

wide mobilizations in two weeks, German labor has built up its combat strength, and is now openly challenging the monetarists. Politics in Germany has reached its “breaking point,” Ursula Engelen-Kefer, deputy secretary general of the German Labor Federation, declared in an interview with the *International Herald Tribune* on March 26. She warned that if the government insisted on going ahead with budget cuts, “then we will increase our protests on a nationwide basis and also on a regional and local level, together with our allies, including the churches, social welfare institutions, and political parties such as the Social Democrats and the Greens.”

It seems that this warning also was heard at Deutsche Bank headquarters: The bankers announced on March 24, on the eve of the Frankfurt steelworkers rally, that they would no longer pursue the original takeover plan, but were opting

for a “friendly” merger. And Ulrich Cartellieri, Deutsche Bank’s man on Thyssen’s board, announced the same day that he would be resigning his seat at the next board meeting on March 27.

The steelworkers hailed these concessions, but also left no doubt, that they do not intend to be fooled about the character of bankers like Breuer, or about their policy. Effective legislation against financial speculation and shareholder excesses, and limitations to the banks’ powers inside industrial companies, are what the steelworkers—and the labor movement in general—are now calling for. This can be achieved, because the political conditions are ripe for such measures. But the next step must be a political mobilization for a reorganization of the banking sector, for a return to the principles of industrial credit, and the creation of jobs.

## Civil Rights Movement leaflets labor rally

*The Civil Rights Movement-Solidarity, a German party founded by Helga Zepp LaRouche, made a crucial intervention into the steelworkers rally in Frankfurt on March 25, with a leaflet headlined, “What Does the Attack on Thyssen Have to Do with the Murder of Herrhausen?” The text of the leaflet, in translation, follows:*

What can move a big bank like Deutsche Bank, to act so fundamentally against the interests of German industry and German workers? The unsolved murder of [Deutsche Bank chairman] Alfred Herrhausen in November 1989 provides the key to this question!

Herrhausen followed an entirely different policy—namely, the economic development of Germany in the tradition of the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau and such bankers as Hermann Josef Abs. Representatives of this school considered it the banks’ task to support the *Mittelstand* [small and medium-size enterprises], the machine-tool industry, and other conveyors of productivity in the economy, and thus they served the common good of society as a whole.

In the speech that Herrhausen expected to make in early December 1989, which was not given because he was murdered, he demanded the economic development of Poland, facilitated through a Development Bank, modelled on the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau. Instead, after his death, the entirety of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union was ordered to follow the ruinous “shock therapy” of the IMF.

Allegedly, Herrhausen, whose ideas of banking policy aimed at the development of the East would have been key, was killed by an ominous third generation of the RAF (Red Army Faction). On Jan. 7, 1997, Deutschlandfunk radio reported in a broadcast, that, 1) this “third generation” doesn’t exist at all; 2) the German authorities scandalously covered up the real circumstances of the murder; and, 3) indications point toward international financial circles in London and elsewhere, as being behind the actual murderers.

It is an indisputable fact, that all of Herrhausen’s successors followed a directly opposite policy, not of economic development, but of economic destruction, which sacrifices precious economic capacities to the speculative hunger of financial sharks.

It is also a fact, that after the fall of the Wall in 1989, Margaret Thatcher was ready to do anything to weaken Germany, as she admitted in her memoirs. It is also a fact, that George Bush insisted on a policy of self-containment for Germany, as a precondition for reunification. The pressing question remains: Why did the German authorities collaborate in covering up the murder?

The attempted hostile takeover of Thyssen by Krupp, under the leadership of Deutsche Bank, is nothing but a continuation of a policy aimed at containing Germany and destroying its industry. That is what is going on!

We demand:

- The complete survival of Thyssen, which is one of the key industrial sectors of Germany, and is needed in the construction of the Eurasian Land-Bridge!

- The immediate and complete clarification of the Alfred Herrhausen murder.

Justice for Herrhausen!

Justice for the Thyssen workers!

Justice for Germany!