

a “fruitcake” of scant credibility. Back in Buenos Aires, a similarly unnerved *Ambito Financiero*, long the voice of British economic liberalism in Argentina, feigned “surprise” at Carrió’s using “as a model” in her Jan. 5 speech “the U.S. politician Lyndon LaRouche, who is accused of anti-Semitic tendencies, and more than once has called for the freeing” of imprisoned nationalist, Mohamed Alí Seineldín.”

The hysteria is lawful. As the head of the Jubilee 2000 Commission in Argentina, Cafiero worked not only to promote Pope John Paul II’s debt forgiveness initiative, but also to expose the illegitimacy of Argentina’s foreign debt. Aside from doing his own thorough investigation of his country’s foreign debt, in August 2000 Cafiero organized congressional hearings on the topic, under the aegis of the Bicameral Jubilee 2000 Commission. Among those giving testimony were then-Buenos Aires province Governor Eduardo Duhalde; Italy’s ambassador to Argentina, who spoke on the Italian Senate’s debt-forgiveness action; and La Plata Archbishop Héctor Aguer, whose Open Letter on the foreign debt *EIR* published in its Jan. 18 issue.

The Anglo-American financial elites clearly fear any combination of LaRouche’s and the Pope’s campaigns against debt-slavery. And the work done by Carrió and Cafiero in exposing the money-laundering and capital flight carried out by dirty international financial networks to destroy Argentina, is getting close.

Berlin, The Open Wound of Germany

by Rainer Apel

The swearing-in of Berlin’s new “left-left” coalition government on Jan. 17 was met by loud street protests, in which the shutdown of the city’s Benjamin Franklin Clinic, became the focus of general unrest over Berlin’s—and Germany’s—economic collapse. A nasty sense of *déjà vu* was added to the demonstrations, by the fact that the Deputy Mayor in the coalition is Gregor Gysi; he who ran the last pretense of an East German Communist government that was swept “into the dustbin of history” by Germany’s reunification in 1990. In the protests, Social Democrats burned their party membership cards, enraged at the coalition—whose sole purpose is to enforce austerity, layoffs, closures, etc.—with Gysi’s “post-Communist” PDS party.

Nurses and other medical staff of the Benjamin Franklin Clinic demonstrated against the planned shutdown of their hospital, and many thousands of Berlin citizens were signing a petition to save that hospital, which is also affiliated with the Free University of Berlin.

Making the point that the German capital is not like any other state in the country, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, national chairwoman of the BüSo (Civil Rights Movement Solidarity) party, has declared Berlin a forefront of the political campaigning of the LaRouche movement, immediately, and through the coming months, until the September elections for national parliament. Zepp-LaRouche has challenged Chancellor Gerhard Schröder and opposition Christian Democratic (CDU/CSU) Chancellor candidate Edmund Stoiber to a national debate on the economic collapse, stating that only a New Bretton Woods system can stop it.

Germany’s entire economy is shrinking as of the last quarter of 2001, its vital trade and investments are falling, unemployment rising to more than 4 million; consequently, the gap between huge indebtedness and falling tax revenues is devastating the German states, led by Berlin. In a single year, the combined budget deficit of the German states has tripled to 25.6 billion euros; Berlin’s deficit has quadrupled from 2000 to 2001.

Unions Also Forced Into Action

Union protests continued on Jan. 21, after their first “round-table” meeting with Berlin Mayor Klaus Wowereit (SPD) and Gysi, who confronts the unions as the man in charge of “Economic Affairs.” Union leaders declared they

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did not intend to drop their opposition to new, deep budget and jobs cuts in the public sector, in daycare centers, in other sectors of the Berlin economy. Gysi's remarks that the Berlin Senate would welcome "temporary" wage cuts, as an alleged "alternative" to job cuts, have made labor unionists particularly angry.

