

Fusion Energy Foundation Holds Milestone Conference In West Germany

A conference on Energy and Technological Development, sponsored by the Fusion Energy Foundation, convened in this West German industrial city June 6, drawing more than 80 participants from major industries, universities, political parties, and government.

The conference here is the second major FEF-sponsored event in Europe, the first having been held in Stockholm in April. A third conference is already planned for October in Italy and will focus on discussion of a comprehensive Mediterranean development program.

Speakers at the conference went through a jam-packed agenda covering the entire range of political and technological requirements for a fusion-based economy. In the first presentation, American FEF member Eric Lerner pointed to the relatively limited supplies of uranium fuel as one important reason why fusion must be developed by 1990. For all practical purposes, he argued, uranium reserves will be exhausted by that time, assuming an annual economic growth rate of 20 percent. Such a rate — contrary to the usual 4-6 percent projections of European industrialists — will be absolutely necessary in order to avoid a repetition of the devastation wrought on the European population and economy by the Thirty Years War in the 17th century, or worse.

Status of Fusion Research

This was followed by a discussion of the current status of nuclear fusion research by European FEF member Ralf Schauerhammer, and a report by Dr. Seifritz, a well known reactor specialist, on the prospects for transitional technology leading up to fusion methods. Dr. Seifritz emphasized the usefulness of they type of high-temperature technologies being worked on in a West German project and its applicability for both "fusion torch" prototypes and the *sensible* gasification of coal (West Germany's most plentiful raw material).

MHD Versus Slave Labor

Two presentations during the afternoon session served to counterpose the push for a fusion-based economy

against the short-sighted, cost-efficiency, approach still prevalent in parts of the European energy sector. Representing the first approach was an industrial spokesman who outlined the immense potential in the field of magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) technology, which deals with the field-generating qualities of high-energy nuclear plasmas. In opposition to this, a representative of Ruhrkohle AG, the government-controlled coal conglomerate, argued for the benefits of modernizing existing coal-burning power plants in order to achieve somewhat higher temperatures. Echoing the pressure applied by Naderite environmentalists, he called for the use of excess exhaust for domestic heating purposes, adding that since such installations would be very labor-intensive, it could help solve the unemployment problem!

Hannes Horn, an FEF member and consultant for the lumber industry, then attacked this latter approach, stating that the investment costs for such projects would rise by at least 30 percent over current levels, without any corresponding increase in energy output. Horn went on to show how there must be no delay in developing the necessary advanced technologies, in view of the catastrophic devastation of such regions as the African Sahel and the Amazon basin, which has already resulted in serious shifts in world weather patterns.

The high spirits of the conference reached a peak when a scraggly member of the Rockefeller-connected environmentalist "Citizens' Initiative" group rose to demagogically assert that the FEF's views were "wonderful," and that he had "no differences" with the perspective presented. FEF member Hans Bandmann shot back, to the audience's delight, that on the contrary that organization and its allies have been responsible not only for sabotaging nuclear development, but for causing confusion and demoralization in the ranks of scientists and industrialists engaged in such work.

Conference participants included representatives from the Social Democratic Party's national executive, the Christian Democratic Union Research Committee, the West German parliament, Mercedes-Benz, the Thyssen steel firm, and the Procurement Office of the West German Federal Army.

EXCLUSIVE

FEF Director Reports On Oklahoma Energy Conference

U.S. independent oil and gas producers are convinced that they can tremendously increase energy production through increased rates of capital formation and exploration if government price regulations on interstate fuel are removed. However, they are completely ignorant of the nature and motivations of the political-economic forces behind Carter's restrictive energy policy and the Administration's drive for what producers and their political allies call "government socialism."

This state of affairs was made clear at a June 1-3 meeting of leading independent producers from the Oklahoma and Texas region and over 100 "consumer" delegates (including the author) from 25 states. The meeting was held at Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma under the auspices of the National Energy Congress.

The political impotence and self-delusion of the conference and its main participant, the Independent

Petroleum Association of America (IPAA), were exemplified in the final keynote address by Oklahoma Governor David Boren. Boren was introduced as "a future President" and was otherwise considered by conferees to be "a straight Democrat." After opening with the well-worn litany that President Carter is to be praised for identifying "the problem," Boren then "took off the gloves" to attack the Carter-Schlesinger energy plan for not stimulating production of nearly enough energy and for leading to the curtailment of private freedoms and the end of the "free enterprise system." Having said this, however, Boren then reverted in his conclusion to the suicidal political tack of praising Carter and Schlesinger for their "sincerity and intelligence," qualities in which those individuals compare unfavorably to the hyena and the computer.

