system. It's peanuts compared to the real debt-crisis. The total Third World debt potentially in jeopardy is about \$850 billion. That's big; big enough to sink most of the banks of the world, even including the Swiss banks. It's peanuts compared to the real debt-crisis.

"The combined public and private debt of the United States is \$5.3 trillion. The combined public and private debt of West Germany is \$0.8 trillion, Italy \$0.4 trillion, France \$0.54 trillion. The debts of these countries are zooming, while production and employment are collapsing. The debtproblem of Ibero-America is relatively mere peanuts.

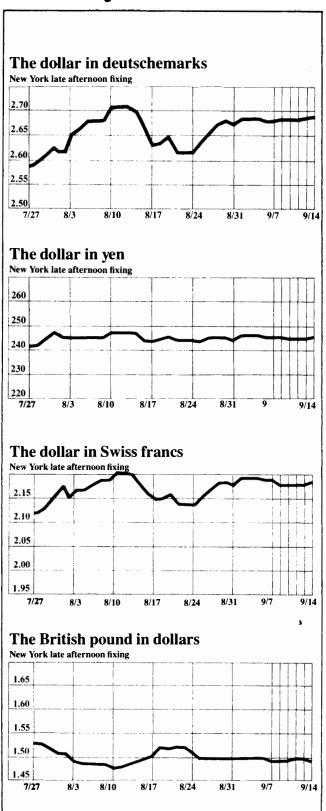
"A general international financial collapse, like that of 1931, could break out in almost any part of the world. What would turn waves of debt-defaults into such a financial collapse would be the chain-reaction set off by financial collapse of one of the leading industrialized nations, either in Europe or the United States. The whole system is on the edge right now; the crisis of Ibero-America is merely a small, if widely publicized aspect of the real problem. When the collapse comes, it will spill out of one country into all national economies, and before the first wave of 1931-style collapse has passed through, between \$1 and \$2 trillion of paper-values of stocks, bonds, mortgages, and so forth, will be wiped out, with as many as 80 percent of the banks of the United States hanging up a 'closed' sign on their doors.

"There is only one basic solution to this problem. We must put the United States into a 1939-43-style crash program of economic mobilization, and most of the Western world, including Ibero-America, too. We must take immediate, emergency action of profound and sweeping monetary reforms, designed to pump treasury-notes of governments, at low nominal interest rates, into lending for technologically advanced investments in job-creation and expanded production in agriculture, basic economic infrastructure, and industry, with heavy emphasis on advanced technologies in machine-tool categories of production and advanced capitalgoods production for basic industry.

"The basic cause of our debt-crisis is those policies operating in the United States since Johnson's 'Great Society' program, policies intended to drive the United States and most of the Western world besides into a condition gloriously described as 'post-industrial society.' The economies of the world could develop levels of increased output of physical goods sufficient to liquidate existing masses of debt, if monetary reforms and crash-program efforts for that purpose were instituted before the expected financial collapse strikes.

"The rallying of nations of Ibero-America around policies of the sort I have proposed in Operation Juárez, and the frequent favorable treatment of my name in the leading newspapers of Ibero-America, is a clear signal that those nations are seeking the kind of collaboration with President Reagan on monetary-reform measures which I have recommended be considered. The time has come to accept their offer of such collaboration. It is time to cease basing our national economic and foreign policy on faked figures."

Currency Rates



EIR September 27, 1983