

Helga Zepp-LaRouche pushes for seat in German parliament

by John Sigerson

No sooner did the replica Liberty Bell ring to mark Germany's official reunification on Oct. 3, than Germans got down to preparing to exercise that liberty by choosing the first freely elected all-German parliament in the postwar era. It seems all but certain that the Christian Democratic Union of Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who has managed the reunification process since the Berlin Wall came down one year ago, will maintain a solid plurality in the future government, especially since his opponent for the chancellor's post, Social Democrat Oskar Lafontaine, has made himself hated not only by his opponents, but even within his own party because of his well-known support for the former communist East German regime, and his habit of taking every opportunity to heap mockery on the beautiful historic moment which Germany is living through at present.

But far more is at stake than simply gate-receipts of the two major parties. With 17 million new citizens in Germany's eastern part, and the tremendous challenge of economic development which that represents, Germany's entire political landscape is undergoing a rapid transformation, which in part will be reflected in the results gained by a number of smaller parties now making bids for seats in the new parliament. Depending on their success, these parties will be able to wield considerable influence in the coming years over the direction which Germany's economic and foreign policy takes. For, unlike in the United States, where a political movement such as Lyndon LaRouche's can gain 30-40% of the popular vote and still have absolutely no official voice in the nation's elected bodies, in Germany the threshold for representation is a mere 5%.

German voters therefore have been far from indifferent to the smaller but crystal-clear voice of the Patriots for Germany party, which, led by Lyndon LaRouche's brilliant and energetic wife Helga Zepp-LaRouche, is campaigning on a three-plank platform: 1) immediate implementation of the "Productive Triangle" policy of rapid economic infrastructure development as outlined by Lyndon LaRouche and his associates; 2) effective steps against the invasion of the drug mafia, especially in the East, by going after its soft underbelly, its banking and real estate connections; and 3) uncompromising opposition to the Anglo-American military adventure in the Persian Gulf, and posing a comprehensive Middle East economic development program as an alternative.

Making the 'Triangle' a reality

By far the most intense interest has been generated by the "Triangle" proposal, because the Kohl government, although inclined in this direction and away from the Anglo-American free-market insanity, has failed to present a clear-cut economic policy to German voters. A series of six nationwide televised messages from Helga Zepp-LaRouche have therefore had an impact far beyond their modest scale. Her second broadcast on Nov. 11 showed her standing before a map of Europe outlining the three hubs—Paris, Berlin, and Vienna—and explaining, "This region of 100 million people, to which also belong the five new federal states, has to be immediately developed infrastructurally, with ICE [high-speed railways], Transrapid [maglev trains], the expansion of nuclear energy, and the most modern production facilities. And if we connect the Productive Triangle with the other industrial centers of Europe, in Poland, the Baltic states, the Soviet Union, Hungary, and Southeast Europe, then it can even become the locomotive for the world economy, and the hope for 5 billion people! Who else can produce the many goods which this hungry world needs so desperately? Only from this, the Productive Triangle, can those strong impulses be radiated, which can overcome the worldwide economic crisis, and establish a new, just world economic order."

The same broadcast also showed footage of Lyndon LaRouche's famous Oct. 12, 1988 press conference at the Kempinski Bristol Hotel in Berlin, where LaRouche first floated the proposal. "We say to Moscow: We will help you!" LaRouche can be heard saying.

As Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche has repeatedly stressed, the Triangle proposal is not just a "good idea," but must be discussed in depth and in detail by every policy group, every industrial planning team which is involved in infrastructure planning activity. And indeed, this is occurring, as copies of the 200-page German-language proposal are being grabbed up by economic planners throughout Germany (see *EIR*, Sept. 7, 14, 21, *Science & Technology* sections). But not only them: in the state of Saxony (formerly part of East Germany), for instance, the newspaper *Weiss-Grün* has run large extracts of the Triangle proposal, along with a call by local candidate Renate Müller-de Paoli mobilizing citizens to force the federal government to seek a peaceful solution to the Middle East crisis.

