

voked a public outcry. Several weeks later, Dr. Meinhard Miegel, director of the IWG think tank in Bonn, said that "if industrial workers in the Ruhr want to find a job in the future, they will have to emigrate. There will be no jobs for them in the Ruhr." He said that the Ruhr will become "post-industrial—with sunrise industries," and that "about 3 million workers will have to emigrate with their families, if they want to make a living. . . . It is social-welfare standards which have made life too comfortable. It should not surprise anyone, therefore, that people stay here as long as it is comfortable."

The IWG, which was founded by a leading Christian Democrat, Kurt Biedenkopf, provides advice on "post-industrial" policy to the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), and since Chancellor Schmidt's SPD-led government in Bonn was replaced by Chancellor Kohl's CDU-led government in October 1982, the elimination of social-welfare standards has become official policy. This does not mean that if the SPD had remained in power, the situation would have been better for industrial workers in the Ruhr. As a matter of fact, the coalition of post-industrial interests cuts across party lines, and the SPD-run regional government of the Ruhr is taking advice from the same think tanks that advise the CDU-run

federal government. As a result, unemployment in the industrial production centers, in cities such as Duisburg, Dortmund, and Schalke, has hit the 16-17% level, and more and more industrial workers have left the Ruhr and tried to find a job elsewhere in Germany—in the non-industrial sector.

Where are the 'new jobs'?

Meanwhile the dismantling of steel and mining in the Ruhr is proceeding apace, and "technology parks" or "informatics pools," modeled on the Pittsburgh Renaissance Center, are being established in most Ruhr cities. Gov. Johannes Rau, the head of the Ruhr regional government, visited Pittsburgh at the beginning of 1984, and upon his recommendation a gambling center was set up recently in the steel city of Dortmund, which he said is to "create substitute jobs for the children of the steelworkers."

While Ruhr government officials publicly state that these "technology parks" will create new jobs in post-industrial sectors, they privately confide that "none of those who will lose their jobs in steel and mining will find a job in these new industries. The qualifications required are completely different, and it is better not to create false expectations."

A call for doubling Ruhr steel production

Despite the best efforts of the "post-industrial" think-tankers and the Social Democrats, not everyone in West Germany's Ruhr region has resigned himself to dismantling the steel production of the country's industrial heartland. The European Labor Party (EAP) held a conference and a demonstration in Duisburg on May 5 to rally the population of the region for "a fight against the assassins of the steel industry." The conference marked the opening of the EAP's campaign in the Ruhr region for the European Parliamentary elections, to be held in June.

Uwe Frieseke, the deputy chairman of the European Labor Party in the Federal Republic of Germany, emphasized that the only way out of the current steel crisis is to build a new world economic order that will industrialize the developing sector, generating millions of skilled jobs for European industry. Great projects already on the drawing boards, such as a second Panama Canal, the irrigation of the Sahara, and building a railroad across central Africa, will make it necessary to double the steel-making capacity of Europe, and of the Ruhr in particular, he said.

Delegations attended the conference from other European countries, and Jacques Cheminade, the general secretary of the European Labor Party (POE) in France,



Steel workers demonstrated in the Ruhr in 1980 against the shutdown of their industry. European Labor Party sign declares: "The World Needs Steel."

extended the support of the French steel workers and the 53 POE candidates for office from Thionville, located at the center of France's steel region of Lorraine.

Alongside the conference was a demonstration of over 100 steel workers, apprentices, housewives, engineers, and unemployed workers, with banners denouncing federal Economics Minister Otto von Lambsdorff and Johannes Rau, governor of the Ruhr, for allowing the deindustrialization of the region. "Jobs for Europe, Steel for the World," the marchers chanted.