

La Lagna di Mario Prestamburgo
Mario Prestamburgo's whine

Quirino Paris
July 7, 2006

Mario Prestamburgo has written the chair of my department, Professor Richard Howitt, complaining about the fact that my personal website hosts a series of documents which---in his view---are slanderous toward the Italian agricultural economists. The complaint was typed on letterhead of SIDEA (Società Italiana di Economia Agraria) and was signed by Prestamburgo on behalf of its presidential committee.

Prestamburgo writes: "*We strongly invite You to take any possible initiative to stop this ignominious campaign which is hosted by the Davis' internet site. Last, but not least, we also want to inform You that Prof. Paris was sued for defamation felony at the penal Court in Rome.*"

It is not the first time that Mario Prestamburgo has asked the chair of my department to take down something from my personal web page. Two years ago he wrote Professor Jim Chalfant that I had been expelled from SIDEA. Therefore, he asked him to eliminate from the web page my affiliation to the "*Società Italiana di Economia Agraria.*" It now reads:

"Proudly expelled from the Società Italiana di Economia Agraria for denouncing the colonizing activities of some of its members."

Hence, there is little chance that his new request will be satisfied. Prestamburgo's agitation, however, requires clarification:

1. I never conducted "*an injurious and calumnious campaign against the Italian Agrarian Economists*" and/or SIDEA. I merely accused Mario Prestamburgo of fixing the hiring process in agricultural economics by acting as a "pilot" of all the selection committees. In view of what happened recently in the soccer industry in Italy I should have said that he was the "designator" of the selection committee members. In fact, Mario Prestamburgo himself wrote that he was acting as a "cabina di regia" ("control center").
2. Mario Prestamburgo did not reveal to Professor Howitt that he and several other professors who brought a libel suit against me have been investigated for more than a year by the public prosecutor of Florence, Italy, Mr. Francesco Pappalardo, following my denunciation. His personal home, office and car (as well as those of seven other professors of agricultural economics) have been searched for evidence of criminal activity in relation to the university hiring process. In January 2006, Mr. Pappalardo requested the temporary interdiction from public office of six professors of agricultural economics, including Mario Prestamburgo. Now, the same investigation has been transferred to the district attorney of Trieste, Italy, the city of residence of Mario Prestamburgo.

3. Mario Prestamburgo and the members of the presidential committee of SIDEA
 - a) Abuse their role as representatives of SIDEA by wrapping themselves in its cloak.
 - b) They think that, in California, departments of agricultural economics operate as in Italy: that it is sufficient to write the chair of a department in order to discipline one of its members. They cannot imagine that department chairs in California are **servants** to the departmental members, not omnipotent gods.
 - c) They have little notion of a sacred American principle: **Freedom of Speech**.

4. I have a suggestion for Mario Prestamburgo: If he believes that the University of California is not responsive to his request of bringing me under control, why doesn't he file a libel suit against the University Chancellor ?