. Here, there is a strong disapproval; there, the majority is in favor of the death penalty.

EIR: Speaking of human rights, what do you think of the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court regarding the Voting

Rights Act, the law which guarantees the right to vote, and was a victory of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States? As well, there is another shameful Supreme Court decision, which permits the application of the death penalty on procedural grounds, even if there are questions regarding the guilt of the individual?

Toia: The American judicial system is too different from ours for me to express a definitive opinion. Certainly, given the fact that the power of your judges expresses a more direct relationship between the institution and the citizen, it is also natural that these judges, in their actions, regard and influence political and social issues. In this sense, nonetheless, I certainly do not think that trampling on rights that have been acquired on a juridical and historical level represents progress. As for the fact that formal procedure prevails over doubts about the defendant's guilt, this is an aberration of a system which, by its nature, since it contemplates death, makes the

Russian Paper Notes Italian Steps Toward New Bretton Woods

Issue No. 29 of the Russian weekly *Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta*, published July 20, carried the last article by Prof. Taras Muranivsky, President of the Russian Schiller Institute, who died on July 17. The global financial system is doomed, Lyndon LaRouche's "New Bretton Woods" is the answer, and the Italian Parliament has taken steps in that direction, Professor Muranivsky told his readers.

The article was occasioned by "the complex and contradictory discussion of Russia's attitude toward foreign loans," contained in President Vladimir Putin's July 8 Message to the Federal Assembly. Professor Muranivsky gave the international setting for that policy question, providing one of his pungent summaries of developments in the world, especially in international finance and the economy, which *Ekonomicheskaya's* readers in the Parliament, political parties, and academic layers otherwise never hear about. He quoted the recent admissions of former International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Michel Camdessus, that the entire financial system was on the brink of total collapse in the fall of 1998. He pointed out that readers of *Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta* already knew that, thanks to the warnings of LaRouche (conveyed through the articles of Taras Muranivsky). It was only by the U.S. Federal Reserve's "throwing hundreds of billions of dollars into the fire," that the system was saved, wrote Muranivsky, "But, for how long?" Even Camdessus

admits, that no effective changes were made.

Meanwhile, Muranivsky reported, awareness is growing, that the existing system is just no good. He cited former World Bank chief economist Joseph Stiglitz, on the damage done to the economies of developing countries that take IMF loans. The debts of those countries continue to rise, he reminded his readers, pointing to the call of Pope John Paul II for debt forgiveness.

Professor Muranivsky wrote about the latest developments in the Italian Parliament: "The Foreign Affairs Committee of the Italian Parliament, of which Giovanni Bianchi is a member, undertook to find answers to the following questions: What are foreign debts? How do they grow? Why are the debts of Sub-Saharan African countries triple what they were 16 years ago? . . . These processes are rooted in the purposeless financing of the globalized economy and in those excesses of financial flows, which began with the eurodollars in the 1970s. . . ."

"On June 24, 2000, the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Parliament unanimously passed a bill on a debt moratorium for the developing countries. The Senate is expected to approve the law, whereupon there will be an appeal for the government to take the corresponding actions. On June 23, LaRouche, candidate for the U.S. Presidency from the Franklin Roosevelt wing of the Democratic Party, gave a major lecture on the need for a New Bretton Woods system, to a seminar at the Italian Parliament. He supported the initiative of the Italian parliamentarians. That same day, Bianchi (one of the initiators of the invitation to LaRouche to visit Italy) intervened at the final June session of the Parliament, calling on the Italian government to take a leading role at the upcoming G-8 summit in Okinawa, to free the developing countries from their debts."