

# Business Briefs

## *The New Deal*

### **Paper Hits FDR's Plan And LaRouche as 'Fascist'**

The German establishment's leading newspaper, the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, on April 20 issued an attack on Franklin D. Roosevelt and his New Deal as being fascist, and blamed Lyndon LaRouche for a revival of interest in FDR's policies in Germany.

In a commentary entitled "Blue Eagle—Polite Fascism: The SPD Revives the New Deal," the *FAZ* assails the Social Democratic Party (SPD) for its recent insistence on the importance of the state in organizing the economy. The "defamations and the pushing of enemy images" under Roosevelt, such as the SPD is doing today, were the "real threat" to democracy, the paper claims.

The article adds: "This is the same scheme with which Helga Zepp-LaRouche's Civil Rights Movement Solidarity has recently gone to SPD party congresses, to garner support, while her husband, the right-winger Lyndon LaRouche, is pushing for the revival of the New Deal in America."

## *New Bretton Woods*

### **China's 'People's Daily' Publishes LaRouche Call**

The *People's Daily*, China's official newspaper, published an article on April 18, citing Lyndon LaRouche's call for a New Bretton Woods financial system. Washington correspondent Yong Tang quoted three U.S. analysts on a recent U.S. Senate resolution demanding that China revalue its currency, the renminbi: Morgan Stanley's Stephen Roach, Treasury Secretary John Snow, and LaRouche. The article introduces LaRouche with the subhead: "LaRouche Calls for a New Bretton Woods System."

The article then stated: "The celebrated American economist and independent Presidential candidate, Lyndon LaRouche, has many times succeeded in predicting the outbreak of financial crises in many parts of the

world. . . . A few days ago on receiving a call from this paper's correspondent, who was looking for an interview, he was quite straightforward. 'Such an action by the U.S. Senate shows that it has lost its mind!' LaRouche said. 'You can't blame the emerging problems of the U.S. economy on the exchange rate of the renminbi. Such action by the Senate has an imperialist flavor, of unilaterally opposing the actions of a rival, without providing any solution to the problem.'

"Continuing . . . LaRouche said, 'If you want to solve the problems of the U.S. economy, you have to conduct major surgery.' He considers the present global financial and monetary system as already beyond any cure. It requires a thoroughgoing reorganization of the system, and cannot be accomplished through a simple reform. The ultimate goal of such a thoroughgoing reorganization is the establishment of a new Bretton Woods system."

## *Economic Policy*

### **German SPD Leader Rips Free-Market Liberalism**

German Social Democratic Party (SPD) Chairman Franz Müntefering has created an uproar, with his call for a larger role for the state in Germany's ailing economy. Taking a cue from the Civil Rights Movement Solidarity party (BüSo), which is headed by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, he attacked anti-state "market economy purism," in an April 13 speech in Berlin. He said that "human beings today are only viewed as appendices of growth, profit, consumption, or as a commodity on the labor market," adding that too many people are interested only in maximizing short-term profit, and a "reduced role of the state." He noted that the state is not the enemy, adding that the SPD wants a "social market economy." "Our state also provides other public goods: an education system, health, finances, infrastructure. . . . The social state is not expendable."

He said the role of the state must be present in all areas vital to society: to secure municipal investments; made; 2) to preserve the social security systems; 3) to make long-

term investments in the future; and 4) to invest in basic research, in energy, transport, medicine, and not to wait to see whether the free market shows an interest in these areas.

The speech drew loud attacks from free-market ideologues of all stripes.

Müntefering stirred up even louder protests with an interview April 17 in *Bild am Sonntag*, Germany's largest weekly, in which he said that the worst threat to industry and jobs is predatory financial investors: "They stay anonymous, have no face, fall upon the firms like swarms of locusts, eat them up, and move on." He noted that it is "against this form of capitalism that we are fighting," adding that we "must not leave the world to the hands of money."

## *Brazil*

### **Free Trade Alliance Is Not on the Agenda**

Speaking to a gathering of labor leaders in the capital, Brasilia, just days before U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was to visit Brazil, President Luis Inacio Lula da Silva said that for two years, the proposed Free Trade Alliance of the Americas (FTAA) "has not been discussed in Brazil, because we took it off the agenda." Instead, Brazil has focussed on strengthening trade ties among its South American neighbors, and promoting infrastructural projects for regional integration.

"How did we take it off the agenda?" asked Lula. "By strengthening Mercosur [Southern Cone Common Market], creating the South American Community of Nations, and trying to establish a new standard of relations among South American countries."

Brazil still co-chairs the talks to create the FTAA with the United States. Therefore, Foreign Ministry spokesman Glaucio Veloso had to translate the President's words into diplomatese: "In no way did the President want to say that Brazil is no longer interested in FTAA or that it wants to withdraw." Veloso said that "what he is saying is that over the past two years Brazil has resorted to a new approach towards negotiations."