

proposing that existing power plants operate several years longer, or proposing building new plants.

Öttinger said: "I think that the development of electricity prices over the coming months, and new nuclear power plant projects on the European energy market, will make the Social Democrats rethink their views." Also labor union officials have begun to question the (red-green) dumping of nuclear power, Öttinger said, referencing the aforementioned labor union newspaper ad. Öttinger warned that if the agreement to reject nuclear power, part of the Grand Coalition agreement, remains unaltered, the power plant at Neckarwestheim in his own state would have to be shut down in three years, and then Baden-Württemberg would be forced to import electricity, or face the emigration of companies and jobs to other European countries which do have secured power supplies.

The sudden escalation of the (now resolved) gas dispute between Russia and Ukraine delivered more arguments in favor of nuclear power. On Jan. 2, the day after Russia's Gazprom firm had shut down all gas supplies to Ukraine, German Economics Minister Michael Glos said in a radio interview that although the Grand Coalition government had resolved not to change the anti-nuclear policy, it was evident that for the medium-term perspective of securing energy supplies, nuclear technology again had to be put on the agenda.

Non-Nuclear Power Sources Not Enough

On Jan. 3, Anette Schavan, German Minister of Research and Technology, said in a newspaper interview that renewable energy sources (wind, solar, geothermal) could never replace an "energy mix including nuclear." Peter Ramsauer, vice chairman of the Christian Democrats' group in the national parliament, criticized the Grand Coalition agreement on nuclear power, saying it did not have an eternal value, but was challenged by the reality of uncertain fossil energy supplies, as evidenced in the Russian-Ukrainian gas conflict. Edmund Stoiber, Governor of Bavaria, on the same day, said that it was "time to discuss the nuclear issue not on the basis of ideologies, but rather on the basis of what is technically feasible and safe, to secure the energy supply of the future."

So far, there have been only angry responses from the Social Democrats to these initiatives, and none of the aforementioned political prominents has yet mentioned the option of building new nuclear power plants. But it is clear that the debate on nuclear technology is prominently back on the agenda, after more than 20 years. The LaRouche movement, the only political force in Germany that has unconditionally endorsed nuclear power and has, for years, called for new power plants, will escalate its campaign now, to convince the German population that returning to nuclear fission, and moving on to thermonuclear fusion, are the best options for securing the energy supply. In addition, natural gas and crude oil are raw materials much too precious (for the production of fertilizers, for example), to be burned up and released into the air through chimneys.

'That Isn't Enough, Mrs. Chancellor!'

by Helga Zepp-LaRouche

Mrs. LaRouche is the chairwoman of the Civil Rights Movement Solidarity party (BüSo) in Germany. She issued this statement on Jan. 5, 2006.

In a nationwide pronouncement, Chancellor [Angela] Merkel has announced an investment program for her Grand Coalition of 25 billion euros for four years—that is exactly 6.25 billion euros per year. In her New Year's speech, she proclaimed that one must "take many little steps," and therefore her "immediate program" is also a patchwork rug, which is pieced together from a large number of small measures, and is itself much too short to cover the many economic problems of Germany.

But we live in a highly dramatic period of transition, in which the strategic parameters for the untenable situation of the global financial system, and with it, also for the situation in Germany, will be decided anew. The decisive battle is currently occurring in the United States, where, on the one side, the Bush-Cheney Administration is seeking to impose its dictatorial power in the tradition of Carl Schmitt and the *Führerprinzip* in the "extraordinary situation," and, on the other side, a powerful bipartisan coalition is seeking to remove Bush, Cheney, and other neo-cons from office through impeachment proceedings, before it is too late, and it comes to fascist solutions for the global financial collapse, and to new wars, for example, against Iran.

The illegal eavesdropping on American citizens in the NSA affair, the lies which are known to have been fabricated to bring about the Iraq War, the strategic disaster of the Iraq War itself, and many other scandals, all these have produced a swing in popular opinion: According to a self-selected MSNBC poll, 86% of Americans want Bush and Cheney out of office. Not only Democrats, but also Republicans are making it clear where they see the danger. Thus, a former deputy secretary in the Treasury under the Reagan Administration (!), Paul Craig Roberts, wrote in the *Washington Times*: "Compared to Spycgate, Watergate was a kindergarten picnic. The Bush Administration's lies, felonies, and illegalities have revealed it to be a criminal administration with a police state mentality and police state methods. . . . Bush aggressively mimics Hitler's claim that defense of the realm entitles him to ignore the rule of law. . . . Will another terrorist attack allow

the Bush Administration to complete its coup?"

