

and replace this energy source with solar, wind, and biomass energy, the paper demanded. Scharping and his team want a new definition of technology which does not behave in nature "like an occupying army in a hostile land." By the "Eco New Deal," the SPD means a new ecological taxation where the citizen would have to pay an additional 5% ecology tax. In other words, a draconian austerity would be prescribed for Germany's industry, where those branches which invest in environment-oriented industry would enjoy tax benefits at the expense of traditional industrial enterprises. In his recent book, whose translated title is *What Needs to Be Done Now*, Scharping proudly refers to the 1972 Club of Rome *Limits to Growth* report as being the key guide in his philosophy. In agreement with U.S. Vice President Albert Gore (whose book he praises), Scharping can only envision the future of mankind along the path of "sustainable development" and a functioning global environmental management. Scharping speaks about "recycling markets" as the future markets, the boom of "environmental" industries, alleging that in Germany in 1990 they had a turnover of 325 billion deutschemarks and 680,000 jobs were created. What Scharping and his future energy minister Monika Griefahn seem to seek, is the complete dismantling of the German nuclear industry. That would sound a death knell to the hard core of German industry—a slower, softer version of the murderous Morgenthau Plan, which aimed at turning Germany back to the pastoral age in the postwar period and which fortunately was not implemented.

### Working hard to be a chameleon

Now let us take a look at Rudolf Scharping, the man who throughout his life so passionately fought against nuclear energy and the stationing of cruise missiles, and yet remains so nondescript. Scharping is described by most as "diligent," "reliable," a good administrator. In the words of the former Rhineland Palatinate governor Otto Wilhelm: "He is a . . . trained politician . . . a chameleon personality. Absolutely determined when it comes to getting his aims realized. He does his business with the 'thoroughness' of an accountant and he is very unscrupulous. What helped him was always the weakness of the SPD faction." Kohl once said that Scharping is the type of SPD politician who made his career in the SPD "on the drawing boards." Others said Scharping made his career with the seat of his pants and plenty of stick-to-it-iveness.

Born in 1947 into a family of seven children, to a father who was a furniture dealer in the Westerwald village Niederelbert (Rhineland Palatinate), Rudolf entered the Social Democracy in 1966 after qualifying to enter the university. In the same year, he began his studies at the University of Bonn with a major in jurisprudence, sociology, and political science. After 13 semesters he wrote his master's thesis on the somewhat strange subject "Problems of a Regional Election Campaign, Exemplified in the 1969 SPD Parlia-

## The greening of an industrial society

On Sept. 15, something rather unusual happened for a Germany that is right in the middle of the last phase of the national election campaign: A prominent audience of 500 businessmen at the opening event of the 39th "Nordbau" in Neumuenster (near Hamburg), the largest traditional exhibition of construction firms in northern Germany, listened to a keynote speaker who did not come from any of the big parties of the nation's political establishment. Rather, they listened to none other than the chairwoman of the **Civil Rights Movement Solidarity (BBS)** party, Helga Zepp-LaRouche.

Her uncompromised endorsement of big new industrial and infrastructure projects as a key science driver and source of jobs certainly was "politically incorrect" for an elite like the German one that has long since subscribed to the doubtful virtues of "ecologism," but the speech received broad applause from among the audience. The fact that she had been chosen to be the keynote speaker reflected various factors, but mostly that citizens who have either an interest in production or are entrepreneurs themselves, are fed up with all that "greenie" talk that is becoming increasingly dominant in the media and in public statements of politicians across the established party landscape.

The BBS is, at this moment, the only party in this German national election campaign that is not "ecologized" but holds on to the values of industrial society as we have known it for the past 100 years or so. All the other parties represent variations of the same "green" ideology and pose no real alternatives to the voters.

The relatively best among the established parties is the **Christian Social Union (CSU)**, the Bavarian state branch of the Christian Democrats (CDU) of Chancellor Helmut

mentary Election Campaign in the Electoral District of Bad Kreuznach." His professor was Karl Dietrich Bracher, who became known in postwar Germany for his studies of National Socialism and the unstable Weimar Republic which had preceded the Nazi regime. Obviously the master's degree was a mere formality: Scharping always felt more at home in climbing up the ladder as an apparatchik of the SPD. Scharping gathered his "thesis research" by making his first run for office as an SPD candidate in the 1969 election in the Bad Kreuznach district. He married in 1971 and has three daughters.

