

# Another popular mandate for Helmut Schmidt

*The international reaction to West Germany's Hesse elections*

West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's political stature received an additional boost from last week's election results in the populous West German state of Hesse. The ruling state coalition of Schmidt's Social Democrats and the Free Democrats easily outstripped the Christian Democratic Union challenger, which had based its campaign on a concoction of scandals directed against Schmidt along with mindless anti-Soviet and pro-Zionist propaganda.

The press in Germany and abroad is agreeing that the residents of Hesse who went to the polls Oct. 8 to vote SPD did so from an underlying awareness of the momentous nature of Schmidt's international initiatives, particularly his launching, with France, of the European Monetary Fund and his recent economic treaty with the Soviet Union. The Soviet news agency Tass broke its usual silence on regional elections in foreign countries to announce the failure of a "plan by reactionaries" in Hesse to "topple the legitimate Bonn government." Schmidt, Tass observed, can now pursue his policies without the domestic restrictions placed upon him up to now. And the conservative West German newspaper *Die Welt* compared the electorate's long-range view of Schmidt's policies to the apparent scorn for the CDU's scandal-mongering and election maneuvers.

The official results show only a modest shift from the last Hesse elections in 1974, with the SPD receiving 44.3 percent of the vote, a gain of approximately 1 percent. In tandem with the FDP's 6.6 percent, this makes a small but viable majority over the Christian Democrats' 47.0 percent, which in turn represents a loss of 1 percent.

But this modest shift must be weighed against the CDU's decade-long pattern of uninterrupted electoral gains in Hesse, including its upset victory in Frankfurt, Hess's largest city, last year. In addition, the SPD has been hit with a series of damaging scandals in the state, one of which forced the resignation of Hesse Minister President Osswald in 1975. Last week's results have immediate implications for elections in other states.

That is precisely Chancellor Schmidt's reading of the situation. "Now I can leave the Federal Republic for Japan with hope and a good conscience," Schmidt said after hearing the preliminary results. "I take the victory of the Hesse coalition as an approval of my government's policy." At the same time, the position of Schmidt's Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (Chairman of the FDP) has also been "significantly strengthened," according to the daily *Die Welt*. Previously, it had been widely predicted that Genscher's FDP would fail to win even enough votes to remain in the state legislature.

## **'The ground would have trembled'**

The City of London's plans for weakening the Schmidt government and blocking the establishment of the European Monetary Fund as an alternative to the International Monetary Fund will now have to undergo drastic revisions. The notoriously anti-Schmidt London *Times* mourned in an Oct. 10 editorial that "the ground would have trembled in Bonn" if the Christian Democrats had won in Hesse. Schmidt's coalition with the Free Democrats would have been jeopardized, while the CDU would have gained a "powerful psychological advantage."

But since none of this has happened, the major option to topple Schmidt will now revolve around Franz Josef Strauss, the British agent-of-influence who leads the Christian Social Union in the state of Bavaria. For years Strauss has threatened to break his coalition with the Christian Democratic Union to found a nationwide neofascist, environmentalist party. The London *Times* announced last week that the time has finally come for Strauss to make his move, and predicts that if Strauss "gets his way in the spring, the face of West German politics will be profoundly changed."

In reality, the losses suffered by the Christian Democrats in Hesse are the direct result of that party's willingness to act as a battering ram for policies dictated by the City of London and allied political networks such as the "free-enterprise"-advocating Mont Pelerin Society.

Over the past months the Christian Democrats have passed resolutions condemning the European Monetary Fund, have accused Schmidt of tolerating the "self-Finlandization" of West Germany, and have launched a series of irrelevant scandals which, among other things, have obstructed the government's efforts to apprehend wanted international terrorists.

But what finally turned the stomachs of the Hesse electorate was the CDU's recent defense of the role of Israel and the fascist Lebanese Falange in the Mideast. Helmut Kohl, national chairman of the CDU, went so far as to write a letter to Schmidt accusing him of committing "genocide" against "Christians in Lebanon," because Schmidt is supporting the Syrian government with grants of development aid.

### **An electorate with the long view**

As an independent analyst pointed out in the newspaper *Die Welt*, it is clear that the Hesse electorate did not base their decisions on "scandals or other election tricks," but rather on the "long-term information flow" provided by Schmidt's collaborators in the SPR. Not the least of these long-

term considerations were Schmidt's pronuclear development policies. Those policies prevailed despite the strong antinuclear current existing within the SPD machine in Hesse, and the European Labor Party's vigorous campaigning for nuclear technology functioned as a crucial countervailing influence in Schmidt's favor.

Schmidt himself has laid out the two alternative political geometries that can emerge "post-Hesse." In an interview with the magazine *Stern*, Schmidt predicted that if Franz Josef Strauss goes ahead with his "fourth party" option, the splitting process within the opposition parties will not stop there. The next step, he said, would be the splitting off of the CDU's left-wing faction, modeled on any number of splinter parties that came into being during Weimar Germany.

Schmidt proposed that a more "politically hygienic" alternative would be for the opposition to lay its cards on the table and make Strauss into their candidate for Chancellor in the 1980 elections. Schmidt knows full well who would win such a contest.

—John Sigerson

## **The EAP's program won in Hesse, but its votes were stolen**

"The first thing you have to realize about the Hessen election, despite the obvious fact that the European Labor Party (EAP) was robbed of all but 519 votes, is that it was the EAP program of nuclear energy and the European Monetary Fund that won the vote for Schmidt's SDP," EAP chairman Helga Zepp-LaRouche said in a post-election interview Oct. 10.

"Look at how all those parties that ridiculed the EAP program lost. The CDU lost one percent of their base, their first electoral loss in Hessen since 1966. The FDP lost .6 percent of their standing, knocking them down to only 6.8 percent of the total vote. And the environmentalist parties, the wretched GLU and GAZ, together polled only 2 percent, a third of the admittedly poor showing they achieved in the Hamburg and Lower Saxony elections this summer.

"So every party that opposed the EAP program lost votes. But what happened to the EAP's votes? We got 116 in Wiesbaden, 138 in Frankfurt, 43 in Biblis — the site of the Biblis "C" nuclear reactor we campaigned for — and 37 in Darmstadt: 519 in total. Can this be the outcome of four TV and radio broadcasts, hundreds of thousands of leaflets distributed, dozens of presentations to high school classes? What about the tens of thousands of Hessen voters who purchased, and for a good price, EAP programmatic literature?

"We are already investigating several leads in this

fraud," Zepp-LaRouche said. "First of all, after similar fraud in the 1976 federal election campaign, members of the EAP executive were told by a high FDP official that although he knew for sure EAP votes were stolen, there was no way this could be proven in court.

"Second, there is a press connection. The press either ignored the EAP in the closing weeks of the election, or dismissed it as insignificant. But right after the elections, the Oct. 10 *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* — one of West Germany's most influential daily newspapers — wrote that the EAP 'was not able to convert its relatively extensive election campaign into votes.' Why would the FAZ change its opinion about our campaign from one of neglect into admitting it was 'relatively extensive' right after the voting? Isn't a good showing at the polls usually the proof of an extensive campaign?

"We also know that in the elections this August and September in America, evidence of massive vote fraud against a cothinker of ours, the U.S. Labor Party has been presented in court, specifically in Michigan, and these cases have been connected to Zionist networks that also run drugs and terrorism. In Hesse, we will be investigating Zionist networks in the trade unions, and the Willy Brandt network in the Social Democratic Party too. In the case of the opposition CDU, we will investigate the links between that party and the Black Guelph nobility still running loose in Hesse."