

state of Hesse. The Free Democratic Party's recent decision to campaign for an alliance with Dregger instead of with the Social Democratic incumbent means the virtually certain defeat of Chancellor Schmidt's party in this crucial race in September.

CDU/CSU campaign literature and television speeches present the Union parties as favoring economic growth and as pro-American, in contrast to the left-wing "Finlandizers" of the Social Democratic Party. These claims are a fraud, as even a cursory examination of the reality behind the rhetoric reveals. The best way to understand why is to look at Strauss's Bavaria.

Bavaria is viewed with embarrassment by most Germans, due to its well-known feudalist and monarchical aspirations. It was not until 1949 that the Free State of Bavaria agreed to join the Federal Republic, and many Bavarians would like to see a monarchy restored. While Bavarian Minister President Strauss's government claims to be in favor of nuclear-energy development, Bavaria in fact produces less nuclear energy than any other West German state: 2.7 percent of total energy, as against 3.7 percent nationally. Asked about the potential for the growth of an environmentalist Green Party in the state, one Bavarian official commented: "There is no need for a Green Party. In Bavaria everyone is Green." The state Interior Ministry finances one of the principal environmentalist organizations, whose membership overlaps that of the Green Party, to the tune of several hundred thousand deuteschemarks per year.

The CDU/CSU in Hesse is claiming that if elected it will launch an economic recovery, including nuclear energy programs and infrastructural expansion. Dregger has secretly promised 50,000 jobs and a \$8 billion investment program to Hesse trade unions. Yet the party's "Thatcherite" austerity policy reveals this to be simply a lie, since there is no way such a program will be financed. Dregger's own campaign manager stresses that the CDU will give greater attention to "citizens' feelings about nature."

The Pan-European Union

Strauss is "pro-American" only in the sense that he is a factional ally of people like U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker. His closest political ties are to the feudalists of the Pan-European Union, headed by Otto von Hapsburg, pretender to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The Pan-European Union believes in a "Europe of the regions" which would abolish the "outdated" nation-state and return Europe to the bucolic backwardness which characterizes Bavaria. This new European "third way" would serve as a battering ram against the nation-state elsewhere, including most emphatically against both the United States and the Soviet Union.

The Free Democrats

'Swing party' paves the way for fascists

by Susan Welsh

The Free Democratic Party (FDP) in West Germany is now calling the shots on whether the government of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, a Social Democrat, will survive the next days or months. The FDP, which has been the partner of the SPD in the national governing coalition since 1969, has thus placed itself at the center of international attention even while it is disappearing from the landscape in numerous state and local elections, failing to gain the 5 percent of the vote required by law for representation in government.

The FDP has been such a "swing party" in German political life ever since its predecessor, the German Democratic Party (DDP), pulled out of the "grand coalition" of Social Democratic Chancellor Herman Müller in 1930, toppling the last democratic government in Weimar Germany. After Müller came Brüning with his "emergency decrees" and cruel austerity measures which broke any remaining resistance to the Nazis and paved the way for Hitler's seizure of power in 1933.

Of the five DDP deputies in the Reichstag who voted up the 1933 "Enabling Act" that dissolved all parties except the National Socialists, two deputies founded the Free Democratic Party after the war, with the help of the British occupation forces. The two were Theodore Heuss and Reinhold Maier. Maier states in his memoirs that the only problem with Nazi Germany was that Hitler dumped his "liberal" Finance Minister Hjalmar Schacht, a former member of the DDP whose famous financial "wizardry" made it possible for Germany to shift to a total war economy.

Schacht, the darling of the British oligarchy, was let off at the Nuremberg Tribunal due to the intervention of London.

The party of British liberalism

What is the Free Democratic Party? Like its Weimar predecessor, the FDP is the party of British liberalism. Here is what that means concretely:

The FDP is rooted in the European federalist movement against the nation-state. Just like Franz Josef Strauss of the Bavarian Christian Social Union, FDP

leaders like Hans-Dietrich Genscher have no use for the German nation with all of its impulses to industrial and technological progress. Genscher's call for a new European Union is an echo of the schemes of the feudalist "Mitteleuropa" movement of the early 20th century, in which DDP founder Friedrich Naumann was active. This movement later became the Pan-European Union of Otto von Hapsburg, Strauss's close associate and the pretender to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Eric Mende, the chairman of the FDP until 1966, was an executive committee member of the Pan-European Union. He later joined the Christian Democratic Union (CDU).

