

The strike at Grunwick has been used by agent circles around Thatcher and the far left to create phony "left-right" scenario, in order to bust up Callaghan's still shaky control over his coalition government. Playing an obvious provocatory role, the National Association for Freedom (NAFF) is coaching Grunwick's director on his hard line stance against the unions. The NAFF has as one of its leading members Robert Moss, who is one of Thatcher's primary foreign policy speech writers, and a known advocate of Chilean style economic and union policies as a model for Britain. Moss is being backed by Thatcher's key policy advisor Sir Keith Joseph, who charged that the labour government has been complicit in using "all means, illegal and legal, fair and foul, to coerce workers into joining organizations they do not wish to join." Employment Minister Albert Booth has already warned Keith to either substantiate his charges immediately "or provide full public retraction" of "these serious allegations" to avoid legal action.

Despite such provocation, as well as attempts by the ultra-left "rent-a-mob" minority at the strike site to provoke police, the trade unions and the government

have held firm. While Employment Minister Booth is engaged in active attempts to negotiate a settlement between the union and management at Grunwick, Attorney General Sam Silkin has backed the important right of peaceful picketing, while warning against the use of violence or provocation of violence during strikes.

More importantly, Trades Union Congress head Len Murray called for full TUC support of the strike specifically attacking the NAFF, which "by its intervention at an early stage...has protracted and exacerbated the situation." Murray affirmed that the TUC itself was "one of the national associations for freedom." He said, "I deprecate attempts by any political organization to move into an industrial relations situation. In no circumstances would I try to defend the actions of people who attempted to latch on to industrial disputes for their own purposes." The head of the trade union directly involved in the strike, Roy Grathan, warned strike supporters against violence, and pledged that his union "will be seeking ways in which to ensure that in the future there will be no violence from either side."

Will BRD Labor-Industry Alliance Finish Brandt?

WEST GERMANY

Herbert Wehner, the West German Social Democratic Party's (SPD) Parliamentary fraction chairman, has launched a campaign "to drive SPD Chairman Willy Brandt into a self-imposed resignation," according to the June 22 daily *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. The imminent demise of Brandt, who has been handpicked by World Bank president Robert McNamara to chair his bank's new Third World commission, is being looked upon with great relish by West German industrial and labor sectors.

Brandt ensured that this labor-industrial alliance would move against him when he permitted a number of SPD "leftists" in Parliament last week to vote against the Social Democratic-Free Democratic government's tax budget. These parliamentary leftists were publicly supported by the "zero-growth" oriented SPD youth organization, the Jusos, whom Brandt has always encouraged to factionalize against the SPD center around Wehner and SPD Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. Schmidt and Wehner have seized on this opportunity to put a national spotlight on both the leftist SPD parliamentarians and the Jusos, who could have caused the budget's defeat and a subsequent collapse of the Schmidt government.

Even though the Brandt left acquiesced under pressure, the attacks on them by the Schmidt and Wehner forces have expanded over the past week. The initial charges — of sabotaging SPD support for Chancellor Schmidt — have developed into a barrage of attacks against the SPD left for wanting to halt the

government's growth and trade-oriented policies in favor of zero growth.

These attacks reflect a bullish confidence in growth that is becoming increasingly dominant in export-oriented West Germany, coupled with no-nonsense intolerance of Carter Administration-type no-growth proposals. The West German press have given prominent coverage of a projected 300 percent increase in French-Soviet trade as a result of Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev's visit there June 21, and at the same time the Schmidt government has authorized a 300 percent increase in export credit guarantees this year to Third World countries. Brezhnev is expected to visit Bonn this fall, and is expected to sign a number of big contracts at that time.

Unionists Treated to Criticism of Brandt

Wehner's attacks were first publicly aired two weekends ago at the SPD's trade union organization, the "Working Group for Labor Questions," to which 300,000 SPD trade unionists, one third of party membership, belong. Brandt was accused of "failing to provide the party with information that would support Chancellor Helmut Schmidt" in last week's tax vote. Egon Bahr, a long time Brandt crony and presently SPD business leader, was also attacked by Wehner for allowing the SPD to degenerate into threatening its own government's very existence.

To make the point crystal clear, two days later the Foreign Ministry unprecedentedly refused to grant visas to two of Brandt's associates who had planned to visit Poland, leaving Brandt to travel there alone.

Industrialist Otto Wolff von Amerongen, an SPD member and a leading East-West steel trader, kept up

the attack on the entire Brandt left at the June 21 meeting of the West German Conference of Industry and Trade, which he chairs. Amerongen told the cream of West German industry that the zero-growth corporatist proposals advocated by SPD Brandt followers such as former Jusco chairman Roth and Labor Minister Herbert Ehrenberg were foolish. "As opposed to zero growth, our debate must be conducted as it was in the 1950s and in the early 1960s. Dynamic growth must be viewed as the foundation of economic distribution."

One day later, Karl Otto Schlecht, the Undersecretary in the West German Economics Ministry seconded Amerongen by stating at an economics conference in Munich, "Growth is not everything, ... but without growth, everything is nothing at all." He blasted Brandt's support for redistribution of wealth instead of increased production: "Third World radicals neglect the necessity of producing first what can be distributed later." He emphasized that only capital investment would develop the Third World.

Meanwhile in France, West German industrial growth is receiving a welcome boost from socialist and industrialist allies of Schmidt and Wehner, who are moving to destroy the myth of "German imperialism" built up over the years by French pseudo-Gaullists and "left-

ists." This was long endorsed and used by Brandt as a tactic to smear and contain his West German industrialist opponents.

But recently French Socialist Party member Jacques Huntzinger wrote in *Le Monde* that "West Germany is not a threat, as long as it is not isolated from Europe." He added that there was no reason to fear a West Germany which abandons its ties to the United States to develop its own agreements with the East Bloc: "Today, anyone who wants to has the right to be Gaullist." And the West German financial daily *Handelsblatt* quoted François Ceyrac, the president of the French Employers' Association, the Patronat, to finally bury the left "German imperialism" myth: "The strength of the German economy is not creating any anxiety among Frenchmen ... a strong Germany assures stability for the European community."

In tandem with the attack on the SPD left, *Handelsblatt* also opened an attack on the CDU Atlanticist wing headed by Kurt Biedenkopf. The paper accused Biedenkopf of conflict of interest, a charge he has hurled at the SPD Trade Union forum, and of lacking the vision of Konrad Adenauer, CDU Chancellor in the 1950s and early 1960s, who supported East-West trade even during the cold war.