
Saxony Elections

BüSo Calls for Good Jobs, at Germany Demos

by Rainer Apel

Armed with a leaflet calling for millions of new jobs and productive credit, the LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) and other activists with the Civil Rights Movement Solidarity party (BüSo) began a new round of policy interventions throughout Germany's Monday rallies, on Sept. 6. The mass leaflet, "Manifesto for the Monday Demonstrations" by BüSo Chairwoman Helga Zepp-LaRouche, (see *EIR*, Sept. 3) was circulated in 70,000 copies alone in Saxony, which will hold its state parliament election on Sept. 19, and another 30,000 in other German states.

The leaflet makes the crucial point that is too often neglected in the revitalized public debate in Germany on the jobs issue: To regain full employment requires no less 8 million entirely new, productive jobs, and to create these real jobs, requires a complete reversal of current investment and employment policies. Instead of continuing, even in "milder" versions, the present monetarist policies, we need a New Deal approach, like that of Franklin Delano Roosevelt 70 years ago.

There were Monday protest rallies in more than 220 cities throughout Germany, on Sept. 6, and the LYM and BüSo spoke in eight of these: Leipzig and Dresden (Saxony's two biggest cities), and six cities in Brandenburg, which borders Saxony to the north—Senftenberg, Potsdam, Eisenhüttenstadt, Fürstenwalde, Königswusterhausen, and Brandenburg. In Leipzig, where the LYM and BüSo started the Monday rallies earlier this Summer, the Sept. 6 rally, and the LaRouche Youth Movement role in it, were covered by international media, including CNN and Radio France Internationale, and the Dresden event, and the LYM's performance of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" there, were covered in the *Sächsische Zeitung* newspaper.

Battling Against Old Axioms

In some cases, it took a political struggle to put the LYM on the official podium of the Monday rally. It will also take a struggle to elevate policy debates at the rallies, in general, to consider real economic alternatives to the prevailing monetarist doctrine. The leftist organizers of many rallies, in particular, subscribe to "redistributionism," which means that they believe jobs can be created by taxing the rich, or by pollution taxes on the entire population, or by extra bonuses to citizens with low incomes to thereby increase their consumer power. All of that will, leftists claim, somehow create new jobs.

But what all citizens, not only those in Saxony, really want is jobs, productive jobs that can feed a family, create better conditions for the youth, and promote progress in the economy. An opinion poll published by the Leipzig Institute of Market Research on Aug. 30, three weeks before the Sept. 19 election for Saxony state parliament, found that Saxons consider the following four issues their top priorities: 98% consider the creation of new jobs the most important issue, and 97% pointed equally to more state support for small and medium-sized firms, and to better job opportunities for the youth, whereas 95% said that industry generally should receive more state support. The same opinion poll also found another interesting priority for Saxon citizens: 84% of them support the Monday rallies as a way of changing policies, as do even 75% of the voters of the Christian Democratic Union, which currently governs Saxony.

This poses a special challenge to the CDU, whose national leadership is presently under firm control by the neo-cons around Chairwoman Angela Merkel. Merkel supports the brutal budget-cutting policy of the Social Democratic-Green national government, and she would cut even further. But as the Leipzig opinion poll illustrates, the party base and the CDU voters have migrated into the camp of the anti-austerity critics, and now the Christian Democrats are faced with enormous problems of keeping their constituencies loyal.

In the Saarland state parliament election Sept. 5, the Social Democrats (SPD) got the full barrage of voter discontent, losing a third of the vote (a drop from 44 to 30%) that they received in the 1999 election. But the CDU lost voters as well, and it did not really benefit from the erosion of the SPD; its 1999 vote of 45% improved in this election to just 47%. This bodes ill for the two big parties in the Saxony and Brandenburg elections on Sept. 19, a fact that seemed to dawn on CDU general party manager Laurenz Meyer. In his first assessment of the Saarland vote, Meyer said that the CDU has to find answers to what the voters want, and "what the citizens want is jobs, jobs, and jobs again!"

The only place the CDU leaders will find these "answers" is in the programmatic material of the LaRouche movement. In 1999, the CDU received 56% of the vote, but a current poll gave it no more than 46%. With one-third of its citizens at working age but without a regular real job, Saxony has an economy that works far below its potential. Saxony could, for example become a leading supplier of industrial goods for the neighboring countries of Eastern Europe, and for countries within the Eurasian land-mass, such as Kazakhstan, India, and China.

Many Saxons have told LYM organizers in the streets, or on the phone, that they consider the LaRouche campaign material distributed in the past eight weeks, much more constructive than the material put out by all the other political parties. There is a good chance, therefore, that in the "round-tables" that are being created in several cities, from among Monday rally participants, the LaRouche proposals will be on the agenda.