

SALERA ON BALLOT IN PENNSYLVANIA; BARRETT OFFICE FREAKS OUT

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 29 (IPS)--Pennsylvania Congressman William Barrett from South Philadelphia's 1st Congressional District suffered a major defeat yesterday when the State Supreme Court ruled that his U.S. Labor Party opponent Bernard Salera will be on the ballot in November's election.

The State Supreme Court order read as follows: "The petition of William B. Sykes [a Barrett flunky] is hereby dismissed. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania shall do everything in its power to see to it that Bernard Salera and the U.S. Labor Party retains its position on the ballot in Congressional District #1."

The Barrett machine, which has attempted to eliminate all electoral opposition by any fraudulent, underhanded means, freaked out in Washington, D.C. today when a member of the Labor Party stopped into Barrett's office to congratulate him on his defeat. A speechless Barrett aide extended his hands and sat dumbfounded, until asked what was wrong. He then began repeating: "Quiet, quiet, quiet.... Get out, get out, get out," and called the police. Still shaking, he repeated over and over, "You can stay if you want, the police are coming, the police are coming." The Labor Party spokesman again asked what was the matter; was he upset by the U.S. Labor Party poster of Barrett? At that point a secretary came running out of a back room screaming "Filth, filth, filth..." The Labor Party representative left, while the two Barrett aides continued to scream hysterically.

SPD ROUTED IN STATE ELECTIONS

Oct. 29 (SPD)--German workers suffered a major setback this week. Election returns from critical elections in the states of Hesse and Bavaria two days ago show that the working class based Social Democratic Party (SPD) was devastatingly routed. For the first time in the post-war period, the SPD lost its majority in its stronghold, Hesse. The reactionary Christian Democratic Union took the SPD's place as the state's largest party. The SPD lost every city in Hesse and Bavaria except two, Kassel and Offenbach, which are thoroughly working class constituencies.

In Munich, the Social Democrat's Bavarian stronghold, the party was down 25 to 30 per cent from its 1970 vote, while the neo-fascist Christian Social Union gained a whopping 23 per cent.

Responsibility for the defeat lies squarely with the Rockefeller agents in the SPD leadership, starting with Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. Schmidt helped deliberately to sabotage his own party's Hesse election campaign with off-repeated "don't give a damn" state-

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ments about it. In Bavaria, the SPD handed the election to the head of the Christian Social Union Franz-Josef Strauss by fielding a candidate, Hans-Jochen Vogel, who was almost indistinguishable from his fascist opponent.

Dirty Work

Strauss is reaping the harvest of Schmidt's sabotage. He already has said publicly that "Schmidt is saving me a lot of dirty work." The election returns confirm that statement. Strauss increased his CSU majority in Bavaria from 55 per cent to 62 per cent, while the SPD percentage fell from 34 to 30 per cent. In addition, Strauss moved from his base in the Bavarian peasantry to score major sweeps in the traditionally SPD urban strongholds such as Munich. There, SPD candidate Vogel's de facto pro-CSU stance, his purge of party leftists, and high industrial employment threw the victory to the CSU.

Nothing better illustrates the success of Schmidt's electoral sabotage than the "historic first" of the Hesse Christian Democratic Union (CDU), led by Strauss' ally, Alfonse Dregger, beating the SPD in Frankfurt. In this SPD bastion, the CDU garnered 45 per cent of the vote compared to the SPD's 42 per cent. The electoral trend highlighted by Frankfurt demonstrates that the SPD refusal both to expose Schmidt's treason and to ally with the European Labor Committee's united front campaign rapidly is bolstering fascist Strauss' national stature. To the extent that the SPD continues to capitulate to Rockefeller, Strauss will continue to expand outside of his Bavarian bailiwick, picking up masses of radicalized non-working class layers.

SPD Left Purge

With the elections barely over, the party traitors grouped around Schmidt are moving to cover up their criminal tracks with a smear campaign that "radicals and leftists" in the SPD are responsible for the Schmidt-caused defeat. This was coupled with explicit threats of a coming party mass purge by SPD Deputy National Party Chairman Heinz Kuehn, a Schmidt ally. Kuehn warned: "There could come a day when the party will have to separate itself from certain people. The letting go of about 100 extremists must then be risked, to prevent 100,000 from leaving us." Kuehn followed this up by stating that getting rid of the left was the precondition for future electoral successes. This is an outright lie, of which Kuehn is well aware, for such a move would cause a mass exodus of workers from the party.