

Referencing the DDR proposal in veiled terms, Gaus admonished that both sides have to learn these "psychological lessons." The course of negotiations so far has not worked because "there is a great need for the DDR to catch up in terms of its self-understanding and self-confidence."

Gaus' remarks were endorsed by Olaf von Wrangel, member of the CDU parliamentary Opposition, and chairman of the parliamentary committee on "inner German" relations. According to the Sued-Deutsche Zeitung, "...Wrangel evaluated passages of Gaus' statement as a reaction to his, Wrangel's, demand for a greater objectification of this discussion, and for more common action between the government and the opposition on the Germany policy."

Fear and Trembling

In contrast to the recent display of confidence and unity in the SED, the West German government is presently wracked by political indecision brought on by a collapsing domestic economy. On the last day of Parliament before the holiday pause, the Christian opposition engaged in an attack on Schmidt's efforts to lull the East Germans into accepting economic and political incursions onto their territory. Gaus told the press, "We have to make an effort to separate the polarization which is catching on to an ever greater degree at home, and which occasionally terrifies me, from the discussion of the Germany policy."

Gaus' and Wrangel's remarks are one part of an effort on the part of various politicians to smooth over the present political paralysis so that policy decisions on economic and foreign policy matters can be reached. During the month of January, Schmidt will be meeting with Carl Carstens, Christian Democratic Parliamentary fraction leader and a Rockefeller-allied foreign policy specialist from the German Society on Foreign Policy, the equivalent of the American Council on Foreign Relations. A government spokesman has expressed the hope that this meeting might help to ease "positions" around the DDR question.

LABOR PARTY BATTLES DALEY BALLOT CHALLENGES

CHICAGO, JAN. 6 (IPS)--In an unprecedented move that reflects the power of Labor Party organizing in this city, the Board of Elections Commissioners Court today postponed prosecution of challenges brought by the political machine of Mayor Richard Daley against two out of five of the United States Labor Party's nominating petitions for Alderman candidates. Both parties must submit legal briefs within the next several days. Hearings were held on challenges to the candidacies of Joe Bell and Leo Scanlon, and decisions are now pending.

1/6/75

IPS D3

According to veteran observers of Election Board proceedings, challenges of the type brought by Daley lawyers against Labor Party Alderman candidates John Brown and David Hoffman are routinely processed in favor of Daley.

The announcement of postponement brought an immediate buzzing in court chambers. Two election lawyers ran over to Labor Party organizers saying, "This is unheard of! If it was anybody but the Labor Party, these would have been upheld in ten seconds." Staff organizers for several "independent" candidates, many of whom were thrown off the ballot by Daley challenges, expressed their astonishment at the postponement, asking, "What's your secret?"

The events should surprise no one. The LP has mounted a major campaign to defend its right to be on the ballot, exposing the CIA's control and subversion of the democratic election process directed here by John Hanley, an ex-Secret Service agent who chairs the Board of Elections. Chicago's working class has been thoroughly briefed on Hanley's background by Labor Party organizers. Thousands of leaflets exposing Hanley were distributed to workers at Southworks Steel complex, Republic Steel and at major unemployment centers.

The Daley machine, itself under heavy attack from the LEAA/Rockefeller forces, is in complete panic over losing hegemony in key working class wards to the Labor Party. USLP supporters in those wards mobilized cell organizing networks to bombard the offices of Daley machine politicians with angry phone calls in protest of their attempts to kick the Labor Party off the ballot. The offices of several Aldermen were forced to take their phones off the hook.

Who's on Trial

The panicky Daley lawyers conducted the hearings as if it was John Dillinger who was on trial. They produced elaborate evidence, including maps and photographs in an attempt to prove that Leo Scanlon, LP 10th ward candidate, did not live in his house. They offered the testimony of two undercover agents, who had spied on Scanlon by sneaking around his house.

Revealing themselves as cheap shysters, the lawyers attempted to confuse and intimidate a LP witness in the hallway prior to the hearings. They became hysterical when the witness in his testimony refused to give in to their badgering, announcing instead, "I do not recall saying what you said I said in the hallway. You were the one who kept telling me that Scanlon doesn't live in my house."