But still more political earthquakes are shaking the Republican Party: After chief lobbyist Jack Abramoff decided to cooperate with the state authorities (because of his still worse crimes), indictments are threatening not only the former Republican majority leader Tom DeLay, but up to 60 Congressmen, and the circles around Gov. Jeb Bush and Vice President Cheney are also implicated. The Republican Party is undergoing the worst crisis in its history.

Hope for Germany

If the United States frees itself of Bush, Cheney, and the other neo-cons, and returns to the tradition of the American Revolution, Lincoln, F.D. Roosevelt, and J.F. Kennedy—and that is exactly what the influence of Lyndon LaRouche and the LaRouche Youth Movement has catalyzed—then there is also hope for Germany. If the U.S.A. returns to the economic policy of the American System, then Germany also has more room to operate. Because only if Germany frees itself from the European Currency Union which was imposed by Mitterrand and Thatcher, and achieves sovereignty over its own financial and economic policy, can we overcome the economic crisis which is upon us. We don't need a 6.25 billion euros per year investment program, but 400 billion *deutschemarks* a year. And this is only possible through the creation of state credit in the tradition of the national bank policy of Alexander Hamilton, and FDR's New Deal.

The tragedy of Bad Reichenhall* is a thunder clap, which must wake us up, so that it doesn't go any further. When such misfortunes take place in China, Russia, or the poor developing nations, many people are quick to say, "Sure, they don't value human life as much as we do!" But since wanton greed, modern penny-pinching, and cheap production came into fashion among us, priorities have changed. Someone decided that the roof construction used at Bad Reichenhall (and there are thousands of similar places) was cheaper. There were similar reasons why over 250 safety violations occurred in 2005 at the mining site in West Virginia, where 13 men lost their lives. Deregulation, privatization, "shrinking" of the state, criminal negligence of investment in aging infrastructure, abandonment of the general welfare in favor of maximizing profit—these are the reasons you can find such misfortune.

Yet, this month it has become most probably clear, that the Democratic Party in the United States has newly revived the American System of economy, and returned to FDR, JFK, and his "science-driver" policy," as it was carried out with the Apollo program. But also the traditional Republicans, now in the face of mega-scandals, have to think about the elections in November 2006, and support a policy to save the economy. If economic policy in the U.S.A. is reversed, so as to be for

*The reference is to the Jan. 3, 2006 collapse of the roof of an ice-skating rink, in which an estimated 15 people were killed, including children.

state credit-creation, for nuclear energy (this year the first nuclear plant in a long time will be built in the U.S.A.), and generally for a growth policy oriented to scientific and technological progress, then Germany will have more freedom of movement.

In Germany alone, there is a backlog of 1.7 trillion euros in non-functioning infrastructure, of which 650 billion are in the municipal sector. Forty thousand road bridges and 2,000 highway bridges are no longer safe. The example of Bad Reichenhall shows that the hidden amount of necessary renovations is apparently much larger. These infrastructure investments are essential, if Germany is going to remain an industrial nation.

But we also need a 50-year perspective for the key role Germany must play in the development of Eurasia, a perspective of a cooperative division of labor with Russia, China, and India. Only if Germany can play this role, as a sovereign nation in an alliance with other sovereign nations of Eurasia, does Europe have a chance.

We stand on the verge of new industrial developments. Soon, or in the medium term, we must find alternatives to oil and gas, and the development of the hydrogen-fueled auto would actually be like a worldwide renaissance of inherently safe energy, in the form of the high-temperature reactor developed in Jülich, which Germany must connect with, so that this technology is developed.

Just as, in the United States, the consequences of the reality have been drawn, that the model of globalization and outsourcing to lands of cheap production has failed, we also in Germany must again establish scientific and technological excellence, and that means, that Germany will again become a high-wage country. We need well-paying jobs in Germany, and a strong social state, which defends the general welfare. Adenauer and Ehrhard were right; the neo-liberals and neo-conservatives have failed.

Cheap production in the so-called Third World has also meant that we have consigned these countries to poverty. Instead, we must take as our mission, to raise the living standard in Asia, Africa, and Latin America to a European level, because the people who live there, have the same claim to human dignity and the development of their creative potential as we do.

Therefore, we don't need "many little steps," but a grand leap, which represents a brave vision for the 21st Century. The developments in the United States will make clear over the next weeks, that we find ourselves in a truly revolutionary situation. If the United States frees itself from the problem of the neo-conservatives, and takes up leadership for the solution to the global financial crisis, then Germany can win its sovereignty, and take up the American economic system, as well as the National Bank policy of Alexander Hamilton.

And Mrs. Merkel is still pro-American, no?
Join with the BüSo!