

The Attack on Collective Bargaining

by Harley Schlanger

Feb. 24—Picket signs are popping up in Madison, Wisc. and elsewhere, in demonstrations supporting the fight in Madison, denouncing Gov. Scott Walker's attempt to eliminate collective bargaining, as a replay of Hitler's destruction of the German union movement in 1933. It is also an indication of the degree to which the LaRouche movement's exposé of the Nazi precedents of Obama's policies, are resonating within a broader section of an angry population. The American people are reacting to the gutlessness of the politicians, and the lying of the media, by responding to the leadership of Lyndon LaRouche, and his slate of six Congressional candidates.

LaRouche has insisted, repeatedly, over the objections of many Democrats, and even members of his own organization, that the Hitler mustache on Obama is a truthful representation, and that nothing short of Obama's removal from office is necessary, if our nation is to survive. This image has now become the rallying point for a growing section of those Americans who refuse to submit to the Nazi policies being pushed by Obama and his allies among the corporate fascist networks running the Republican Party, such as Dick Armey and the notorious Koch brothers.

The Hitler dictatorship, which was consolidated in the opening months of 1933, was supported by the same City of London/Wall Street financier and corporate forces which stand behind the Obama-Republican Party alliance today. And the underlying issue—a British monetarist policy of murderous austerity and assault on government, versus the American system of physical economy, based on a credit system—is also the same, as in the decisive days in early 1933, when Hitler was imposed as Chancellor of Germany, at the same time that Franklin Roosevelt was inaugurated as President of the United States.

Prior to the Hitler coup, Germany had been victimized by austerity regimes, first, that of Chancellor Hein-



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Many are denouncing Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's attempt to eliminate collective bargaining, as a replay of Hitler's destruction of the German union movement in 1933. Shown: Hitler, participating in May Day celebrations in Berlin, 1933. The next day, the unions were dissolved, their leaders arrested, and the Nazi Labor Front was created.

rich Brüning, then of Franz von Papen. A decisive shift occurred following elections to the Reichstag (parliament) on Nov. 6, 1932, in which support for the Nazi party collapsed, followed on Dec. 2, by the appointment of Gen. Kurt von Schleicher, as Chancellor.

The Lautenbach Plan

Von Schleicher gave an address to the nation on Dec. 15, in which he issued a call to action. His speech echoed the initiatives of Dr. Wilhelm Lautenbach, which had been presented 16 months earlier to the Friedrich List Society, and by trade union economist Wladimir Woytinsky, both of whom had put forward a program of mobilizing state credit, to invest in job-creating, and wealth-creating, public works projects.¹ In his speech, von Schleicher attacked the policies of Brüning and von Papen, calling instead, for a program which consists of just one point: Create work!

On the issue of the federal budget, von Schleicher was explicit: There must be no further cutting the wages of state employees. This meant a certain progress in comparison with the past two crisis years [the years of Brüning and von Papen's austerity]. The Reich government would help the states and municipalities in troubled financial condition, through organizational and financial measures.

This intention of von Schleicher convinced the

1. See Helga Zepp-LaRouche, "The Lautenbach Plan and Its Consequences," *EIR*, Jan. 10, 2003 (<http://tinyurl.com/4zbyltg>).

London-based networks which had been backing Hitler to move immediately, to oust von Schleicher, and launch the coup, which made Hitler Chancellor on Jan. 30, 1933. Less than one month after Hitler assumed power, he used the pretext of a fire (set by his henchmen) in the Reichstag to issue a series of emergency decrees, which tightened the grasp of his Nazi Party over the state. It was at this point, that he moved to crush the potential of the trade union movement to serve as a focal point of resistance.

The day after the Nazis participated, with labor leaders, in the traditional May Day marches and celebrations, Hitler moved, dissolving the unions, arresting union leaders, and announcing the creation of the

Deutsche Arbeitsfront (DAF, German Labor Front). He appointed one of his most loyal and degenerate supporters, Robert Ley, as the head of the DAF, and announced that the actions were necessary due to the corruption of the unions, as the unions did not act for the common good. Using language that could flow easily from the lips of Governor Walker, Ley said that the purpose of the action was to create a true social and productive community. His first action was to announce a freeze on wages.

Lest one offer the delusional statement that it can't happen here, keep in mind the words of Indiana's (now former) Deputy Attorney General, Jeffrey Cox, who tweeted that police should use "live ammunition" against the Wisconsin protestors, adding, "You're damn right I advocate deadly force."

The lessons of history make clear that these London-centered enemies of humanity are fully intent on crushing the resistance to their fascist policies, and reducing the world's population, even beyond the perverse dreams of Hitler. They must be stopped, by rallying the people behind LaRouche's proposals for the immediate imposition of Franklin Roosevelt's Glass-Steagall standard, to end the hyperinflationary bailouts, and a wipe-out of the phony assets of Wall Street. This, combined with the job-creating, wealth-producing development of new, productive platforms of economic and social development, beginning with NAWAPA and the Transaqua projects, will bring about the economic recovery the world is crying out for.

Who Is Pulling Walker's Strings?

Behind Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's effort to smash public employee unions, is a well-defined network of Wall Street-funded, right-wing foundations and think-tanks, which have schemed for years to unravel any remnant of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal. Governor Walker didn't think up this union-busting crusade on his own; when he took office, Walker was handed a script, which he has followed faithfully to the present day.

That script came directly out of the network of foundations and think-tanks established to promote the Hapsburg Empire's "Austrian School" of economics—which was created in the 19th Century, in explicit opposition to the "American System" of political-economy, championed by Alexander Hamilton, Friedrich List, Henry Carey, and 19th-Century Republican Presidents from Abraham Lincoln to William McKinley.

Walker's script was written in detail by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), which coordinated meetings between Walker and various Southern GOP governors, in the post-2010 election transition period. It was in these meetings that Walker and state Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald mapped out their plans to make Wisconsin a "right-to-work" state—with public employees the first target, but private-sector unions next.

ALEC is funded by the "big three" right-wing foundations—Scaife, Olin, and Bradley—plus it enjoys major funding from the Koch family. It has targeted public-sector unions—indeed, *all* unions—for decades, and is a major advocate of privatizing, or "outsourcing," public services.

Walker put himself right in the middle



The right-wing billionaire Koch brothers, Charles and David, moneybags behind Walker, have made it their mission to wipe out labor unions; below: an AFL-CIO rally against Walker's union-busting drive, at the National Governors' Association meeting, in Washington Feb. 27.



EIRNS/Stuart Lewis

of this network. The Koch brothers, David and Charles, were among the largest contributors to Walker's gubernatorial campaign. A blogger pretending to be David Koch had no problem getting through to Walker on the phone; Walker then proceeded to spend 20 minutes on the phone with "Koch" bragging about how he was about to "drop the bomb" on the public unions in a few days, and comparing his actions to President Reagan's breaking of the air-traffic controllers strike in 1981.

Years ago, the Koch brothers provided the funds to launch the "libertarian" CATO Institute, and also Citizens for a Sound Economy, which morphed into FreedomWorks and Americans for Prosperity, which together, are the major controllers and brainwashers of the "grassroots" Tea Party movement. It was this network that bussed in counter-protestors to Madison, to demonstrate in support of Walker's union-busting efforts.

To fill out the picture, it should be noted that Michael W. Grebe, the president and CEO of the Bradley Foundation, was chair of Walker's transition. In the Wisconsin case, the string-pullers are never far away from their puppet.

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