On Jan. 22, the joint initiative of university staffs, students, labor unions, and concerned citizens to save the Benjamin Franklin Clinic announced that within only two weeks, they had gathered 100,000 signatures—far more than the 25,000 that are constitutionally required to have, to initiate a Berlin-wide referendum. The jobs of 800 medical specialists, about 4,000 medical students, and 2,500 employees and workers at the clinic itself are threatened by the Senate's plan to downsize Berlin's hospitals.

Cutting Senate funds to the Franklin Clinic's university-

related functions, and reducing it to the status of an urban district hospital, would only be a prelude to the final shut-down, in the not distant future. The same fate struck the renowned Moabit Clinic a year ago, a crucial hospital serving the central district of Berlin, which was put on a black list of "facilities to be abandoned" for budget reasons. The Moabit shutdown was rubber-stamped by the previous coalition of Social Democrats with Christian Democrats, which governed Berlin before Mayor Wowereit overthrew it by a no-confidence vote on June 16, 2001. Acting as chairman of the SPD group in the Berlin parliament, Wowereit fully backed the decision then, and he is as much committed to continue the policy today.

Faced with the 100,000 signatures to keep the Benjamin Franklin Clinic open, Wowereit conceded that there might be "alternatives" to the planned budget cuts. But his statements

Zepp-LaRouche Says: Face The Global Crisis

This challenge for a national debate of the German Federal Chancellor candidates, was issued on Jan. 21.

Chancellor Schroeder, Candidate Stoiber: I challenge you to debate me! The axioms on which both of you have based your electoral strategies, will be completely swept away by reality, within a few months. . . . To be fair, I should add that you are not the only ones to blame for arguing on the basis of wrong premises. Unfortunately, the governments and leading parties of all G-7 states and many other countries have so far demonstrated their inability to find an answer to existential strategic problems.

1. The global financial system, which is associated with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization (WTO), is in the terminal phase of a systemic collapse. The list of countries, where the IMF's policy has utterly failed, is growing daily: Argentina faces ungovernability; in Japan, a banking crash could happen tomorrow, the country has been in a depression for a long time. . . .

2. Do you both really believe, that the situation is workable, when the policy of "globalization" is dramatically broadening the gap between rich and poor in the world? Is there a future for a system which aims to have relatively good living conditions for a "Golden Billion," while the rest of humanity goes under? And what is your answer, Mr. Stoiber, to the dramatic appeal of Munich Archbishop Wetter, who said, in his year-end sermon: "It is high time to act. Should the tensions between rich

and poor explode into a storm of violence one day, we will not recognize our earth again."

3. What do you have to say about the fact, which is now being publicly discussed, even by established politicians (Andreas von Bülow, et al.), that the events of Sept. 11 were not the deeds of Osama bin Laden, but of military and intelligence circles in the U.S.A.? How can you not realize that, in the United States, a group of followers of a utopian military concept is fighting for hegemony, when articles appear, even in the *New York Times*, which openly propagate an American world empire? . . .

4. What is your position in respect to the real alternative of the Eurasian Land-Bridge, which I have proposed for ten years, as a means of overcoming the economic crisis? Since then, this proposal has become more than a mere idea; many nations, such as China, India, Russia, South Korea, Malaysia, and others, have taken up concrete projects of infrastructure integration. In early December, South Korean President Kim Dae-jung spoke in front of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, appealing to Europe, to collaborate with Asia in building the "New Iron Silk Road." Russian President Vladimir Putin and Kim Dae-jung have passed a "Moscow Declaration" to this end. Are you ready for this collaboration?

All these questions are relevant for Germany's existence and future. Therefore, I challenge you both to discuss them, in a public debate. Not in a debate which is orchestrated and manipulated, American-style, by the media, but in a real debate about ideas.

For this reason, I also challenge you, to debate, with me, the moral principles and lawfulness, which must be the foundation of a way out of the crisis. I am convinced that only a government solely committed to the General Welfare is legitimate.

—Helga Zepp-LaRouche, Jan. 17, 2002