Overcoming the communist legacy

Interest is naturally the most intense in eastern Germany, which was plundered for 40 years by the communist regime. Here is a passage from a field report prepared by campaign volunteers there:

“East Berliners complain that the ‘Wessies’ [Westerners] come charging in with money and their fixed plans garnered from experience with firms in the West. Then they find that it is utterly inapplicable to the reality of what has been left by the SED [communist] regime, and they are helpless as to how to make the transition work. . . . In Thuringia, meetings with industry representatives revealed the same problem. For example, the West German firm Ritter-Sport invested DM 1 million in a chocolate factory it took over, and put out a new product called ‘Thuringian’ chocolate. But no one would buy it, because everyone in the eastern part of Germany wants to buy Western goods. The factory owners just packed up and left! Other factories close down after being taken over by West Germans because they can’t make them function the way they want quickly enough.

“In the population this has bred despair. In Weimar, people are obsessed by fears for their own existence: ‘Will I be next to be fired?’ is the question everyone is asking. Factories which are being taken over and modernized, are throwing masses out of work, and ‘no one knows who is taking over what firm,’ as one person put it.

“Another source of complaints is the fact that the old SED industrial apparatus still exists in large part, so that ‘old debts are being paid,’ i.e., the SED bureaucrats who have lost political power formally, are making sure that their people get jobs or keep jobs, and that other people are unemployed. This has been described as *Kleinkrieg* [low-intensity warfare] in the factories, to keep one’s job. As a result, even people with the best intentions tend to think in terms of ‘my job’ or, at best, ‘east Germany,’ and need a broader outlook on how the entire reorganization process should take place, and how Germany as a whole should develop Eastern Europe. This is the way people express the problem to us. Therefore, they like the Triangle concept.”

One candidate who has been presenting concrete solutions to these transitional problems is Renate Müller-de Paoli in Dresden, the capital of Saxony. In her meetings with factory workers and managers there, she has presented the Patriots’ “Emergency Program to Save Jobs,” whose key demand is for the creation of a completely new instrumentality for the creation of new, low-interest credit earmarked for productive enterprises, modeled on the ideas of U.S. Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton and the 19th-century German-American economist Friedrich List. For the transitional phase, it recommends that Germany directly sign over credits to eastern German firms for them to finance production of capital goods destined for the Soviet Union, since this is the only way to ensure that the money does not simply get swallowed up in the chaos of the current Soviet bureaucratic

mechanisms. As for who owns what in eastern Germany, the Patriots argue that it is absurd to wait five to six years in order to clear up the property titles before investment funds can flow in; rather, the credits should be granted right away in order to get production going, and compensation can be paid later once the ownership questions are sorted out.

Oskar Lafontaine’s name is mud

The idea of the Triangle and rapid economic expansion has become so popular, that one Christian Democratic politician, Lothar Späth, devoted part of a speech to the need to build high-speed rail links throughout Europe, adding, “It is possible that we will very quickly have such a high-speed triangle from Paris to Budapest.”

But as for the Social Democratic Party (SPD), these economic policy questions are fracturing it, since many of its members heartily detest the lead candidate, Oskar Lafontaine. In Berlin, for instance, one is struck by the contrast between election posters put up by the CDU, which in a general way reference the very real problems of economic reconstruction and the disastrous security threats from the armed anarchists who have even attempted to take over parts of the city; and the SPD’s main poster, which wins the prize for the most vapid in the postwar era: “With us, he’ll succeed,” showing a baby in diapers attempting to raise a heavy dumbbell.

As for Lafontaine himself, SPD officials in the industrial Ruhr district have been openly complaining that, “In the eyes of the voters, the SPD has become the party of nay-sayers, bickerers, and those who incite social envy; and if this doesn’t change, not only Lafontaine, but the entire party is finished.”

It has already opened a fissure in the Ruhr city of Dortmund, where one SPD official who established an opposition faction to Lafontaine within the party has just been kicked out of the SPD altogether—a situation reminiscent of that of 15 years ago, when SPD bureaucrats declared Helga Zepp-LaRouche and a number of her associates who had formed a European Labor Party, to be “incompatible” with the SPD.

‘Stop the Frankfurt drug mafia!’

The Patriots’ campaign against the financial and high-level political string-pullers of Dope, Inc. has been particularly hot in Frankfurt and Berlin, two cities which are being most heavily utilized as a jumping-off place for the dope pushers to set up shop throughout all of Eastern Europe.