The FDP is the party of organized crime in West Germany. Mende is the European director of the Investors Overseas Services (IOS), part of the "Murder, Inc." Permindex organization which directed assassination attempts against French President de Gaulle and succeeded in murdering U.S. President Kennedy. Today the FDP leadership in the city of Frankfurt, including such individuals as Frankfurt FDP executive committee member Ignaz Bubis, is known as the center of an Israeli-linked illegal narcotics, diamond, and pornography ring.

The FDP is the party of the Club of Rome, *Global 2000*, and the "Aquarian" ideology. The FDP's think tank, the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, sponsored a conference in June 1981 to promote the Carter administration's Malthusian *Global 2000 Report*. The conference was organized by FDP leftist Helga Schuchardt, the most prominent *Global 2000* propagandizer in West Germany.

Speakers at the conference included FDP Interior Minister Gerhard Baum, who declared that "we must adapt ourselves to zero growth or virtually zero growth, to extremely tight budgets; we must give up our accustomed wastefulness." Former federal president and former FDP chairman Walter Scheel stressed that the conclusions of *Global 2000* must be incorporated into the "North-South dialogue," and then-U.N. Ambassador Rüdiger von Wechmar demanded the extension of *Global 2000* to agreements on energy, raw materials, and monetary and trade policy.

At the FDP's national congress in Munich in 1980, Genscher called for an end to economic "gigantomania" and said the party should orient itself toward "the simpler and the smaller."

Interior Minister Baum has done more to sabotage nuclear energy development in the Federal Republic, through red tape and environmentalist regulations, than thousands of unwashed Greenie demonstrators.

The FDP is "liberally" disposed toward drugs and terrorism. Under Baum's regime, law enforcement has been emasculated, allowing a revitalized terrorist movement. The FDP "left" wing is at the forefront of the

push for legalization of narcotic drugs and of euthanasia. FDP member Rudolf Augstein, editor of *Der Spiegel* magazine and a key conspirator against the Schmidt government, was arrested by Italian customs officials two years ago for transporting marijuana across the border.

Postwar 'swing' party

During the post-war period, the Free Democratic Party has been a junior government partner continuously except for two brief periods from 1956-57 and 1966-69.

In 1966, it toppled the government of Christian Democrat Ludwig Erhard. A "grand coalition" was then formed between the SPD and CDU, with Christian Democrat Kurt Kiesinger as Chancellor.

In 1969, the FDP put Social Democrat Willy Brandt into power. Brandt won 42.7 percent of the national vote, against 46.1 percent for the Christian Democrats; but secret overtures to the FDP landed Brandt in the Chancellery.

In 1974, when Brandt was collapsing under the weight of too many martinis, mistresses, and ultimately an East German spy scandal, FDP spokesmen like Ralf Dahrendorf of the London School of Economics hinted broadly that they would not tie their party's fate to the Social Democrats. After Brandt's resignation, a new SPD-FDP coalition was formed with Schmidt as Chancellor—the combination that has lasted up to the present.

The FDP's political leverage has given it influence and cabinet seats far out of proportion to its 5-10 percent voter base. In Schmidt's cabinet, the FDP holds the key posts of foreign minister, economics minister, interior minister, and agriculture minister. The party's unusually high 10.6 percent total in the 1980 federal election did not at all indicate growing popular support for the Free Democrats. The vote reflected instead the disgust of traditional SPD voters and some CDUers with the leftist shenanigans prevailing in the Social Democratic Party.

Anyone who wanted to keep Chancellor Schmidt in power—and he was by far the most popular national leader—but could not stomach the idea of voting for his party, voted for the coalition by voting FDP. Without this factor bolstering its electoral strength, it is doubtful that the FDP would be able to gain even 5 percent of the vote nationally.

If the FDP today votes itself out of existence, as its predecessor did in 1933, it will be because the oligarchs who pull the party's strings have decided that a "liberal" Schachtian party is no longer adequate. Perhaps then the Green Party, or some new political formation, would be geared up for the modern version of the role the Nazis played in the past.