Practically all conference participants were committed to growth and development, some individuals being among the nation's outstanding representatives of the American Whig tradition. This commitment, however, was interpreted almost strictly in terms of the parody of industrial capitalism that "free enterprise" has become under monetarist hegemony.

Politics of the Conference

The conference itself, organized by a combination of Phillips University, the Oklahoma State Energy Office, the Enid Chamber of Commerce and related oil and gas groups, aimed at convincing representatives from non-producing states that the industry's position (for deregulation) was not simply self-serving, but represented the only way to increase energy supplies and meet consumer needs. This central message was pursued relentlessly in workshops, speeches, and debates with pro-Carter-Schlesinger government officials, and, in fact, proved persuasive to state energy commissioners from industrial Pennsylvania and Ohio, farm representatives from Kansas, and utility and other industrial customers who joined in supporting deregulation in the final conference statement.

What both groups failed to see, however, was the trap into which they had fallen by accepting the economic ground-rules of the present monetary system and the ultranominalist political categories of "producer" and "consumer." As this publication has documented, the capital shortage and profits squeeze of the oil industry is not due to price control and related government regulations or the inevitable escalation of costs associated with secondary or new exploratory recovery as primary factors. It is due rather to the inflated costs and financing charges directly resulting from the exponential growth of fictitious capital in the dollar speculative bubble. Not recognizing that fundamental causal factor, the industry has joined in helping to cut its own throat by jumping on every piece of nonsense concocted by the "enemies of free enterprise" for the benefit of credulous conservatives, especially the nostrums that "the era of cheap energy is gone forever," that "the security of the country depends on breaking the grip of the OPEC cartel," and that the long range solution to energy needs will be provided by solar energy!

In the main public event at the conference — a debate on deregulation — Dr. Phil Gramm, a leading conserva-

tive economist from Texas A and M, excoriated Lee White, formerly of the Federal Power Commission, for representing "the bureaucrats" who were strangling the workings of the market place, that all-powerful essence of capitalism, the base of the American system so presciently understood by the "revolutionary" Adam Smith. Unfortunately, Prof. Gramm did not know that for Alexander Hamilton, the actual co-author of America's system of *industrial* capitalism, Smith was just another British monetarist faker. Nor had Prof. Gramm, despite all his laudable scholarly efforts at uncovering Fabian humbuggery, ever heard of the Tri-lateral Commission, the authors and sponsors of all the monetarist, anti-industry policies Carter is inflicting on the U.S.

For all their shortcomings, however, the "wildcat" energy producers and their Whig allies represent one of the purest American expressions of commitment to technological progress and "getting the job done." Enid itself sits at the edge of one of the potentially greatest gas fields in the world, if advances continue to be made in drilling to record depths. Development of this field is a challenge the independents are itching to take on. And nothing but the highest forms of patriotism — in the Humanist tradition — were expressed by outstanding speakers such as former astronaut Gene Cernan and University of Texas chemical engineering professor John McKetta, who properly identified the unique legacy and potentiality of the U.S. to lead world development.

Perhaps most importantly, the conferees with whom this writer spoke were almost all people who care enough about their nation and humanity to listen and carefully consider new and more coherently formulated ideas on what must be done. Response to the Fusion Energy Foundation perspective on rapid fission-fusion development and to the Labor Party program for a new monetary and credit system spread sufficiently quickly that a major Associated Press article went out from the conference featuring the writer's warning of the war danger associated with Carter's policies.

There is, in short, no question but that a political labor movement moving for Carter's impeachment and putting the U.S. in the lead for world development would find overwhelming support among the riggers, farmers, businessmen, and scientists of independent oil and gas industry.

— Dr. Morris Levitt

West German Press Reports Mexican Reactor Order

The June 8 visits of West German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher and President Walter Scheel to Mexico could lead to Mexico's order of a nuclear reactor from West Germany according to several West German press and radio sources in the last week. Although the report has not been confirmed in Mexico, the daily newspaper of the West German capital, the *Bonn General Anzeiger*, interpreted such an order as an attack on President Jimmy Carter in its June 8 issue, "Mexico is interested in nuclear deals with West Germany, since the