In Frankfurt, Patriots candidate Volker Hassmann, a journalist by profession, has run his campaign under the slogan “Stop the Frankfurt Roulette of Drugs, Money-Laundering, Organized Crime, Corruption, and the Drug Lobby,” and has focused his guns on the real background of the “Beker Affair,” in which the so-called “king of the Frankfurt red light district,” Hersh Beker, was able to get himself released from jail pending an investigation and slipped out to Israel. Hassmann has pointed out that years ago, when the current



Patriots for Germany candidate Helga Zepp-LaRouche, shown here during her recent trip to Budapest with the executive of the Hungarian Association of Former Political Prisoners.

governor of Hesse was mayor of Frankfurt, he had made many real estate deals with Beker in the course of his plans to relocate the bordello district. But as Hassmann pointed out in an interview, "The Beker brothers' dirty deals are not the critical thing. The interesting question is: What is the structure of the criminal apparatus which represents the link between prostitution, drugs, and the mafia?" He has therefore demanded a full investigation of the real estate speculator Josef Buchmann, one of the big-timers along with Ignaz Bubis. According to the French author Jacques Derogy, in his book *Die israelische Verbindung, (The Israeli Connection)*, Buchmann has numerous ties with the international heroin smuggling business.

In Berlin, the drug issue is, if anything, even hotter, especially since one city senator, who is a member of the anarchist-environmentalist Alternative List, has just proposed free heroin distribution. The schools in East Berlin are in turmoil over the invasion of the drug pushers. A portion of a campaign field report about one "teach-in" held by the Anti-Drug Coalition, which supports the Patriots' program, reads:

"The teacher had arranged four different seminars in the afternoon, and in the evening a seminar and discussions with the parents and teacher. . . . Muriel Mirak-Weissbach [author of a recently published book on Dope, Inc.] gave a seminar to several classes at once, while three others, including one local Patriots candidate, gave seminars to one class each. 'Thousands of questions were asked by the students, on the nature of the danger of drugs, the drug mafia, the situation in Colombia, money laundering, how to fight the war on drugs, etc. Since the students didn't want to stop after the morning was over, Mrs. Mirak-Weissbach continued the discussion with her two classes in the afternoon. By the evening, word had spread throughout the school and the students' homes, so that about 80 parents and teachers came to her lecture in the evening, staying up until late, discussing what to do against the drug plague.'

Against war in the Mideast

Helga Zepp-LaRouche's party has always forcefully argued, along with the great German "Poet of Freedom" Friedrich Schiller, that it is not only possible, but of urgent importance, that Germans come to consider themselves both patriots of their own nation, and responsible world citizens who see as their fundamental task the cultural and economic uplifting of the rest of the world.

Therefore, whereas the other parties have for the most part shied away from making definitive campaign statements about what Germany's role should be toward Bush and Thatcher's war-mongering, a nationwide leaflet issued by the Patriots has laid it right on the line: "The Anglo-American war policy in the Gulf is insane, immoral, and suicidal—and it has nothing to do with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. What is behind it is a 1982 decision to reorient toward the so-called North-South conflict, in which NATO is to be deployed in military operations to seize control of raw materials and strategic minerals in the developing sector. At the same time, behind this strategy lies the intention to reduce the dark-skinned people of the developing sector through 'natural catastrophes' like hunger, epidemics, and regional wars."

The Patriots' efforts to found a political anti-war movement have fallen on fertile ground. Beginning with Bush's announcement of the additional troop deployments in mid-November, there has been a marked shift in popular attitudes. A campaign report remarks: "Whereas some weeks earlier, people didn't want to listen to the argument that Bush and Thatcher were the real culprits, they now readily agree. The typical answer is, 'Right, *der Ami* [i.e., Bush] has to get out of there; it's none of his business'; or, 'He and Thatcher only want war to stay in power.'" On the campuses, the Patriots' prodding of student organizations has led to the holding of a number of peaceful anti-war student demonstrations.

Special campaigns

In addition to these issues, certain Patriots candidates have dedicated themselves to very special efforts. One of these, Rosa Tennenbaum, is running in Saxony but is campaigning nationwide in order to save German and European agriculture from destruction by the free-market lunacy being pushed by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). She has gotten broad agreement from farmers because she is the only voice calling for an *increase* in agricultural production while everyone else is wrangling about quotas. Even opponents who attack her in public have conceded privately that her plan is the only reasonable one, only they doubt it can ever win out.

Another very special campaign is in Berlin, where candidate Anno Hellenbroich is demanding that every single new member of the German parliament should be thoroughly investigated for possible links with the former East German intelligence service, the Stasi.