

German LYM Brings in ‘New Politics’

by Rainer Apel

The March 11 mayoral election in the German city of Wiesbaden, may well go down in history as a turning point in the dynamic of the political process in this country. For, despite the attempted sabotage of the election campaign, by measures including the failure of the leading Social Democratic Party candidate to register in time, and the subsequently dramatically low voter turnout (26.5%), the deployment of the LaRouche Youth Movement behind the campaign of BüSo (Civil Rights Solidarity Party) mayoral candidate Alexander Hartmann, resulted in not only the doubling of the BüSo vote in the campaign, but palpably changed the political environment in a lasting way.

Commenting on the election, BüSo National Chairwoman Helga Zepp-LaRouche said:

“If only a good fourth of the voters participate in an election, that shows that something fundamental is wrong. Previously over 90% of the people participated in local elections. In this case, the so-called political elite in this country has never been as discredited as today. The election campaign of the BüSo in Wiesbaden has shown, that one must win back the trust of the population in many direct personal discussions, and with a program that addresses the existential problems of the people. But above all, our young election campaigners have created a situation in which they reawakened in Wiesbaden a memory of Germany as a land of poets and thinkers.”

The major measurable impact of the BüSo campaign, which was spearheaded by a group of 12 members of the LYM, who blanketed the city with 40,000 campaign pamphlets, and brought *bel canto* singing into the streets on a daily basis, was in the working-class district of Wiesbaden, a formerly industrial city. While the vote given to Hartmann for the city as a whole was 1.8% of the total, in several working-class districts, where the youth had concentrated their activity, Hartmann received 7.5% of the vote. In the German multi-party system, a vote total of over 5% is enough to qualify as a major party.

But the effects of the LYM presence, both on the streets and at the major campaign events which tried to exclude Hartmann, will be seen in a change in the political climate over the longer term. The BüSo polemics against the Al Gore hoax around CO₂ and global warming, against the Cheney war party, and against the “casino economy” of Wiesbaden (which has a big gambling “industry”) stirred up the city’s



The LaRouche Youth Movement campaigns for Wiesbaden mayoral candidate Alexander Hartmann. Hartmann doubled his vote over his previous campaign. His poster (shown here) reads, "Wiesbaden needs a 'New Deal,'" with photos of FDR and Hartmann. The pun is on the name of Hildebrand Diehl, outgoing mayor of the city.

establishment, and put the ideas of reindustrialization on people's tongues again. As the impact of the global financial collapse deepens, the BüSo will be the only institution standing to which they can turn.

Political System Falling Apart

The Wiesbaden mayoral campaign was a landmark for the collapse of the discredited, established system of politics in Germany. First, the Social Democrats, one of the two biggest parties in Germany, failed to have a candidate. This has never happened before, and it led to the absurd decision of the SPD to call on its voters to come out for a candidate, Ewald Roth, who was not on the ballot.

This left the mayoral field to be dominated by two establishment candidates, Helmut Müller (Christian Democrats) and Rita Thies (Greens). As BüSo candidate Hartmann observed after the election, the major achievement of these two candidates was to scare three quarters of the electorate away from the polls. In fact, not only was the turnout only 26.5%, but this was a 7% drop from the last election for mayor.

The mainstream media in Wiesbaden, the *Wiesbadener Kurier*, also did its best to contribute to destroying the electoral process. One week before the election, the paper published a forecast that gave 23% to Müller, 16% to Thies, 3% to the semi-establishment candidate of the Linke (Left) list Peter Silbereisen, and 0% to Hartmann. Even when you add in the 34% the *Kurier* said were undecided, still 24% of the vote was missing! Not until after the election did the *Kurier* see fit to mention the BüSo campaign, and that with a mostly slanderous article, that nonetheless reported on the LYM's campaigning, along with a photo of the LaRouche Youth with their main campaign banner, exposing the Al Gore CO₂ hoax with the message: "Plants Love CO₂."

The BüSo Campaign

During the course of the few weeks before the election, 40,000 BüSo programmatic pamphlets were distributed throughout the city—meaning that one out of five households in the city received a pamphlet. The campaign poster was designed with a particular irony in mind, because it depicted Hartmann together with Franklin D. Roosevelt, saying that “Wiesbaden Needs a New Deal.” “Deal” was placed next to a crossed-out “Diehl,” the name of the outgoing mayor of Wiesbaden.

In their campaigning, the LYM deliberately accentuated the contrast between the “New Politics” political method of conveying Classical music and science to the populace, and politics as usual. Every day, the LYM held their chorus practices on the streets, during which they performed Classical music such as Johann Sebastian Bach’s motet “Jesu, meine Freude,” as well as the American song of the Union Army during the Civil War, “The Battle Cry of Freedom.” In addition, the youth provided polemical texts for songs from the Classical musical repertoire, including one which began with CO₂, and warned that “Cheney is preparing a new war.”

The musical performances were conducted at rallies, as well as leaflettings, and public interventions. Most of the former were held in the outer districts of Wiesbaden, where the lower-income 80% of the population lives, but music also dominated the final campaign rally held in the downtown area on March 10, the day before the election. A public campaign event of the BüSo on March 4 focussed entirely on presenting the choral work of the LYM, with exemplary sections from the aforementioned Bach motet.

“What does Bach have to do with the struggle against Gore and Cheney?” was a question asked by many German citizens on the street. The answer was that Classical music elevates the citizen to become a better voter. A very special event during the campaign was a performance of the Bach motet at a mosque. This was followed by a discussion between the LaRouche Youth and the Muslims there, about the importance of choral music, and about the potentially big impact that Bach could have on the development of Islamic music, if his principles of composition were applied there also.

The LYM contingent also introduced universal principles from science into the campaign, by giving a class on Johannes Kepler, the astronomer-philosopher of the late 16th-early 17th Century. Kepler's research laid the basis for everything that space science and space technology—not to mention atmospheric science—has achieved today. Kepler's work also exemplified the unity of the principles of Classical music and physical science—a reality that was demonstrated when the youth combined the Kepler presentation with a musical program by instrumentalists of the LaRouche Youth, at the final campaign event.