

Rescuing Germany From The Green Paradigm

by Rainer Apel

It remains a mystery, why a few days before the July 3 “national energy summit” of the German government and industry, two minor accidents occurred at the two northern German nuclear power plants of Krümmel and Brunsbüttel; not surprisingly, the incidents were welcomed by the anti-nuclear lobby as allegedly proving that nuclear power is “unsafe.” Environment Minister Sigmar Gabriel, one of the most prominent proponents of the Al Gore global warming swindle, took the opportunity to mock nuclear technology, claiming that “German power plants are the best in the world, but sometimes they burn and explode.”

The hysteria mongering was, unfortunately, not limited to Gabriel; Chancellor Angela Merkel and the leadership of her Christian Democratic Union (CDU) also exploited the incidents to justify their call for an exit from nuclear technology. On July 2, the day before the national energy summit, the CDU party executive presented its draft proposal for the new party policy platform, which includes a passage defining nuclear power as only a “transition until alternate energy sources are available.” Merkel herself proclaimed a “new era” at the summit, declaring that, “in the era of global warming, which is the *challenge of the 21st Century*, there cannot be a return to the policies of before” (emphasis in original). With that, the CDU finally opted out of nuclear technology, joining the other establishment parties in their greenish outlooks.

That CDU move makes it obvious that now, there is only one pro-nuclear party in the nation—the LaRouche movement, which has fought the green paradigm for 35 years, and placed the call for nuclear development, especially of thermonuclear fusion, at the center of its political campaigning. It is important for voters to recognize this fact, because in spite of the new CDU draft program, a handful of prominent Christian Democrats, like Roland Koch, the state governor of Hesse, still pose as “pro-nuclear.” Four days after the national energy summit, Koch stated that Germany could not afford to be the only leading industrial nation in the world without nuclear power, but adding that there was “no urgency to discuss that before 2010.” Why wait another three years, whereas in all other countries, the return to a pro-nuclear view is going on right now? Why wait for a debate in Germany, whereas even in Sweden (which the Germans considered their model, when it opted out of nuclear power in 1980), most recent opinion polls have shown that 70% of Swedes want to at least keep the

existing nuclear power capacities, which provide 50% of the nation’s electricity. And this, despite the fact that Sweden actually had a well-publicized accident at its nuclear plant at Forsmark, a year ago.

The ‘Enronization’ of the Power Industry

Crucial for a return of Germany to the atom, is a change of views in the German power industry. Already, before the scandalous nuclear exit agreement signed between industry and government in 2000, the big utility companies accommodated to the world of globalized energy supply. This implied that, as long as it seemed possible to purchase electricity in the neighboring states of Europe, German industry managers did not consider it urgent to discuss new nuclear power projects. And to this day, even as in other countries, there is a revival of pro-nuclear views, there has not been any prominent call from among the German establishment, including industry, for the construction of new nuclear power plants.

In addition, the “Enronization” of the German power sector, the transition from energy-producer to energy-trader, has done enormous damage: Already in 1995, leading nuclear scientists warned that within ten years, Germany would lose its nuclear engineering capacity, so that, from 2005 on, it would no longer be able to operate its 17 remaining atomic power plants safely, nor even be able to envisage the construction of a single new plant. Two years after 2005, Germany has indeed witnessed the loss of its former nuclear-technology competence; moreover, under the rules of the exit agreement of 2000, the state no longer subsidizes the training of engineers to build and maintain nuclear plants, but only those “engineers” who are trained in how to turn off power plants.

But that is the world as the Green Boomers, who dominate German politics at present, see it. The good news is that the young generation is less interested in environmental issues and gives higher priorities to the creation of jobs, and it is less pessimistic about technology. And in eastern Germany, greenie brainwashing has been less intense than in the West. Therefore, the main impulse for a return to nuclear power in Germany will come from the young generation. The prospect of mastering the great challenges posed by projects such as the Eurasian Land-Bridge, is certain to capture the imagination of young Germans, encouraging them to become engineers and scientists, to revive the standard, “Made in Germany,” as the best quality of high-tech products, and to provide the world with revolutionary inventions like the Transrapid maglev train, or the gas-cooled high-temperature reactor (which is living on in exile now, in South Africa). Once that paradigm-shift occurs in Germany, nuclear power will return as well. An international conference on the Eurasian Land-Bridge perspective, held by the Schiller Institute in Germany in September, will rally support for such a paradigm change.