

West German elections: mediocrity to disaster?

by Michael Liebig and Rainer Apel in Wiesbaden

The impending national elections on March 6 find the West German republic in a situation of unprecedented instability. Not only is it rather uncertain whether the elections will result in a more cohesive political majority in the federal parliament; it is equally uncertain whether the economic incompetence of all the major political parties will be overcome soon enough to open ways for efficiently fighting the economic depression. The main disease in German politics has been, and still is pragmatism, and with a very few exceptions, political life in West Germany has been characterized to this day by an attempt to make this pragmatism even more pervasive. It is this fixation on a "middle-of-the-road" approach which ironically has led the country into its present extreme crisis.

The crisis is economic, political, and ideological. It could soon lead to a situation of "ungovernability," and finally to a fascist "technocratic" form of an emergency regime. History does not repeat itself in form, but in substance similar crises could give rise to historically similar results.

The economic problem

There are already 3.5 million unemployed in the Federal Republic, 2.5 million officially and 1 million unofficially, as well as 1.5 million on short hours. The most dangerous aspect is the tempo of joblessness: a doubling within six months. Because of West Germany's export dependence, the world depression has hit with special intensity. But external factors are compounded by the government's economic policies,

which have been guided by the Swiss through Economics Minister Graf von Lambsdorff and the central bank. The belief prevails that Germany must fatalistically accept "restructuring" away from its industrial strength, and "adjust" to the depression.

This suicidal policy orientation is strongest in the small liberal party, the Free Democrats, who have degenerated into a splinter party below the 5 percent threshold since they committed political treason against former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt on Oct. 1, 1982. The main argument brought forward by the Free Democrats in justifying their leaving the coalition with Schmidt was that the Social Democrats were a political obstacle to the "necessary process of adjustment." The FDP's position of influence over the years has been of utmost detriment to the West German economy, and has been strengthened by the fact that when the Free Democrats joined a coalition with the opposition Christian Democrats on October 1, 1982, they joined a political partner with basically the same outlook: insistence on the invisible hand of the "free market," rejection of the need for a dirigistic credit-generating policy, and an almost religious belief that the main cause of the economic evil is the high wages in West Germany.

The FDP/CDU/CSU coalition which has ruled Germany since last October is one of utmost mediocrity, and the fact that it is this kind of coalition which has found the welcome of German industrialists and businessmen speaks for itself: the rule of mediocrity over the brains of "the economy" is as devastating as over the brains of "politics". There hasn't been

any world economic initiative worth mentioning coming from West Germany since 1978 under the government of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. Schmidt's subsequent passivity has continued under the present government, led by CDU Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

It is known to Bonn insider circles that Kohl would very much like the Free Democrats to re-enter parliament on March 6, because he would like to rely on the assumed "expertise" of the two FDP cabinet members, Graf Lambsdorff and Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher. The CSU would like to occupy these crucial ministries with people of its own choice—hence, the strong and escalating attacks from the side of the CSU on the FDP.

At least some people in the German businessmen world are aware of Kohl's incompetence, and of the hazardous position of the FDP. They set their hopes on Franz-Josef Strauss, the chairman of the CSU, governor of Bavaria, and probable new foreign minister and vice-chancellor in a continued Kohl government without the FDP.

Strauss has indeed done some worthwhile things in the economic sphere, and has promoted the nuclear sector and the armaments and aerospace sectors, in which cooperation with France has been very important. Yet, for example, at the recent CSU party conference, during a two-hour-plus speech Strauss said not a word about the world depression. His advocacy of nuclear power and infrastructural projects, praiseworthy as it is, offers no solution for the global depression: and he simply aims to keep domestic unemployment at the current level (instead of the anticipated 5 million or more) through a combination of bitter austerity and "industrial incentives." "He does not understand the imperative of reversing the destruction of labor power and industrial capacities, above all in the civilian steel-producing sector; it must be assumed that his policy of industrial "encouragement" would rely more on efforts in the military-industrial sector. Strauss, like the leading Christian Democrats, does not care about the ongoing international fight for a New World Economic Order; for them, development of the Third World is an extension of the competition between the East and the West, rather than a prospect of building huge future export markets for German industry.

