

In France And Germany:

The Fight Over Nuclear Energy—

'Those Who Work... Those Who Collect Rent...'

The government of West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and the Gaullist Party of France both have vowed to root out the opposition to nuclear energy that has plagued both countries in the recent months.

Schmidt last week reasserted the soundness of his pro-nuclear energy stand and his intention to fight it out with the Atlanticist-inspired local opposition in the country. In an interview in the West German paper *Evangelische Kommentare*, Schmidt gave a detailed explanation of why nuclear energy is necessary for the development of industrial production and the creation of jobs. Then, referring to the actions by the State of Lower Saxony blocking the allocation of a site for the building of a nuclear power plant, and a similar effort by the courts of the state of Baden-Württemberg, Schmidt talked about the "serious obstacles" to the realization of his energy plan, obstacles located in the division of power between federal and local state authorities.

The Economics Minister of Baden-Württemberg, Mr. Eberle, agrees with Schmidt. He has appealed to West German Interior Minister Maihoffer to reverse the state's court decision and allow the construction of the fission plant that alone "can provide cheap energy to the state and relieve the unemployment problem."

West Germany's major nuclear power concern, the Kraftwerke Union (KWU), intervened in the political fight led by Schmidt with a scathing attack on the anti-fission program of the Free Democratic Party, the junior partner in the federal coalition government of Schmidt's SPD. The KWU has demanded that the FDP revise this program; as it stands, the KWU says, it is unacceptable for the federal authorities, because "it would lead to a serious energy crisis in the country."

To provide the popular support necessary to implement his policy Schmidt realizes that West Germans require an in-depth understanding of their fundamental interest in nuclear development and has taken steps to promote such understanding. Addressing the congress of the German Scientists Association, the Chancellor accused this scientific elite of lethargy because "the basic belief in progress has faded away in our population." Schmidt told the gathering that "it is the duty of scientists to campaign on behalf of scientific progress and restore this belief."

In France the National Electricity Company EDF has waged a courageous and at times lonely fight to maintain its nuclear development program, one of the most extensive in Western Europe. Arrayed against EDF has been a growing ecology movement — (with documented ties to the Washington-based Institute for Policy Studies) — backed by the Atlanticist-controlled trade union federation the CFDT as well as factions in the

French Communist and Socialist Parties.

The ecology forces have been able to successfully delay the nuclear development program over the past year or so with an escalating campaign involving such tactics as: court appeals over the choice of sites for construction; organizing rural populations against EDF on the basis of fear over the dangers of "radioactivity;" and deployment of terrorist "night commandos" to attack nuclear plant sites.

The Giscard government has failed to take any measures against the provocateurs, and instead has implicitly supported zero growth with campaigns for solar energy and the imposition of heavy fines on EDF for consuming more than its fuel quota in the government-directed energy savings plan.

Thus the rallying of the Gaullist RPR Party to the side of EDF in the French nuclear power fight provides an important institutional voice for the majority of French workers and industrialists who strongly favor growth and development. Two days before an expected government decision on whether — and by how much — to slow down the EDF's planned construction schedule of nuclear plants over the next two years, the RPR put out a release stating that nuclear energy is a "top priority." The RPR press release, which received little attention in the French press, states in part that the EDF's "ambitious and realistic program to provide one-fourth of France's total energy needs through nuclear energy by 1985, must of necessity be carried through."

Gaullist Baron Michel Debré, who in recent weeks had virtually withdrawn from the main political arenas of France by becoming embroiled exclusively in the controversy over the proposed European Parliament, reappeared on the scene June 30 to take leadership in the fight for energy. In a speech that startled French Deputies out of their summer slumber, Debré put Prime Minister Raymond Barre, whose government has sidestepped the nuclear issue, on the proverbial hot seat in the National Assembly. In a question put to Barre, Debré stated that the anti-nuclear forces were opposing the national interest, and demanded to know what the government was doing about the growing spate of anti-nuclear demonstrations. Flabbergasted, Barre could only give limp reassurances that the French government had never faltered in the support of the nuclear program.

Both West German and French pro-development forces privately identify the Carter White House as the "common enemy," and keep a close watch on the anti-Carter "positive American tendency," as a front-page article in the French paper *Aurore* characterized forces represented in the Seabrook pro-nuclear demonstration in New Hampshire.

An American spokesman for the Fusion Energy Foundation who recently traveled in France, made available to NSIPS the following remark by an EDF nuclear engineer: "There are two sorts of people in the world,

those who work with their brains or hands and those who collect rent... You Americans are a people who work, but your government has been doing nothing but collecting rent for years..."

Six-Party Accord Signed In Italy

ITALY

Italy's six political parties — including the ruling Christian Democracy — signed an agreement on a limited program of social and economic legislation June 28.

Although the mini-accord does not immediately alter the Italian political composition, it does mark the first time in 30 years that the Italian Communist Party (PCI) has officially participated in negotiations to formulate government initiatives. The PCI, the second major Italian party, has supported the pro-industry Andreotti government since its inception 12 months ago, through its abstention vote on Parliamentary issues.

While the terms of the accord are as yet unpublished, the accord represents the institutionalization of PCI-DC collaboration on an economic growth policy.

The importance of the accord was underlined by vice-president of the PCI's deputies group in the Chamber, Fernando DiGiulio in last week's issue of *Il Mondo*. DiGiulio, who has acted as the official liaison between the PCI and the Andreotti government stated: "Now with the

accord on the programmatic points, the new political situation is represented by the existence, on certain essential political questions, of an unprecedented agreement among all the parties... In fact, while today, there is a necessity for the government to negotiate separately with each party, with the accord reached, the government can count on certain support, and base its action on this common program..."

The negotiations for the accord which began three weeks ago, were under constant attack from their inception by the Atlanticist DC party president Aldo Moro, Rockefeller's inside man in the DC. Yesterday, after the accord was signed, Moro demanded, in addition, a Parliamentary vote. It is expected that the parties will now launch a series of negotiations on how best to present the projects to the Parliament.

Ugo LaMalfa, president of the Italian Republican Party (PRI), signed the accord despite the disruptive role he played throughout the negotiations. According to today's *Journal of Commerce*, LaMalfa, "the fiscal watchdog" signed despite "strong disagreement on the economic package...LaMalfa considered the provisions on labor costs and wages merely cosmetic in attacking Italy's annual 20 percent inflation rate."
