

On Nov. 18, the last day of the congress, the whole compromise package began to disintegrate during the elections to the new party executive committee. The compromise between Schmidt, Wehner and the left wing around Brandt had been that Wehner would get the most votes, Brandt would closely follow him and Schmidt would trail Brandt, but would still get above the 400 vote level. The left tried to extract its revenge by giving Wehner 414 votes, Brandt 413, and only 395 votes to Schmidt.

This attempt by the left to begin the attack on the SPD that Dahrendorf predicted created its own backlash. According to the daily *Süddeutsche Zeitung* Nov. 19, the SPD working class base viewed the low vote for Schmidt "as an act of war." Brandt was subjected to so much party pressure as a result of the insult to Schmidt that he

tried to trivialize it by calling it an "unforeseen error."

The executive committee vote also convinced Chancellor Schmidt's political opponents in the CDU, which recently officially gave full party support to nuclear energy, that the only way to keep the government's nuclear program protected from similar left SPD sabotage is to increase the pressure on Schmidt. Gerhard Stoltenberg, the CDU governor of the state of Schleswig-Holstein and a spokesman for the CDU industrialists faction, was interviewed in Schmidt's hometown paper, the *Bergedorfer Zeitung*, on Nov. 21. Stoltenberg said that the Hamburg compromises "were all fine in public but we will not fool ourselves over that congress. There were only thin bridges built over otherwise sharp internal controversies, and we can foresee hard fights in Bonn on the issues."

French Industry Budget Calls For Expansion Of Atomic Power Capacity

The French National Assembly last week voted up a 1978 budget for French state industry which contains provisions for the establishment of a system of nuclear power stations throughout the country, the target of which is 40 gigawatts (40 billion watts) of nuclear elec-

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tricity-generation capacity by 1985. This program is by far the most ambitious in Western Europe to date, and complements the French commitment to develop the fast-breeder reactor, and fusion power in the long term, to meet increasing energy needs.

In presenting the budget, Minister of Industry René Monory promised the National Assembly that the construction of nuclear plants would not be limited to the Rhône Valley in France's southeast, where these plants are now concentrated. Instead, construction plans would include at least three plants in the Paris region, to cope with the increasing needs of the nation's capital, and

more facilities in the Loire Valley and Brittany region. This is precisely the program long put forward by the state-controlled electricity company, Electricité de France (EDF), which is already actively looking for sites around Paris for the three plants.

Monory emphasized the safety of the program, stating, "The question of the recuperation of radioactive waste has been solved. There is no investment in the world in energy safety as important as what we have made for nuclear power. We have acquired an almost perfect and total mastery" of the technologies required.

The Minister of Industry added that his government has given priority to the development of fast-breeder nuclear plants, which can reduce growing dependency on limited uranium supplies by using plutonium as fuel. The government's decision to give the Atomic Energy Commission (CEA) 34 percent control (a blocking minority) of the newly created company Novatome confirmed this. Novatome's sole responsibility will be the construction of the huge fast-breeder plant known as the Super-Phenix, and the future commercialization of the breeder.