

# German Social Dems help drug mafia

by Christian Huth

*The following commentary appeared in the German news-weekly Neue Solidarität.*

There's just no way the German federal state could be run with the Social Democratic Party at the helm. The SPD minority grouping in the federal parliament, under the leadership of Rudolf Scharping, has now gone so far as to act as the direct mouthpiece for the drug-trafficking lobby. The fruit of their labors is a "Draft Law to Modify the Statute Concerning Trafficking in Narcotics (Narcotics Law)," which the SPD had proposed back in December 1996. The only thing that this law would achieve, would be to make it easier to consume and deal in illegal drugs, while the street market for narcotics, long illegal, would become decriminalized, since precisely that is the main thrust of the proposed changes. Their push for the bill's adoption was kicked off by their declaration that, "up to now, the federal government's drug policy has been a failure"—an assertion which we have been hearing oft repeated, mantra-like, by all the advocates of drug legalization for years. "Repression," the SPD claims, does not help at all in stemming the flood of drugs into the country.

It is, admittedly, true, that the German federal government's drug policy leaves itself open to criticism: Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic government can hardly be said to be pursuing a serious anti-drug strategy, and indeed, it is allowing the financial laws that were tailored precisely to target drug money-laundering, to expire, and is even openly seeking a dialog with the drug cartels, as in the case of Ibero-American drug cartel go-between Werner Mauss. So, there is plenty of fuel available to completely cook the goose of Kohl and his people. But, instead of jumping at that opportunity to once again become Germany's governing party, the SPD, which still erroneously considers itself to be a party of the people, is shuffling off along the path to the stinking cesspools of the 1968 radical swamp, whose aroma they ridiculously construe as leading them to their political nirvana.

The SPD proposal contains everything near and dear to a drug dealer's heart. Should this law really be enacted, the following would occur:

- Free dispensing of heroin by the state (as is now the practice in Switzerland) would be allowed.
- The provision of addicts with synthetic addiction-

maintenance substances (i.e., methadone) would be made easier.

- It would no longer be a crime to publicly promote drug consumption.
- The establishment of "shooting galleries" for uninterrupted drug use would be permitted.
- Possession of a week's average supply of all drugs would be permitted.
- Dealing drugs in small quantities (street dealers) would be tolerated, as long as it be for the purpose of financing one's own personal habit.
- Drug procurement crimes (robbery, theft, burglary, fencing) would be tolerated.

And, all this in the name of legal transparency and legal safeguards! That, at any rate, is how the SPD justifies its proposals "for such a finely differentiated drug policy."

The exact text of the SPD-backed legislation reads as follows: "No penalty remains in effect for persons who cultivate, produce, import, export, transport, acquire, or otherwise obtain or possess narcotics in small quantities for their personal consumption." Furthermore, public prosecutors shall be permitted to forgo criminal prosecution, when the perpetrator "engages in dealing for the purpose of financing his or her immediate personal consumption."

If the perpetrator has committed the punishable offense because of their addiction, if he has not been previously sentenced to more than two years imprisonment, and if the drug-dependent person has already declared his or her willingness to participate in therapy or a methadone (or heroin, etc.) addiction-maintenance program, then the prosecutor's office may forgo execution of the sentence. This refers to many types of criminal acts in the area of so-called drug-procurement crimes, including, for example, larcenies, through which addicts finance their need for drugs.

Konstantin Wecker, the cocaine-snorting pop singer friend of SPD leader Rudolf Scharping, will most likely be one of the beneficiaries of the new regulations. But the ramifications go far beyond that, because it ultimately means that all drug-related crimes would be tolerated, since addiction-withdrawal therapy would not be required as an alternative to a jail term—as is the case, for example, in Sweden. Instead, the SPD would be satisfied with "a partially stationary, or ambulatory therapy, or a substitute-drug maintenance treatment," which could mean just about anything, but which certainly does not mean withdrawal therapy with the aim of fully curing the addict of his drug dependency.

