

Communist press led in Jenninger hysteria

Following the staged walk-out by the Greens, Social Democrats, and some Free Democrats from Philipp Jenninger's Nov. 10 Bundestag speech commemorating the Nazi Kristallnacht against Germany's Jews, the international Communist press took the lead in using the incident to destabilize Helmut Kohl's government.

Nov. 11: Gennadi Gerasimov, the spokesman of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, said that the Nov. 10 Jenninger speech was "insulting." He added, that whereas East Germany uncompromisingly condemned the Nazi era, in West Germany, "people are trying to discover positive elements. . . ."

The East German newspaper *Neues Deutschland* charged that the Jenninger affair shows that Bonn is "dominated by old and new Nazis." The propaganda sheet suddenly dredged up cases of former West German officials who had been tarred with the "Nazi" brush, and called them "fascist mass murderers." Some of these individuals had served in the government two or three decades ago, and had not been mentioned in an East German publication in a long time.

The Polish Communist Party paper *Trybuna Ludu* suggested that the speech was proof of "the inadequate reckoning with the Nazi period in Germany."

The French Communist Party daily *L'Humanité* labeled Jenninger a "Nazi in Bonn."

Nov. 11: The French pro-Socialist daily *Libération* ran an article by Michel Faure: "The president of the West German Parliament, Philipp Jenninger, set off a scandal yesterday in the F.R.G. by evoking the 'success' of Adolf Hitler, his 'triumphal march' to power. . . ."

"He notably evoked Hitler's 'successes,' even though he qualified them as 'evil.' . . . He also evoked, without excusing but also without condemning, the 'fascination' that the years 1933-38 still exerts over Germans, 'even with hindsight.'

"Finally he evoked the anti-Semitic prejudices of the time, without adding the slightest commentary to that evocation. He seemed then to take these prejudices at face value."

Nov. 11: Media around the world showed a photo of Jenninger, and sitting next to him, an elderly woman weeping, her face buried in her hands. Captions identified her only as Ida Ehre of Hamburg, an 88-year-old Jewish Holocaust victim,

who wept "in anguish" over what Jenninger was saying.

Nov. 12: The *Daily Telegraph* of London wrote: "It has emerged that the media misunderstood the reaction of Ida Ehre . . . who opened Thursday's commemoration ceremony with a moving rendition of a poem.

"Pictures of her in tears, her face buried in her hands, next to Herr Jenninger during his speech, were published yesterday. But she explained: 'I was so distressed after reading my poem, that I could only weep. I did not listen to a word of Jenninger's speech.'

"She added that her friends were divided on the substance of the speech. 'Perhaps it was only the way in which he delivered it that was wrong.' "

Nov. 12: The *Los Angeles Times*, wrote in its front-page article that Jenninger resigned as president of the Bundestag, "during an outcry touched off by his nationally televised speech Thursday, in which he described the years of Adolf Hitler's political triumphs as 'fascinating' and said they 'created an atmosphere of optimism and self-confidence' among Germans." After describing Jenninger's "shock" at the reaction to his speech, the West Coast daily reported, "In his speech, he denounced the Nazis' anti-Semitism . . . deploring how the majority of Germans merely 'looked away and said nothing.'

"However, other parts of his speech, in which he dealt with the initial euphoria that Germans felt after Hitler came to power in 1933, proved offensive to many of his listeners." The *Times* then provided the responses of U.S. Jewish figures surrounding a blow-up quote from Msgr. Michael J. Carroll of Philadelphia, who headed a delegation of U.S. clergymen invited to attend *Kristallnacht* commemorations. Carroll, whose delegation canceled its tour after Jenninger's speech, said, "The speech poisoned the atmosphere within which our proposed reconciliation would take place. It was irresponsible and reprehensible. That it happened is symptomatic of the sickness that still prevails."

Only later in the *Times* article, does the author recommend a "close reading of Jenninger's 26-page text . . . meant to reflect the reactions of most Germans to Hitler."

