

Αρχείο  
Νόστοι

It is our custom for the president of the council to give a short speech. The purpose is not clear, however: Am I expected to present to you a stock-taking of our work for the last six months, to contribute one more joke to the list of after dinner jokes, or just to do my part in trying to make a common in every other respect dinner more amusing?

A clear and accurate stock-taking of our work for the last six months is difficult to make! The six month period is ending with the bitter taste of the unsuccessful summit in Athens. All the major problems of the Community are pending and it seems that their solution is made more difficult now than any other time.

However, the outcome of our efforts is not entirely negative. We have managed to solve some of the current problems which although as insignificant as they might be, they sometimes cause acute conflicts.

~~Therefore, as the pluses and minuses of every negotiation are accurately registered, the free importation of 500 tons of frozen meat could acquire the character and the dimensions of a major political problem... So~~  
*Everyone of us knows that at home there are quite a lot of people counting under these circumstances*

We have solved the problem of the "acquis", we have explored the problem of the structural directives and above all we have made substantial preparations for the restructuring of the Common Agricultural Policy. The final solution will be based on the work of the <sup>past</sup> next six months in the framework of the compromise we have worked out.

*European Cooperation*

The Community is not but a necessity at this stage of social and economic evolution of Western Europe. The question which splits the political forces is: which should the Community's nature be and whether the purposes that are being served by the current institutional framework are sufficient for the promotion

of European Unity or whether they lead to a dead-end.

Do we want a community which almost exclusively aims at free trade and free competition alone, or at the elimination of economic inequalities and the changing of the social structures. The answer will emerge from political developments that will require a lot of time. <sup>in the meantime</sup> The short run problems as expressed in Athens will be solved, I imagine, as the experience of price fixing negotiations demonstrate, by means of all night meetings, marathon sessions and constant bilateral consultations.

*did not succeed*  
Prime Ministers have no sufficient training in such-kind of negotiations. They should have rather consulted their Ministers of Agriculture not only in so far as milk is concerned but also as to how an agreement is achieved by the method of out exhausting each other.

Our work for the next six months is running the danger of being stuck in the mudd of constant disagreements and reservations that each one of us will stick to, in order to maintain a strong bargaining position for the final stage of negotiations.

Mr Rocard has a reputation of being able to solve especially difficult problems. We are handing over an ideal situation to him. He who seeks the exquisite agony of crisis could not ever dream of a more challenging one! "L'enfer ce sont les autres", <sup>Talk to the others</sup> had said Sartre, the French philosopher in one of his plays.

I believe I can assure Mr. Rocard that his colleagues, as ministers, will not create hell for him but certainly not paradise either.

Our councils will become the purgatorium out of which I believe the Community and the Common Agricultural Policy will emerge renewed.

In closing, I would like to thank you all for your cooperation and the encouragement in bringing this presidency's task to an end and I drink to the health of all.