The SPD and the Greens

One can only explain the widespread belief in Strauss as an alternative to the currently ruling mediocrity by looking at the disaster that a new Social Democratic Party (SPD)-led government under Hans-Jochen Vogel would mean for West Germany. Vogel, unlike Helmut Schmidt, has no understanding of economics at all; he cultivates the profile of a person "at peace with man and nature." His ideological background is in the "solidarist" current within the Catholic Church, and he demagogically presents himself on election campaign posters as the man "who will make it" through "partnership and integration."

These words are meaningless to the SPD's traditional labor voter base; they are designed above all to address the German ecology movement. Vogel believes he can win back some of the percentage points gained in recent elections at the SPD's expense by the new political vehicle of the ecologist, the Green Party, and that he could find an acceptable accommodation with the Greens once they entered the parliament.

The formula found for this is "peace with nature," and it is the most prominent passage in the SPD's election campaign platform. It says that jobs can be created by conservation projects, e.g., cleaning up waters and seas, protecting the German forests against acid rain, renovating village structures, and improving neighborhood services. For hundreds of thousands of German industrial workers in steel, construction, shipbuilding, and most of all in the nuclear power sector, this SPD platform has nothing to offer. If this platform becomes government policy, the decline in the quality of German labor power would vastly accelerate, from current high skill levels to the level appropriate to ecologist make-work schemes, a replay of the Nazis' labor-intensive "job creation" policy.

As German Foreign Minister Walter Rathenau said at the beginning of the 20th century, the economy is Germany's fate. Today, this is more important and more correct than ever. The Weimar Republic perished because of mass unemployment, which created the indispensable precondition for Hitler's seizure of power. Today more than ever, the question of mass unemployment defines the life of the Federal Republic. Because of the destruction of historical and institutional continuity in Germany through Nazism and war, the economy has become the principal mechanism of social cohesion. Mass unemployment and a deteriorating economy must therefore have fatal consequences for the West German state as a whole. Equally fatal are state programs that seek, in the style of the 1930s, to lower unemployment figures without any perspective for rejuvenating civilian high-technology sectors. Unless the economic depression is overcome, the advent of an "emergency regime" is unavoidable. Such an emergency regime would operate on the basis of existing emergency laws, lying ready in the desk drawers of the Ministries. This applies particularly to the so-called "small" emergency laws in case of an economic emergency (laws to secure labor and the economy). Of course, such a regime would not be "Nazi"; there would be no swastikas or anti-Semitism (though mass expulsion of foreign workers is on the agenda). Rather, such an authoritarian-technocratic regime would try to legitimize itself by talking about "crisis management."

In the March 6 parliamentary elections none of the parties represented in the Bundestag has a program to overcome the depression. The Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union (CDU/CSU), the Free Democratic Party, and the Social Democrats are all incapable of mounting such a pro-

gram. The line is out that there is no "prescription" (*Patent-rezept*) that could solve the unemployment problem over the short or medium term, just as in the United States people are fond of repeating that there are "no simple answers." In little circles and behind closed doors, leading West German politicians of all stripes are instead speculating about emergency crisis-management measures under depression conditions. Yet, which party comes out ahead in has paramount significance for the survival of the Federal Republic and for Europe. Neither a CDU/CSU-led government nor a regime of the Social Democrats in alliance (of whatever form) with the "Green" ecofascists will provide stability in an intensifying depression. But there are still important differences between them.

The election stakes

Should the Social Democrats win the upper hand together with the ecofascists, then an immediate destabilization will begin, first of an economic nature: capital flight, further collapse of domestic investments, pressure on the deutsche-mark, rapid increase in unemployment. It hardly makes any difference whether the ecofascists come into the government (which is unlikely). The fact that the ecofascists would be able to directly influence the overall political climate in Bonn would in itself paralyze the economy. At the same time, what remains of foreign policy channels capable of maintaining sane relations in Europe and averting brinksmanship between the two superpowers would be destroyed.

