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EUROPEAN LABOR PARTY CAMPAIGN

## ELP Campaign In West German Elections

*"Those who are best suited to analyze the new world order are those who have worked on it from the beginning."*

Sept. 23 (NSIPS) — European Labor Party Federal Chairman Helga Zepp announced her candidacy for Federal Chancellor to millions of West German voters in a five-minute presentation on national radio Sept. 9. "The new world economic order demands that governments and parliaments analyze it expertly," Zepp told her prime time audience, "and those who are best suited to analyze it are those who have worked on it from the beginning, those who are the originators and the long-term champions of the new world economic order, namely the European Labor Party."

During her broadcast, Zepp reissued a challenge to her two major opponents in the Oct. 3 Federal elections, Helmut Schmidt (Social Democrat) and Helmut Kohl (Christian Democrat) to debate their own economic programs on national television with her.

Whether or not either of the Atlanticist Helmut takes up Zepp's challenge, the ELP's role in organizing for the success of the new world economic order is the only heated issue in the present West German "no-issue" campaign.

A key indicator of the recognition now being given the ELP is the party's success in breaking through a media blackout. On Sept. 15, Zepp appeared on the first of a series of 14 television spots and major network interviews of leading ELP candidates.

News coverage of the ELP is an important gauge of the transformation in West Germany's political life as it comes under the influence of Italian, French, and Comecon initiatives to implement the Colombo resolution for the new world economic order. The press that is now covering ELP campaigns has been an obedient Atlanticist policy outlet for 30 years, ever since it was licensed by US. High Commissioner John J. McCloy during the post-World War II occupation.

Paralleling its political victories, the ELP has won two major political victories. On Sept. 18, a federal court handed down a temporary restraining order on the West German Communist Party (DKP), forbidding it from accusing the ELP of receiving CIA funds, which the DKP had done in an August issue of its daily, *Unsere Zeit*. The court imposed a fine of 500,000 marks (\$200,000) as penalty for future slanders. In addition, the DKP has been ordered to print a retraction of its slander. The precedent for this ruling was established in Bremen, where Social Democratic member of parliament Ernst Walthemathe — who had delivered similar slanders against the ELP — was last month ordered to desist when he produced no evidence for his claim.

### ELP Electoral Machine

The ELP national electoral machine is based in the six major population centers of West Germany.

\* **Hamburg-Bremen** — The ELP is running five candidates in these northern city-states, which are national shipbuilding and shipping centers. The Metal Workers Union (IG Metall), an important Social Democratic base representing shipbuilding, steel, and engineering, is thoroughly penetrated by the ELP.

For example, one ELP contact at the Hanomag shipbuilding plant in Bremen distributes leaflets at the plant gate to every member of his entire 400 man shift. Expansion of East-West trade is a particularly hot issue here as West German exports continue to plummet. Tagging behind the ELP, which has made greater East-West trade a basic point in its International Development Bank proposal, a pro-development Christian Democratic shipbuilding faction now also backs the IDB.

The Bremen local broke the back of intense harassment by SPD-linked Maoists during local elections a year ago, and since then the harassment against the ELP has been much more official, coordinated by the Bremen police and Hamburg's notorious K-14 political police. The local Bremen press, such as the *Weserkurier* and the *Weserreport* have covered the ELP since the local campaign last year, while the Hamburg-based national publications like *Die Welt* and *Stern* have just begun their coverage. ELP influence in both parties is so great that Atlanticist Finance Minister Hans Friedrichs tried to shout down an ELP intervention in Bremen by yelling, "Do you think German Banks would make loans after a debt moratoria? Well, they wouldn't." Friedrichs turned white as the next question, on expanding shipping and the port of Bremen, came from Bremen Christian Democratic parliamentarian Hochemeyer, and not an ELP member. At an intervention in Hamburg, Social Democrat Foreign Ministry State Secretary Hans Jürgen Wischniewski tried to prevent the ELP from passing the Colombo Non-Aligned Resolutions calling for debt moratoria around at his rally by saying, "I'm crazy already, and I don't want to see my death warrant (debt moratorium) in black and white."

\* **North Rhine-Westphalia** — This state, with 16 ELP candidates, comprises one third — 20 million — of the West German population, and a full one third — 8 million — of the nation's working class. It is the steel, coal, and machine tool center of Europe, with two major auto plants, the world's second largest chemical company, and West Germany's nationalized oil company headquartered there. Its heavy industrial and chemical products were the backbone of West Germany's pre-depression exports. The Social Democrats traditionally controlled this state through IG Metall, and the chemical, mining, construction and public service unions.