Nov. 12: The Paris paper *France-Soir* ran an article signed by Christiane Caron, "Bundestag President, Nostalgic for Hitler, resigns":

"And now Philipp Jenninger reads his speech. But see how the listeners faces grow dark. President Richard von Weizsäcker's twists into an angry expression.

"The years from 1933-38, even with hindsight and the knowledge of later developments, are still fascinating. . . . Most Germans were convinced in 1938 that they saw in Hitler the greatest statesman of our history.'

"This is what they have just heard, these deputies and high personages: an incredible panegyric of the Führer, pronounced without the slightest qualification.

"And this is not all.

“As to the Jews, had not a role been assigned to them in the past that they did not deserve,” he went on.

“How could one explain the amazement, the disarray, the fury even which followed. When Mr. Jenninger had finished his speech and left the room, he was alone.

“In France the CICRA and SOS-Racism were of course outraged at this affair.”

Nov. 12-13: *Le Figaro* in France ran an article based on AP, AFP, and Reuters: “Mr. Jenninger thus drew the consequences of the disastrous effect of his statement made the evening before to the Bundestag, where his attempted explanation of the massive adherence of the German people to Adolf Hitler had been broadly interpreted as an attempt at justifying Nazism. . . .

“The text was 26 pages long, of which here are some extracts which provoked outrage both in the political milieu and in the press and Jewish community. . . .

“The little phrase pronounced at the end of the speech by Mr. Jenninger, ‘Nothing is defensible in the Nazi crimes,’ passed largely unperceived. The wrong had been done.”

Nov. 12-13: Another French daily, *Quotidien de Paris*, in a front-page article by Hervé Karleskind: “Incredible. Could one imagine that in 1988 a responsible German politician, albeit of mediocre intellectual stature, could let himself go the point of saying what today bespeaks the unspeakable? . . . Philipp Jenninger only owes his position to the friendship linking him to Chancellor Kohl. . . . Is this 56-year-old man representative of what Western opinion will retain of this tragically imbecilic speech?

“If it is uncontested that the ex-president of the Bundestag overstepped the bounds of the acceptable, it is also admissible to ask oneself about the genesis of what the French called a *bavure*.

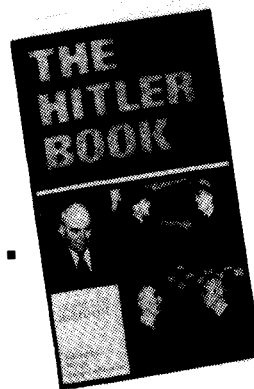
“The blunder, to say the least, of Mr. Jenninger, is symptomatic of a country which is just barely emerging from its expiation: the return to freedom of speech is paid very dearly.”

An editorial commentary by Yves Cornu in the same issue, “The Gaffe”: “Philipp Jenninger wanted to explain how the Germans, unhinged by the crisis and dizzied by a perverse ideology, had taken the Jewish community as a scapegoat: He only succeeded, due to a dangerous rhetoric, in delivering a speech interpretable as a rehabilitation of Nazism. . . .

“Never in the course of their careers did Brandt, Schmidt, and von Weizsäcker let themselves go so wildly.

“It cannot just be explained by youth. At the same time Jenninger was holding forth at the Bundestag podium, Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky was expressing himself on the same subject, but in very different terms, denouncing ‘the fanatical cooperation of part of the Viennese population’ with the Nazis, and a ‘tradition of anti-Semitism in Austria which was not in any way imported from Germany.’ He is 50 years old.”

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE NAZI INTERNATIONAL



Then...

And
Now!

THE HITLER BOOK

A Schiller Institute Study

This highly controversial study exposes the philosophical roots of National Socialism and the international oligarchical network that put Hitler into power.

Edited by Helga Zepp-LaRouche
\$9⁹⁵

Please send me _____ copies of The Hitler Book.

Enclosed is \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Order from:

Ben Franklin Booksellers, Inc.

27 South King St.
Leesburg, VA 22075

Shipping: \$1.50 for the first book; .50 for each additional book.