Overall, the proposed legislation is written in the spirit of living "pragmatically" with the fact of drug consumption. This is the ghost of the dope pushers, a ghost which has been haunting the SPD's house for quite some time now. Within the draft law, nothing whatsoever is put forward which would contribute to controlling crime, nor anything capable of providing an effective and dignified cure to those persons debilitated by drug addiction.

## Concentration of forces?

In accordance with the proverb: "The floodwaters won't rise so much, if we don't build our dams too high," the bill speaks about an ostensible "strengthening of the police" as a result of the legalization of street dealing. It is pure hypocrisy, when the SPD parliamentary group bluntly claims, without any expert testimony to back it up, that "repression has to be directed against the organized drug criminality. Drug trafficking must be massively combatted." (Just as George Bush did, perhaps?) "Relieving criminal prosecuting authorities from the responsibility of prosecuting small drug-abuse offenders will make it easier for them to concentrate their forces on the fight against drug trafficking."

This naive argumentation is also being energetically promoted among police circles. Since, for decades, the police have been hamstrung from waging an effective fight against the "organized narcotics criminals," because effective investigations, for example, against the drug-money-laundering operations, are deemed undesirable for political reasons, most of the police have understandably become so frustrated, that they are now ready to swallow such arguments, even though it gives them a mighty upset stomach.

Meanwhile, others, such as Hamburg's new police chief Ernst Uhrlau, are openly embracing the drug lobby's arguments. Late last year, Uhrlau spoke in favor of the state freely dispensing heroin, ostensibly in order to spoil business for the mafia. SPD member Uhrlau said that the free dispensing of heroin "could result in a significant weakening of the international drug dealers, provided that it is practiced Europe-wide." But he doesn't really believe what he is saying, because, after all, for many years he ran the Hamburg office of the German federal intelligence agency, the Bundesnachrichtendienst, and no doubt had access to background information on which circles and financial institutions were known to be profiting from the criminal drug activity and its enormous financial gain.

The next step the drug apologists in the SPD will take, will be to push for government dispensing of free heroin, as has already been proposed for the city of Frankfurt am Main. The SPD group's document even comes out proposing: "The possibilities must be explored for learning from the practical experience that has been gained from the free dispensing of heroin in the United Kingdom of Great Britain, and in Switzerland, and applying this in the Federal Republic of Germany."

So, the Swiss drug policy is to be taken as a model? Here the SPD has obviously received some very poor advice indeed. In the first place, the so-called "drug experiments" in Switzerland are running into increasingly stiff resistance from the citizenry, and, second, little Switzerland has around 400 drug-overdose deaths each year in its 6.7 million population—more than twice as many deaths per capita as in the Germany.

The Swiss heroin experiments, which, naturally, were marketed as scientific studies, but which yielded no new scientific knowledge whatsoever, were likewise justified on the basis of an alleged failure of current anti-drug policy. But, by

no stretch of the imagination can one possibly speak here about some "failure" of the drug prohibition laws. After all, nobody would even dream of entertaining the idea of legally permitting people to operate motor vehicles while under the influence of alcohol, simply because they repeatedly disregarded the law, killing, maiming, and endangering themselves as well as others.

The drug legalizers, and their comrades in the SPD federal parliamentary group, many of whom are old 1968 leftist radicals, are going for far-reaching social changes—changes which are irreconcilable with the image of man held by the framers of Germany's constitution. The SPD today is blocking any real progress, just as it is doing in fusion energy, aviation, and space travel, as well as in the case of the Transrapid maglev project, against which the SPD-led government of Schleswig-Holstein is so strenuously complaining—the same government which, under Heide Simonis, also wants hashish to be sold at the corner drug store.

Established power structures and dependencies are now emblazoned upon the pennants held high by the comrades from the SPD. And that is precisely what such a drug law would achieve—in the field of drug criminality.

[Editor's note: Subsequent to the writing of this article, the SPD, in response to a wave of revulsion, changed its proposal, making it apply only to users of "soft," but not "hard" narcotics.]

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