It was former treasurer of the SPD Wilhelm Dröschner—

Kohl. The CSU, which throughout the postwar period has run Bavaria with absolute majorities, has also been penetrated by “greenie” views but keeps backing state-funding of high-tech sectors such as aerospace, space technology, microelectronics, and a state role in arranging banking loans to corporate investors.

By comparison, the CSU’s bigger sister party, the **Christian Democratic Union (CDU)**, is far more free market-oriented and is endorsing the withdrawal of the state from the big industry, from industrial and space research, and from the public transport sector. The CDU has reserved a larger portion of its program for “green” positions and is pushing “ecology technologies” as the alleged core of German industry in the 21st century.

The CDU, and even more so the CSU, also endorse nuclear power and other modern technologies like the Transrapid maglev train system, but it is very slow in the realization of these issues, while ecologism is becoming prevalent in most of the party’s campaigning. As the major partner in all German government coalitions since late 1982, the Christian Democrats’ infection with ecologist and free market views is one of the main reasons for the nation’s continued economic ailments—one of them being the fact that neither the CDU nor the CSU have any program to overcome the staggering jobless rate of 7 million Germans. Nor would they want any broad discussion on concepts that collide with principles of the free market or ecologism: They often are and have, very often, very nasty responses to initiatives by the BBS party and other LaRouche-linked organizations for the creation of, for example, a new national banking system to protect the nation against speculation, the creation of a tax on derivatives, and guarantee of a constant flow of capital into real production.

The **Social Democracy (SPD)**, the second-biggest party in the political landscape of Germany, which was the first to adopt ecologism 20 years ago, is now campaigning with a program that even goes far beyond the radicalism

of such ecologist groups as Greenpeace.

Chaired by “environmental expert” Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker, a man who a few weeks ago confessed that he would prefer to be an orangutan (!) rather than a human being (if he had the choice), the SPD’s party ideology department passed a platform that calls for a total exit from nuclear technology and from “unecological” aspects of space research, and also proclaims the total transformation of the German industrial society into an “ecology-centered” society. Promising “1 million ecology jobs” to the Germans, the SPD remains silent on the several other million jobs its program will kill in industry.

Consequently, the SPD looks to the **Greens** as a favored coalition partner. The paradox is that the Green party is now being outflanked by the ecologized SPD to an extent that it isn’t certain that they will receive enough “green” voters to re-enter the parliament in the Oct. 16 elections. The same fate may be suffered by the liberal **Free Democratic Party (FDP)**, Chancellor Kohl’s minor coalition partner in Bonn since 1982, which has failed to cross the mandatory 5% hurdle for seats in the parliament in all elections of the past two years. The FDP has also become superfluous, because the CDU has adopted so many liberalist views in the past 12 years that there is no longer any need for an independent liberal party in the German political party system.

There remains—as a “red” horse—the **Party of Democratic Socialism**, or PDS, the party of the former communists in eastern Germany, who have cleansed the most blatant aspects of Stalinism from their program to replace them with radical ecologist verbiage. The PDS, which hopes to absorb votes from the Greens, is very close to clearing the 5% hurdle in national voter percentages and may even win parliamentary seats in eastern precincts directly. The PDS helped an SPD-Green minority government into power in the eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt on June 12, and is willing to do the same on a national level after Oct. 16.—*Rainer Apel*

a close friend of Herbert Wehner, the left-leaning member of the postwar SPD leadership triumvirate of Brandt-Schmidt-Wehner—who helped Scharping up the party ladder. With his help, Scharping became an aide to SPD federal parliamentarian Dieter Sperling, who was later coordinator of the German-Soviet Friendship Association. In 1975, Scharping became a city council member in Lahnstein, then state leader of the SPD youth organization, the Jusos. That same year, he was elected to the Juso executive, where he took charge of student work, and this is when his name first shows up in the archives of the SPD. In 1979, he became parliamentary secretary of the SPD in Mainz, and in 1985 state chairman

of the SPD in Mainz. The latter position came to him by default, after its occupant, Klaus von Dohnany, had to leave the job in 1981 in order to take over the office of Mayor Klose. Then, in 1991, Scharping became the governor of Rhineland Palatinate. What is remarkable about Scharping is how unremarkable he is. He never wrote anything significant, he never excelled in his speeches, he never deeply impressed anybody with ideas, he never was a member of parliament in Bonn—but he was always there, diligent and thorough, like an accountant ready to become the receiver, when scandals erupted and when posts became vacant.

Sniffing the winds of opportunity (the big international