

West German Trade Unions Mobilize For Nuclear Energy

On July 21, 500 elected officials from factory councils representing more than 2.5 million West German workers held a press conference in Frankfurt, in the state of Hesse, to announce that their organization would publicly attack any environmentalist parties or candidates running for office in the Hesse state elections in October. The organization, called the Factory Council Action Circle for Energy, chose Frankfurt, the largest city in Hesse, for its press conference because it will be most drastically affected if environmentalists are successful in stopping the construction of the new "C" block at the Biblis nuclear power station, West Germany's largest.

The factory council chairmen, who organized a massive 10,000 person demonstration for nuclear energy in Dortmund in November 1977, also publicly told Hesse Minister-President Holger Boerner that he had better resist environmentalist pressure, and rescind his decision postponing the construction of the Biblis "C" block reactors.

West Germany's press gave detailed coverage to the trade union mobilization. Portions of two major stories are excerpted here.

Die Welt, by Axel Schuetzack, "Factory Councils for 70,000 Workers Step Out into the Open...The Greenies Are Endangering Jobs," July 22:

Dieter Kolb, factory council chairman of the Babcock-Brown-Boveri Reactor GmbH and spokesmen for the 10

factory councils present, stated before the press in Frankfurt that: "We too are for environmental protection, for an improvement in the quality of life and in living conditions, for cleaner air and cleaner water, and we are also for maintaining the countryside...but not at any price according to the slogan 'Back to Nature'...."

....The councilors jointly emphasized that the Federal Republic of Germany, as an industrial nation, is oriented to exports and to the further development of modern technologies. Jobs can only be maintained in the long run when corresponding technologies are developed further. Factory council chairman Norbert Mook from Alkem GmbH in Hannau (which produces fissionable material) said: "We can also not identify ourselves with environmental protection organizations who naturally propagandize about environmental protection, but in reality pursue entirely different goals."

Alexander Kraushaar, factory council chairman from the "Reactor Fuel Union" (RBU), elaborated: "We are taking the words about the 'holy green world' to be a clear rejection, because this idyll only exists in fairy tales, for the greenies with their demands are going for stopping the construction of power plants of all kinds, for stopping highway projects that go through the woods, for stopping bridge-building, for stopping everything that intervenes into nature, and are going beyond reason."

Karl Graebner, for the factory at RBU, summarized the demands of his Hessen Action Circle:

1. Qualified growth for the future;
2. Increased support for research;

European Labor Party Hits "Greenies"

The "greenies," environmentalists in the West German state of Hesse, have formed themselves into the "Green List — Citizens' Initiative for Environmental Protection and Democracy" (GLW), to run in upcoming state elections. One of the GLW's top candidates is none other than terrorist Daniel Cohn-Bendit, the scruffy former leader of the French student riots in 1968. Cohn-Bendit, whose electoral district includes the population of the Frankfurt Zoo, announced that his platform includes the legalization of marijuana and hashish, the closure of all nuclear power plants, "self-determination" for homosexuals, and the rescinding of recent legislation designed to toughen antiterrorist security organization.

"Our goal is to prevent the greenies from entering the state legislature," European Labor Party leader Uwe Friesecke told the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung this week. Excerpts from the conservative

daily's July 24 coverage of the Labor Party's electoral activities in the Hesse race, published on the same day in the Frankfurter Rundschau, follow.

"European Labor Party Says Yes to Nuclear Energy"

The European Labor Party (EAP) will participate in the elections for Hesse state legislature on October 8, with candidates for direct election in all the (21) Frankfurt election districts. The main candidate of the EAP on the election slate which, according to party statements has approximately 60 members, is deputy Federal Chairman Uwe Friesecke from Wiesbaden. Friesecke said during the party's state convention in the Public Education Building, that the EAP's goal is to prevent the "greenies" from entering the state legislature. The EAP will lead their election campaign with the slogan, "Yes to Nuclear Energy and Progress," in order to make clear that humanity needs constant growth and the development of technologies for the establishment of an international arrangement for economic, political and scientific cooperation.

3. Maintaining a conscious sense of security in connection with the new technologies.

The factory councilors view the party program of Herbert Gruhl and his GAZ (Green Action for the Future) as containing job-threatening proposals for those employed in the area of new technology because it is "quite simply directed against industrial growth..."

Frankfurter Rundschau, by Wolf Gunter Bruegmann, "Greenies Causing Lively Disturbance in the Factory Councils," July 21:

"Instead of saying what they are expected to say in extra-hasty position statements made under the pressure of outside citizens initiatives, politicians of all parties should acknowledge even more clearly than before the necessity for growth, and growth through nuclear energy too." This was demanded Friday at a press conference of

the Factory Councils Action Circle for Energy. "Even the federal government itself is not clearly sticking to its energy program," criticized Alexander Kraushaar, factory council chairman at RBU in Hannau....

The Action Circle is warning politicians of continuing to react to the greenies with "vacillating politics." This reproach even applies to Hessen Minister-President Holger Boerner, as Gunther Herbert from the RBU general factory council affirmed in response to a question, because of the postponement of a decision on the further construction of the Biblis nuclear power station to the period after the state legislature elections.

The spectacular highpoint of its activities was the mass demonstration in Dortmund in the fall of 1977 for nuclear energy with the chairmen of all the DGB trade unions, which for many leading avowedly painful...