Under these circumstances, it is unlikely that a reunification of East and West Germany would come about. It is also extremely unlikely that there will be a neutralization of Federal Republic in any formal sense. For the Soviets, a sparrow in the hand (East Germany) is always preferable to a dubious dove in the bush (a demilitarized, neutral, unified Germany). Why should the Soviets relinquish veto powers over East Germany, when a politically disintegrating West Germany in a state of economic agony would no longer constitute any kind of strategic counterweight?

The Green Party's ecofascists are the most visible and most dangerous expression of the political sickness of the Federal Republic. True, they are internationally directed, controlled and financed; but their growth since the late 1970s remains an unequivocal proof of the emptiness, mediocrity, and cowardice of the established parties in Federal Republic, at least since the 1963 ouster of Christian Democratic Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and his policy of coordination with France's Charles de Gaulle. The ecofascists were never really combated by the established parties; they were "criticized," and individual representatives of the established parties pragmatically adapted themselves to the new phenomenon, like the Social Democratic governor of Hesse, Holger Börner, who attacked the Greens as fascists and several months later ended up working with them.

Leading industrialists and Christian Democrats now talk

about the danger of "Green Ayatollahs" who are destroying West Germany as an industrial state, but this does not sound very convincing. Even more alarming than the increase of the ecofascists is the moral and political weakness of the established parties, which have countered the cult of the irrational with nothing but cowardice and mediocrity.

The ecofascists and the associated peace movement are directed and financed from both Eastern and Western sources. Besides the nation's Lutheran and Roman Catholic churches, through which oligarchical and British networks operate, the ecofascists and their peace movement are financed by the Institute for Policy Studies and the Rubin Foundation, as the case of former Green Party head Peatra Kelly illustrates. Eastern intelligence, which has an obvious stake in undermining NATO's strongest European component, also finances and controls ecofascist activities, as in the case of current Green Party head Rudolf Bahro, an "exile" from the German Democratic Republic who maintains ties to the East German secret service.

Here, then, are the alternatives for the Federal Republic. If the ecofascists in tandem with the Social Democrats under Vogel, Willy Brandt, and Peter Glotz come to power in Bonn, then an immediate transformation begins to economic and strategic chaos. Such a period of chaos would be in fact a transitional regime toward a fascist-technocratic emergency dictatorship.

Should the Christian Democrats gain the upper hand on March 6, this would not restore stability, for then the ecofascists and their peace movement would start a "peace mobilization" which will intersect mass social unrest because of youth unemployment, teacher unemployment, and discontent among the victims of social cutback. An explosion will result by early summer.

The European Labor Party (EAP), whose electoral campaign had been blacked out of the major news media until February, is running as the party of the New World Economic Order, with a program of gearing up idle industrial capacity for exports to the underdeveloped sector. Because the tiny EAP has now qualified as a national electoral party, the media were legally compelled to provide 10 minutes' worth of television slots, plus some radio time, to EAP national chairman Helga Zepp-LaRouche.

"Why should there be over 30 million unemployed in the industrial nations when they could be producing what millions of other people need to survive?" Zepp-LaRouche had said in her broadcasts. Her TV spots on Feb. 7 and Feb. 8 TV sparked a degree of political excitement that EAP campaign workers have never before seen in the party's nine-year history. For hours after each appearance, the switchboards at EAP headquarters were jammed as hundreds of viewers called in. The TV stations are now refusing to allow the EAP to participate in televised election debates among the parties, however.

The present situation in the Federal Republic opens up

opportunities not only for the EAP, but for those abroad who are not indifferent to the fate of Germany. The statesmanlike intervention of French President François Mitterrand in the Bundestag on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the German-French Friendship Treaty on Jan. 12 is an example. This applies not only to Mitterrand's opposition to suicidal versions of "arms control" sponsored by the NATO bureaucracy, the State Department, and Moscow, but also to his courageous words on the necessity of a New World Economic Order, which would make the Third World and Europe true industrial partners.

