
Germany

Floods Shift National Elections to Reality

by Our Special Correspondent

The devastating August “100-year floods” of the River Elbe, which wreaked \$20-30 billion worth of damage on Germany, have profoundly shaken up the national parliamentary campaign in the last month before election day, and further increased the influence of the slate of Helga Zepp-LaRouche and the growing Civil Rights Solidarity Movement (BüSo).

Already before the floods hit, the rise of official national unemployment to more than 10% had become the major issue, and in early August the government’s Hartz Commission proposed actions demanded for months by Zepp-LaRouche: “job floater” infrastructure project bonds on a large scale, issued through the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau national reconstruction bank. (Italy’s government “floated” the same LaRouchian proposal at the same time). Then came the Elbe floods, and in an Aug. 29 national parliamentary discussion of how to rebuild, it looked as though the European Union’s whole disastrous Maastricht Treaty, with its straightjackets on spending and real economic growth, would be swept away, as Zepp-LaRouche has insisted it must be. Both Social Demo-

cratic and Christian Democratic leaders agreed that reconstruction credits must be created on a large national scale. Chancellor Gerhard Schröder’s Social Democrats also proposed, in order to give the Federal and state governments funds to rebuild, to stop the ongoing rounds of tax cuts which Germany had copied from the Bush Administration’s lunatic “free market” policy.

At the same time, the Christian Democrats—lead candidate Edmund Stoiber, parliamentary leaders Wolfgang Gerhard and Wolfgang Schäuble—joined the Chancellor’s already loud and public opposition to an American attack on Iraq—the third front on which Zepp-LaRouche, a few months ago, was campaigning alone.

As Deutsche Welle television put it in reporting the Aug. 29 Bundestag sessions, it “almost seemed as if the election debate had been suspended,” as the unreal polemics of a few weeks ago gave way to a unified national dialogue on required action.

The Cabinet proposed to create, by stopping the tax cuts, a “Reconstruction Solidarity Fund” of 7 billion euros. The Transport Ministry will make another 1 billion available for the reconstruction of roads, highways, and railroads, and the German government will set up a 2002-03 dike reconstruction program in the range of 330 million euros. Interior Minister Otto Schily proposed a special state bond project for after-flood reconstruction, with bonds that can be purchased by private citizens as well as by corporations. This resembles the LaRouche/BüSo call for state bonds.

The Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau initiated a post-flood reconstruction loan program of 1 billion euros in total, at an interest of 2.5% over 30 years, with a grace period of five



Helga Zepp-LaRouche’s BüSo campaign took to the North with large meetings in Saxony (here, left, in Hannover) in early August, as the government began to discuss anti-depression measures which she had proposed. Her campaign posters (right), against “financial crash and danger of war,” are going up around the country.

years. The German savings banks launched a post-flood reconstruction 30-year loan program of 1 billion euros, at zero interest for the first year and 1% interest for the second. And the German Minister of Economics decreed debt cancellation for firms whose machines, buildings, and other property have been wiped out by the flood, stating that one cannot expect someone to pay the debt for things that have been destroyed by the flood.

Zepp-LaRouche Campaigns in North

The chairwoman of the BüSo, whose campaign policies are now at the center of Germany's new axioms of debate, has posters all over the country which say, "Financial crash and danger of war: I know what must be done!" She spoke to over 150 citizens and supporters, and the cameras of the ARD national television channel, in three meetings in Hanover and Hamburg in mid-August, as her campaign turnouts grew dramatically in the usually reserved North of the country. They wanted to find out, in this time of crisis, whether Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche could deliver, as the saying goes, "butter with the fish," on what her election poster announces. She told them that the small BüSo is the most important party, because it uniquely has a solution to the systemic crisis, as the events in Germany are making clear. And more provocatively, she made clear that the epicenter of this crisis is not in Argentina, Brazil, or somewhere else in the Southern Hemisphere, but in the United States.

Describing the worsening debt crisis of the large American banks and corporations, Zepp-LaRouche said, "It's an illusion to believe, as Wall Street and some in the American administration do, that a war on Iraq would stop the crash. There is a growing resistance against that eventual Iraq war. In the United States, my husband Lyndon LaRouche is leading the resistance to this war faction with his 2004 Presidential campaign. To this extent, the BüSo is the only party that has an active American policy."

Helga Zepp-LaRouche's political career is defined by plans of reconstruction and development, up through the reunification of Germany, and since then with the Eurasian Land-Bridge. "Now is the last chance to realize those plans," she emphasized.

At the end of her presentations at all the meetings, Zepp-LaRouche described her concept of a "dialogue of cultures," in German poet Friedrich Schiller's sense of grasping what is best and most universal in each culture, as essential to peace through economic development. "For the first time in history, we are all sitting aboard the same boat!" she said. "We live in an epoch where AIDS, nuclear weapons, and underdevelopment are threatening all mankind. There is therefore only one solution: the immediate transformation of the political economy and the revival of the best aspects of every culture!"

Nothing could be felt of the famous stiffness and coldness of Germany's North; citizens stayed until late in the evening to discuss with "a real politician one can talk to," as one put it.

LaRouche Factor Grows In Australian Politics

by Allen Douglas

As the world economy sinks into depression, 2004 U.S. Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche's influence is growing worldwide; Australia is no exception. There are two, most recent markers of this rising influence downunder, linked to the activity of LaRouche's co-thinkers in the Citizens Electoral Council (CEC), a national political party. The CEC has led a successful fight against the Liberal/National Party government's attempts to pass draconian, police-state laws. And now the CEC has generated wide support for its campaign for a national bank, and for great infrastructure projects modelled on the legendary Snowy Mountains hydroelectric scheme, which the American Society of Engineers called "one of the seven engineering wonders of the world."

On Aug. 27, the Australian Labor Party (ALP), the main opposition party to the ruling coalition, announced that it would reject the government's "ASIO bill" in the Senate. This is the final piece in the "anti-terrorism" package that had been passed by the House in late March, and then by the Senate (in an altered form, and minus the ASIO bill) in late June. The thus-doomed ASIO bill would have turned the Australian Security Intelligence Organization (ASIO) into a Gestapo or KGB, with the right to detain anyone indefinitely—even if they were suspected of only having "information" about terrorism—with no lawyer, no right to remain silent, and the threat of a five-year jail sentence for "non-cooperation." The ALP had voted for the rest of the government's "anti-terror" package in the Senate in late June. So why their sudden, staunch opposition to the ASIO bill?

Shortly after the House passed the "anti-terror" package—the most far-reaching changes to the nation's legal system since World War II—LaRouche's CEC began an intensive nationwide mobilization against it, notwithstanding an apparently unstoppable government/ALP alliance to push the bills through the Senate as well. The CEC issued 500,000 leaflets denouncing the bills as "identical to Hitler's *Notverordnung*." (This was the Feb. 28, 1934 "emergency decree" the day after the Reichstag fire, which laid the juridical basis for the Nazi seizure of power.) The CEC also organized a phone call and e-mail campaign which hammered Liberal/National and ALP senators with 200 calls or e-mails per day; and sponsored a full-page ad in the country's major daily, *The Australian*, signed by 220 elected officials and other prominent Australians, which denounced the bills as, "in the most literal sense of the term, *fascist*."