

# Fusion Energy Foundation Holds Milestone Conference In West Germany

A conference on Energy and Technological Development, sponsored by the Fusion Energy Foundation, convened in this West German industrial city June 6, drawing more than 80 participants from major industries, universities, political parties, and government.

The conference here is the second major FEF-sponsored event in Europe, the first having been held in Stockholm in April. A third conference is already planned for October in Italy and will focus on discussion of a comprehensive Mediterranean development program.

Speakers at the conference went through a jam-packed agenda covering the entire range of political and technological requirements for a fusion-based economy. In the first presentation, American FEF member Eric Lerner pointed to the relatively limited supplies of uranium fuel as one important reason why fusion must be developed by 1990. For all practical purposes, he argued, uranium reserves will be exhausted by that time, assuming an annual economic growth rate of 20 percent. Such a rate — contrary to the usual 4-6 percent projections of European industrialists — will be absolutely necessary in order to avoid a repetition of the devastation wrought on the European population and economy by the Thirty Years War in the 17th century, or worse.

## *Status of Fusion Research*

This was followed by a discussion of the current status of nuclear fusion research by European FEF member Ralf Schauerhammer, and a report by Dr. Seifritz, a well known reactor specialist, on the prospects for transitional technology leading up to fusion methods. Dr. Seifritz emphasized the usefulness of they type of high-temperature technologies being worked on in a West German project and its applicability for both "fusion torch" prototypes and the *sensible* gasification of coal (West Germany's most plentiful raw material).

## *MHD Versus Slave Labor*

Two presentations during the afternoon session served to counterpose the push for a fusion-based economy

against the short-sighted, cost-efficiency, approach still prevalent in parts of the European energy sector. Representing the first approach was an industrial spokesman who outlined the immense potential in the field of magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) technology, which deals with the field-generating qualities of high-energy nuclear plasmas. In opposition to this, a representative of Ruhrkohle AG, the government-controlled coal conglomerate, argued for the benefits of modernizing existing coal-burning power plants in order to achieve somewhat higher temperatures. Echoing the pressure applied by Naderite environmentalists, he called for the use of excess exhaust for domestic heating purposes, adding that since such installations would be very labor-intensive, it could help solve the unemployment problem!

Hannes Horn, an FEF member and consultant for the lumber industry, then attacked this latter approach, stating that the investment costs for such projects would rise by at least 30 percent over current levels, without any corresponding increase in energy output. Horn went on to show how there must be no delay in developing the necessary advanced technologies, in view of the catastrophic devastation of such regions as the African Sahel and the Amazon basin, which has already resulted in serious shifts in world weather patterns.

The high spirits of the conference reached a peak when a scraggly member of the Rockefeller-connected environmentalist "Citizens' Initiative" group rose to demagogically assert that the FEF's views were "wonderful," and that he had "no differences" with the perspective presented. FEF member Hans Bandmann shot back, to the audience's delight, that on the contrary that organization and its allies have been responsible not only for sabotaging nuclear development, but for causing confusion and demoralization in the ranks of scientists and industrialists engaged in such work.

Conference participants included representatives from the Social Democratic Party's national executive, the Christian Democratic Union Research Committee, the West German parliament, Mercedes-Benz, the Thyssen steel firm, and the Procurement Office of the West German Federal Army.

**EXCLUSIVE**

## FEF Director Reports On Oklahoma Energy Conference

U.S. independent oil and gas producers are convinced that they can tremendously increase energy production through increased rates of capital formation and exploration if government price regulations on interstate fuel are removed. However, they are completely ignorant of the nature and motivations of the political-economic forces behind Carter's restrictive energy policy and the Administration's drive for what producers and their political allies call "government socialism."

This state of affairs was made clear at a June 1-3 meeting of leading independent producers from the Oklahoma and Texas region and over 100 "consumer" delegates (including the author) from 25 states. The meeting was held at Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma under the auspices of the National Energy Congress.

The political impotence and self-delusion of the conference and its main participant, the Independent