

A Crucial Candidacy At a Crucial Moment

by Rainer Apel

The German social-market economy model and its civil rights are threatened by the fifth column in Germany of global monetarism, a fifth column that plans to take over the government after early elections in September. It is the firm commitment of this cabal to dismantle all the achievements of social security which the postwar German republic has made, and to replace all of that by budget-cutting free-market fundamentalism. The fundamentalists have gained control over the three opposition parties, the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), Christian Social Union (CSU), and Free Democratic Party (FDP), as well as most of the media.

The leadership group around Angela Merkel, the national chairwoman of the CDU, is expected to pass a campaign platform going in this direction, on July 11. The demands in this platform range from breaking up labor rights, privatizing the pension and health-care systems, implementing work-for-welfare programs, and enforcing deregulation in financial and other services. Merkel is also the Chancellor candidate of the CDU and of their autonomous Bavarian state section, the CSU, and she will run against incumbent Chancellor Gerhard Schröder of the Social Democrats (SPD).

Helga Zepp-LaRouche Intervenes

The main battle line will however, not be between Merkel and Schröder, but between Merkel and Helga Zepp-LaRouche, national chairwoman of the Civil Rights Movement Solidarity party (BüSo), who so far has been the only one to openly challenge monetarism and its fundamentalist variant. Schröder has made some tentative steps in the right direction, such as his recent initiatives to impose a degree of transparency on the highly speculative hedge funds, and to control oil price speculation; but in terms of economic policy in general, he and his SPD prefer to stay in hysterical denial of the hard realities of the onrushing global economic depression, and the repercussions these have on Germany.

Schröder, who arranged a loss of his own majority in a parliamentary no-confidence vote on July 1, wants to have national elections, one year before those scheduled in September 2006, with a platform that primarily defends the failed budget-cutting policies that have caused defeats for the SPD in every election since the last national one in September 2002. With that campaign platform, presented to the public on July 4, the SPD will also lose the early elections.

Assessing the blatant absence of any mention of global economic realities from the parliamentary address that Schröder gave on July 1, introducing the procedure for the no-confidence vote, Zepp-LaRouche reaffirmed her candidacy for Chancellor in a statement issued the same day (see last week's *EIR*). The statement reflects the sentiment among the German electorate that much more important than a change of government, would be a positive change of economic-financial policies, so that the unemployment of 9-10 million Germans can be rapidly reduced by concentrated state investments in productive projects of infrastructure and industry.

The German electorate is increasingly fed up with the 25-year sabotage of jobs and production by the ecologists, whose Green Party has been the minor coalition party of Schröder's government since October 1998. If the SPD finally drew a clear line and said farewell to the pro-ecologist nonsense that has been policy of the government since 1998, the Social Democrats could again win elections; the party's refusal to do so, as illustrated in the SPD's insistence, in its campaign platform, that it is committed to uphold Germany's suicidal "exit" from nuclear technology, means that it will not be able to win elections. And because of its continued loyalty to budget-cutting policies, the SPD will never be able to pose a real challenge and alternative to Merkel's monetarists. That alone is reason enough for Zepp-LaRouche's candidacy.

There is another reason: So far, none of the establishment politicians has dared use the "L-word," LaRouche, and publicly endorse his proposal for a New Bretton Woods. Germany is still very different from Italy, whose parliament has passed several LaRouche-inspired resolutions for the creation of a new global financial-monetary system, with explicit mention of that proposal's author during the parliamentary debates. In Germany, the establishment politicians talk about LaRouche and his ideas behind closed doors, but they are cowards, and do not mention his name in public. For three decades, his name has been tarred by the German media, run during the postwar period by the Anglo-American networks of the misnamed Congress for Cultural Freedom.

But the German electorate has a right to be told about the New Bretton Woods proposal, and that is the mission of the BüSo and its candidate, Helga Zepp-LaRouche.

Due to the short time frame set for the envisaged early elections, the BüSo will run in 7 out of Germany's 16 states, but these include the 2 most-populous states of North Rhine-Westphalia and Bavaria, as well as in the states of Hesse, Lower Saxony, Baden-Württemberg, Saxony, and Berlin. By doing so, the BüSo will be on the ballot for more than two thirds of the national electorate, or 40 out of 60 million voters. And Saxony, where during last Autumn's state parliament elections, the BüSo gained 2-6% of the votes in numerous districts, the LaRouche recognition factor is very high; this will also be the main battleground of the LaRouche Youth Movement. Zepp-LaRouche will run as a direct candidate for the national parliament in Leipzig, the biggest city in Saxony.