

Helga Zepp-LaRouche is campaigning in Germany's elections

by Ortrun Cramer

Helga Zepp-LaRouche is campaigning for Chancellor in the Sept. 27 national parliamentary elections, heading the slate of the Civil Rights Movement Solidarity (Bürgerrechtsbewegung Solidarität, or BüSo, for short). A small, but unusual and growing political party in Germany, the BüSo, which she heads, is bringing a voice of reality into the turbulent election campaign. Recently, Zepp-LaRouche spoke at public meetings in Berlin, Munich, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Dortmund, and other cities.

In several states, the BüSo has nominated slates to run in the elections, as well as many individual candidates in various cities. Petitioning is presently under way, in order for these candidates to appear on the ballot in September. Slates have already been elected in the cities of Berlin and Hamburg, and in the states of Saxony, Bavaria, Hesse, and North Rhine-Westphalia. Party organizations in other states, such as Baden-Württemberg, will follow soon. Zepp-LaRouche heads the slate in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, where the Ruhr region, traditionally the center of Germany's heavy industry, is located. The state has approximately 17.5 million people, almost 20% of Germany's population.

In recent public meetings, Zepp-LaRouche has outlined the party's intent to address the most pressing issues: what kind of economic policy can re-start the German economy, and relieve the growing unemployment, which already has taken a heavy toll, especially among youth. "None of the German politicians," she told voters in Berlin, "is ready to tell the citizen the truth, in the face of the explosive world crisis. The present crisis of the global financial system is no mere monetary crisis, but a systemic crisis, which threatens our entire civilization. Of course, the politicians fear, that a mass panic would set in, if the population knew the full scope of this crisis."

Zepp-LaRouche has been working for years for a reorganization of the disastrous "post-industrial" world financial system, and for large-scale development projects, to save Germany's industry, particularly the highly productive machine-tool sector. In the 1976 elections, she campaigned as "Candidate for Chancellor, for a New, Just World Economic Order." Since then, her efforts have expanded in scope and complexity, including her demand today for constructing the "New Silk Road," or Eurasian Land-Bridge, a large-scale infrastructure



Helga Zepp-LaRouche, known to German television audiences as "the Silk Road lady," is running for Chancellor.

and development project, which will bring back millions of industrial workplaces to Germany's economy. A precondition to realizing such a policy, is the reorganization of the global financial system, the "New Bretton Woods," which she first demanded last year, in an internationally circulated appeal to U.S. President Clinton, co-authored by Ukrainian parliamentarian Dr. Natalya Vitrenko.

Voters' growing awareness

Her discussions with voters during party events prove, that there is a growing recognition, not only of her analyses and programmatic initiatives, but also how urgent it is for citizens to step forward and become active in the political process. One candidate from Hesse recently insisted: "It is no longer sufficient to complain, or get upset. Everybody knows that the entire direction is wrong. As a citizen, everybody is called upon to intervene in politics, now." Some long-time activists with the major parties have now decided to run as BüSo candidates, including a former Social Democratic activist in Rüsselsheim, who is member of a union factory council, and a former Christian Democratic city council member from Düsseldorf.

A second plank in Zepp-LaRouche's campaign is the reform of German education, by returning to the classic Schiller-Humboldt concept of education, which many far-sighted nations successfully copied, and which Germany abandoned under the "Brandt reforms" in the 1970s. She warns of the "TV culture, of the drugs, and of the legacy of the Frankfurt School ideas, which have undermined all moral values, such as truth, justice, reason, and charity. What a man thinks, is determined by his culture," she stressed. The BüSo is preparing a symposium on the subject of a cultural Renaissance in Germany, which will take place in June. This symposium will discuss the role of the study of the Classics, in arts and science, as the foundation for a true education.