Interview: Ehud Olmert

Israeli legislator: 'Anti-Semitic reborn in Greens' outlook'

In a statement for attribution made to *EIR* Middle East correspondent Mark Burdman on Feb. 14, Israeli Member of Parliament Ehud Olmert denounced recent propaganda issued by the Green Party ("*die Grünen*") of West Germany as containing "positions and views which are traditionally anti-Semitic." Olmert labelled these views "dangerous," and warned that they could have an adverse effect on the future of German-Israeli relations "if they indicate a new wave of anti-Semitism within Germany."

Olmert is an influential member of Israel's ruling Likud Party. In Israel's parliament, or Knesset, he holds an important post on the Foreign Relations and Defense Committee. He has also won a reputation for being one of Israel's most persistent opponents of organized crime, both in Israel and abroad.

Speaking by telephone from his Knesset office in Jerusalem, Olmert made the following statement:

"I read with apprehension that the Green Party included in its official publication and material positions and views which are traditionally anti-Semitic.

"We are aware of the fact, very much to our dismay, that this party is very much anti-Israel with regard to the Middle East problem. This in itself is not illegitimate, but when this is joined by an anti-Semite approach, it becomes dangerous and must be addressed.

"Those of us in Israel who are in favor of improving relations with Germany are particularly sensitive to anything which comes from Germany that is tainted by anti-Semitism. We hope that this party will not indicate a new wave of anti-Semitism within Germany that may set back the relations between the two nations."

Olmert indicated that he had read about the greens' anti-Semitic propaganda in Israel's newspapers Feb. 14, particularly the mass-circulation Hebrew-language daily *Ha'aretz*, which carried a prominent news item dispatched by Bonn correspondent Daniel Dagan on the theme that the greens are the "new anti-Semites of Germany."

Dagan's dispatch was based on analysis of a new "greenie calendar" which is getting wide circulation in Germany. The calendar contains many irrationalist elements which have characteristic anti-Semitic components.

Prior to Olmert's declaration, several Israeli military spokesmen, intelligence officials, and media experts had privately told *EIR* that they regarded the greens as "fascists" and as "reminiscent of the precursors to the Nazis in the late 1920s and early 1930s."

Olmert's statement echoes in crucial respects evidence published by the European Labor Party, in a widely circulated Summer 1982 document entitled "Stoppt die Grüne Gefahr" ("Stop the Green Peril"), that the Green Party's ideology and belief-structure was in most basic points identical to the irrationalist ideologies that produced the Nazis and other fascist movements of the interwar years. This document, written under the direction of European Labor Party chairwoman Helga Zepp-LaRouche, presented the extensive evidence of the Green Party links to leaders of Germany's neo-Nazi parties.

Since that document was published, *Executive Intelligence Review* has been at the forefront in exposing the greens' links, financial and otherwise, with Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi, who declared in a January 1983 interview with French and American journals that he thought "Hitler was right" in fighting against a "Zionist subversive plot" against Germany in the 1930s. Several top Green Party representatives have informed *EIR* investigators that they cherish their links with Qaddafi, who provides a key financial base for their activities.

EIR has established that the "green movement" operates as a sub-unit of the "Neo-Nazi International," run out of Lausanne, Switzerland, by Swiss Nazi Party banker François Genoud and by Scottish Rite Freemasonic oligarchs in Malmö, Sweden. Genoud is, along with Qaddafi, the main bankroller of former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella, who has been secretly preparing translations of Adolf Hitler's works into Arabic for prospective 50th-anniversary celebrations of Hitler's rise to power in the Arab-Islamic world. Ben Bella, whose house was recently raided by French police, maintains extensive contacts to the "greens."

EIR is preparing explosive new feature material for international circulation during coming weeks on the greenie Nazi-Qaddafi connections. *EIR*'s founding editor Lyndon H. LaRouche has indicated that the truth behind the "Lausanne Connection" controlling the Green Party will reveal many of the truths of the past 200 years of history that have until now been tightly covered up.