

GERMAN NEO-FASCIST STRAUSS TRUMPETS FOR RIGHT-WING ALLIES

WIESBADEN, BRD, Dec. 16 (IPS)--Franz Josef Strauss, corpulent chairman of West Germany's neo-fascist Christian Social Union (CSU) and former Defense Minister during the 1956-63 peak of cold war hysteria, has picked up the unmistakable odor of an international Red Scare from the recent meeting of NATO Defense Ministers. Hoping to use the NATO disposal of detente as the catalyst for consolidating political allies in West Germany, Strauss will be representing the Christian Democratic Union and Christian Social Union at an "informal consultation" with the Free Democratic Party (FDP) Federal Cabinet members, Agricultural Minister Ertl and Foreign Minister Genscher Dec. 19. According to CSU and FDP sources, the topic of discussion will be the possibility of creating CDU/FDP and CSU/FDP coalitions or party agreements in the states of Rheinland Pfalz and Bavaria.

The FDP, present coalition partner of the mass working class based Social Democratic Party (SPD), was purposefully established in 1949 to practice the art of making and breaking government coalitions. Sometimes liberal, at other times right-wing, the FDP albatross has barely maintained its popular vote above 9 per cent in the last few years.

A New Harzburg

In distinction to its collapsing popular base, the FDP houses a core group of Rockefeller-allied economics specialists and bankers, who wield disproportionate political power through an extensive, internationally prominent press apparatus--Der Spiegel, Die Zeit, Sued-Deutsche Zeitung, and others--and through direct links to the United States based cabal. Theo Sommer, chief editor of Die Zeit, and Otto Graf Lambsdorff, FDP parliamentary Economics spokesman, are members of the Rockefeller Tri-lateral Commission.

Franz Josef Strauss' strongest political base rests with a mass of impoverished farmers and part-time industrial workers in his backward Bavarian fortress. In the last Bavarian state elections in October, Strauss' CSU won more than 60 per cent of the popular vote there. Yet, he has welcomed overtures by FDP right-winger Josef Ertl, chairman of the almost invisible Bavarian FDP, to enter into an informal state coalition.

Strauss recently has been allowed by leading, traditionally conservative leaders in the CDU to gain increasing hegemony over the party. Carl Carstens, leading spokesman for the German Council on Foreign Relations, threw himself behind Strauss two weeks ago in preparation for the 1975 elections in North Rhein Westfalen. Conservative northern CDU leader Stoltenberg immediately followed Carstens' example.

The social chemistry of widespread Rockefeller support falling in line behind Strauss, now emanating from the FDP and CDU, is a modern-day reworking of the 1931 Harzburg Front--when the IG Farben empire and its banker allies threw in their weight behind Adolf Hitler.

CHASE ADMITS WORKERS' OPPOSITION BLOCKS ENERGY STRATEGY

NEW YORK, N.Y., Dec. 16 (IPS)--A Chase Manhattan Bank energy expert admitted to IPS today that workers' opposition to energy austerity and slave labor jobs has blocked progress on Chase's energy plans.

Since Chase spokesman John Winger estimated last week that \$3.1 trillion would be spent worldwide on energy projects during the next ten years, the expert admitted there has been "nothing" new in the doldrums which have afflicted the labor-intensive energy field.

He said, "It's a very complex problem and the solution will take a long time. The solution is not going to come from the Camp David meeting" of government energy experts yesterday. "President Ford wasn't even there," Chase complained. "There will have to be quite a few tough sessions of the new Congress, and quite a few sessions of the International Energy Agency, and consumer-producer meetings, and so on before anything gets done."

Asked whether popular opposition to a conspiracy to impose appropriate kinds of austerity was really the problem, he said, "I agree. The population has real problems believing this. It's very difficult to get people to believe that there is a serious problem."

He added that apart from a tough government energy policy, plus relevant legislation, the key to "unclogging" energy development was a "massive education problem on energy."

RESTRUCTURING THE STEEL INDUSTRY: ROCKY'S "CHOICE"--LAYOFF OR LABOR POOL

Dec. 16 (IPS)--Workers at the U.S. Steel plant in Gary, Indiana, told U.S. Labor Party organizers today that they have been given a critical choice: either take a 30-day layoff (politely termed an "unpaid vacation") or be assigned to a labor pool in which all job classifications have been eliminated.