Two parallel ELP networks in the unions and local political machines are responsible for overwhelming ELP recognition, even in areas never organized before. This region distributes at least 5,000 leaflets per day, with up to 3,000 leaflets taken in 15 minutes by passers-by on some crowded sites. Region-wide sales of *Neue Solidarität*, the ELP weekly newspaper, average 200 papers a day, and, while local radio stations are predicting that there will be a debt moratorium for the Third World, the ELP is greeted with cries of "The tractor people" when campaign organizers arrive at plants for the first time. Industrialists, the traditional supporters of the Christian Democrats, have been ordering their companies to investigate

the Jordan steel process being advocated by the ELP as an alternative to what they clearly recognize is a collapse of the Atlanticist economic structure.

Cross-party ferment for a debt moratorium is so strong that at a recent Social Democratic rally in Duisburg, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt lashed out at the Christian Democrats (!) for "offering money for industry, the developing countries, municipalities, and the army."

\* **Wiesbaden-Mannheim Chemical Corridor** — Seven ELP candidates are standing for election in this area of 8 million people which includes parts of the states of Rhineland-Palatinate, Hesse, and Baden-Württemberg. It is the world's chemical center, the home base of the largest and the third largest chemical companies in the world, with significant auto, machine tool, printing and communications sectors.

Both chemical workers and chemical industrialists have tackled the new world economic order head on. 15,000 copies of an ELP leaflet demanding more scientific education were swept up on walking tours through chemical worker neighborhoods in Frankfurt and Ludwigshaven. Last week, the Mannheimer Morgen, a leading chemical industry-oriented daily, fully covered ELP candidate Uwe Friesecke's weekly meeting with worker contacts on industrial program. Spokesmen for the chemical industry have taken the unprecedented step of publicly criticizing Hessen Free Democratic party leader Wolfgang Mischnik, one of the ELP's opponents, for "being against growth." Despite this criticism from his own corporate backers, Mischnik babbled during an ELP intervention at his rally the next day, "Debt moratoria is no solution ... debt is no problem as long as it is lower than the country's Gross National Product."

ELP forums in this corridor have been drawing as many as 50 highly educated chemical workers. One recent forum, chaired by Chancellor candidate Helga Zepp collected 200 marks (\$80) in contributions from workers. Campaign rallies in outlying Hessen peasant towns have sold as many as 60 papers per hour.

\* **Stuttgart** — Stuttgart, the capital of the state of Baden-Württemberg, is an electrical and machine tool center with two major auto and truck plants. The industries there have the most explicit corporatist programs in the country, and the three local ELP candidates have been receiving coverage from two local papers, the Stuttgarter Zeitung and the Esslinger Zeitung, since the ELP began exposing Maoist-IG Metall collaboration in enforcing these corporatist policies. From this beginning, the ELP local here has organized so effectively for the IDB that it was able to collect 500 marks (\$200) in working class contributions last week.

The growing ELP influence has put the area's SPD machine in

a vise. One Social Democratic national executive member, Horst Ehmke, tried to handle an ELP intervention at a rally last week by announcing to his startled Social Democratic followers, "Yes, the ELP is right. I too support the Colombo resolutions, debt moratorium, and the new world economic order." Another Social Democratic politician, Social Democratic Post Office Undersecretary Ernst Haar, reacted to a similar intervention by taking a swing at an ELP candidate's jaw — an incident that was prominently covered the next day by the local press.

\* **Munich** — The Social Democratic-controlled capital of Bavaria, Munich has 2 million inhabitants and is the arms manufacturing center for West Germany. Persistent organizing by four ELP candidates here is making it clear that only the International Development Bank, and not NATO, can provide jobs. Last week, the Munich national daily Süddeutsche Zeitung covered the ELP's press conference on its industrial program with a picture and a caption outlining the program, while the regional Munich Merkur was the first paper to publish Zepp's debate challenge to the two Helmut. At peak efficiency, the Munich local distributes 2,000 leaflets and sells 100 papers per day. Harassment mounted against the ELP has been shared and coordinated by Maoist countergangs and rabid anti-communist members of the Christian Social Union of CDU shadow Finance Minister Franz Josef Strauss, but it began to level off this summer after the ELP began public exposures of the Strauss-Maoist pact.

\* **Hannover** — The Hannover area, with about 1 million inhabitants, is the production center of Volkswagen, the third largest auto company in the world, in addition to being an agricultural center. ELP organizing at the Salzgitter-Peine Steel plant, a feeder plant for Volkswagen, has led the union-elected factory council to call for increased East-West trade, while condemning Christian-Democratic Atlanticists for sabotage against it.

ELP organizing among local peasants has had as significant an impact as in Hesse. When Christian Democratic Lower Saxony governor Albrecht tried to tell predominantly Christian Democratic peasants that, despite what the ELP says, there will be "no relief and no debt moratorium" for peasants, he was loudly booed by supporters of his own party.

#### Home Stretch

In the period before the parliamentary elections on Oct. 3, the ELP has decided to place its major campaign emphasis on the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, and has scheduled Chancellor candidate Helga Zepp to campaign there until the elections. Since Zepp's first television appearance, workers from all over the country have been asking organizers, "When is this Zepp going to hit North Rhine-Westphalia?"