

## Losing Our Industrial Base

Since the early to mid 1970's the flight of U.S. industry offshore has constantly accelerated and has reached an alarming rate. We are told the United States will become a "service economy," that we are no longer to be a manufacturing economy.

Our nation's wealth is created by taking materials and turning them into marketable products, i.e. adding value. This process of adding value is known as manufacturing. Manufacturing and technology are inseparable. If we lose our manufacturing base we must also lose our technological base.

What is causing this loss of our manufacturing base? Why doesn't the government do something to stop it? What is this nation to be in another twenty or fifty years?

We are constantly being reminded of the "new world order." What does "new world order" mean? Does it have anything to do with our loss of industry? What role does the government play in all of this? I hope I am not the only person asking these questions.

Let's examine some facts. Perhaps they are associated with the problem; perhaps they are not. I will let you draw your own conclusions.

### UNIDO

UNIDO is the acronym for the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. In 1966 UNIDO was established as an autonomous organization within the United Nations. Nine years later, in 1975, the United Nations endorsed a recommendation that UNIDO become a specialized agency within the U.N. with its own constitution and budget. Negotiations were started in 1976 and concluded on April 8, 1979 when the constitution was adopted by consensus at a U.N. Conference on the Establishment of UNIDO.

The United States signed the document January 17, 1980 and it was sent to the Senate for advice and consent on October 15, 1981. I believe these dates are important to understanding other, seemingly disconnected events.

Much can be learned from Executive Report 97-69 which is the report accompanying Treaty Document 97-19, the Constitution of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. The following excerpts are from the report.

According to Executive Report 97-69, UNIDO's "Activities range from sending many short term consultants for a few weeks to deal with highly technical problems, to sponsoring workshops and training programs for technicians and managers, to long term contracts to establish a factory or training or research facility. Use of U.S. consultants is quite common."

"On the other hand, UNIDO's record in hosting large international conferences which endorse concepts contained in the New International Economic Order has been at odds with longstanding U.S. policy. At the second quadrennial conference (UNIDO II) in Lima, Peru, in 1975, a Lima Declaration and Plan of Action for Industrial Development and Cooperation was adopted over the objections of the United States. Four years later, UNIDO III endorsed a New Delhi Declaration and Plan of Action, again over U.S. objections."

"The thrust of these political documents is that industrial country governments should work toward a goal of ensuring that 25 percent of the world's industrial plant is located in the developing world by the year 2000. (The current percentage is about 11 percent.) The documents imply that not only should developed countries provide aid to help meet these goals, but also adopt trade and internal industrial policies which insure that the goal will be reached, EVEN IF IT MEANS SHUTTING DOWN THEIR OWN INDUSTRIES WHICH ARE IDENTIFIED AS MORE SUITABLY LOCATED IN THE THIRD WORLD." (Emphasis added.)

Quoting from the Preamble of the Constitution of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization: "Bearing in mind the broad objectives in the resolution adopted by the sixth special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the establishment of a New International Economic Order, in the UNIDO Second General Conference's Lima Declaration and Plan of Action for Industrial Development and Cooperation, and in the resolution of the seventh special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on Development and International Economic Cooperation,

declaring that: It is necessary to establish a just and equitable economic and social order to be achieved through the elimination of economic inequalities, the establishment of rational and equitable international relations, implementation of dynamic social and economic changes and the encouragement of necessary structural changes in the development of the world economy."

From the "Text of Resolution of Ratification" portion of the Executive Report 97-69: (1) "(1) As used in Article 1 of the Constitution the phrase "new international economic order"

(A) is an evolving concept with no fixed meaning;

(B) reflects the continuing goal of members of the United Nations to find new or more effective ways of handling international economic relations and is subject to interpretation by all such members; and

(C) is not legally defined by the Constitution or by any resolution of the sixth or seventh special session of the General Assembly or the United Nations or by the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

(2) The entry into force of the Constitution with respect to the United States of America does not abrogate or rescind any reservation made by the United States of America to any resolution, declaration, or plan of action referred to in the Constitution."

Why would we agree to "an evolving concept with no fixed meaning?" Could this be the genesis of our loss of manufacturing capability? Certainly the dates tend to coincide at least with our awareness of the beginnings of these problems. Is this simply our way of helping some of the poorer nations or is there something else, perhaps something more sinister?

We will look at other federal policies and laws which seem to have a bearing on this article at a later date.

Billy E. Reed,

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