

ical fertilizers have been used on German forests since the turn of the century, "but nobody bothered to analyze specific soil deficiencies."

Beginning at the end of 1983, the German chemical industry launched systematic field experiments using the systematic approach outlined by Haerberle, the applications of the fundamentals of Liebig applied to silviculture for the first time in a scientific way. The results have been remarkable. In each of the seven test regions across the Federal Republic, Bavaria, Hesse, and others, the procedure involves scientific soil analysis to determine the exact deficiencies as well as careful sample analysis of the trees—needles, roots. The deficient elements are thus determined; they are different for different regions. The lost nutrients of each soil are thus supplemented.

In addition, when there exists over-acidification of the soil, whether from soil erosion or whatever, this can be easily treated by increasing the pH content of the soil through gradual addition of limestone, magnesium, potassium, or calcium.

Haerberle cautioned that this must be done gradually and carefully so as not to allow nitrates in the ground water to decompose organic matter. But this is otherwise straightforward, as with any scientific agricultural process. Results? "We have demonstrated that we can change yellowed trees back to green in approximately six months in some cases with the proper treatment. If the media would ask scientists to do

more such basic research on the problems of the damages to trees," he concluded, rather than spread uninformed hysteria, "this would be much more help."

But—what else?—the very environmentalists who cry most over the so-called "forest death" are now attacking the use of such scientific fertilizers as "unnatural additives which destroy the forests," and also attack efforts of chemical companies which have the logical resources of groups such as the gifted Dr. Haerberle's. They argue that they only aim to sell more chemicals.

Haerberle, patiently and somewhat sadly, also gave an answer to this inane argument of the irrational Green Party storm troopers. The Chemical Industry Association made a study of what it would cost to systematically treat all the damaged areas of Germany's forests. Taking the 48% of total forest area which consist of Groups I and II (slightly damaged and moderately damaged), the VCI calculates that by applying the appropriate mixes of nutrients and fertilizers to the soils, an average of twice times over a 10-year period, the cost for the entire process would range on the order of 350 million deutschemarks per year for the 10-year period.

They note that most of the German forests are man-made and have never been scientifically attended until now, so it is a cumulative unpaid cost which must now be made if we want to actually maintain healthy and thriving green areas in Germany's beautiful forests.

The dukes and princes who own the forests

Behind the recent growth of the organized Green Party and associated efforts lie the select families of the so-called Black Nobility of Europe. In the most effective way since the end of the war, the oligarchical families have found and cultivated a popular issue which implicitly brings the "people" into the anomalous role of defending the interests of the reactionary neo-feudal nobility against the constitutional interests of the republic and its citizenry.

How? Contrary to popular opinion, the forests are actually the privately held domain of a virulent oligarchy rather than a public domain. In recent weeks, this normally discreet oligarchy has come out openly, arm-in-arm with members of the Greens and farmers, protesting the "dying forests." On the Marienplatz of Munich, one now finds the director of the interests of the Princes von Thurn und Taxis or von Ottingen-Wallerstein protesting along with the Greens. This is the appropriate point to understand the fraud of the dying forests, as with the fraud of

the earlier movement against nuclear energy and industry.

Who owns Germany's forests? For the area around Bavaria, one need not look far to find the stamp of Duke Albrecht of Bavaria, of the infamous Wittelsbach family. The Saxon Forest around Hamburg is dominated by the family interests of Ferdinand Prince von Bismarck. Joachim Prince zu Fürstenberg is a major owner of the Black Forest. The Prince Richard zu Sayn-Wittgenstein is the major owner in Southern Westphalia, while Johannes Prince von Thurn und Taxis is holder of immense forests in Bavaria.

King Carl Gustaf of Sweden is a major owner of forest lands in the Saxe-Coburg region. In the Hessian Woods, the major interests lie in the hands of Otto Prince zu Ysenburg-Büdingen. The list goes on, though many of the actual documents of ownership have been carefully buried to hide the actual control over these vast forests. These are the decadent oligarchs who are generically committed to a return to a bucolic feudal age without industry or automobile. For those who would like further documentation, I point you to the International Board of Directors of the World Wildlife Fund in Morges, Switzerland.—*William Engdahl*