

German Monday Rallies Demand Productive Jobs

by Rainer Apel

The German government has launched a propaganda campaign to defuse the Monday rally movement of citizens who are protesting against the government's most brutal austerity package, the Hartz IV "labor market and welfare reform," and who are joining the LaRouche movement's call for the creation of new, productive jobs. Economics Minister Wolfgang Clement is playing a leading role in this effort to tone down the coverage of the rallies, alleging that "opposition to Hartz IV is dying down." His efforts are bolstered by lying propaganda in the mainstream media, which is minimizing the real attendance at these rallies.

On Tuesday Sept. 14, the leading German media claimed that the evening before, "again, about 10,000 took part in Monday protests in all of Germany," despite the fact that rallies were held in 240 cities, more than ever before; in the three large cities of Berlin, Leipzig, and Magdeburg alone, a total of 20,000 took part. Many smaller cities had the same attendance as the week before, and some of these smaller cities had a Monday rally for the first time, with a significant number of citizens showing up. For example, in Belzig and Zossen (both in the eastern state of Brandenburg), 150 and 300 attended, respectively, also 150 in Oschersleben (Saxe-Anhalt). The Monday rally movement is not dying down, but on the contrary, keeps spreading.

And the impact of the LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) and the Civil Rights Movement Solidarity party (BüSo), which is headed by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, is also growing, especially in the two eastern German states of Brandenburg and Saxony, both of which hold elections on Sept. 19. There, LaRouche representatives on Sept. 13 addressed or intervened at 20 Monday rallies in six cities in Brandenburg and 14 in Saxony. In some cities, such as Görlitz, Perleberg, and Plauen, the "LaRouche people" have a good recognition factor; after two or three or more Mondays of intervention, citizens are applauding the LYM speeches, and ask activists questions about the latest leaflets and the campaign posters. Also press coverage is increasing: On Sept. 14, the *Potsdamer Neueste Nachrichten* and the *Sächsische Zeitung* had positive reports on LaRouche organizers' presence at Monday rallies, or on some other aspect of the campaign, in several cities. Not untypical for the media landscape of Germany, reports in the press of smaller cities are often much more direct and positive than in the cynical so-called mainstream press.

Nine weeks of continuous Monday rally mobilizations,

which began with the first rally of the LYM in Leipzig on July 12, have profoundly transformed the political debate in Germany, notably in the eastern regions like Saxony. Before July, although there was already broad opposition against the Hartz IV austerity package, it consisted only of complaints. Real economic alternatives to the government's brutal budget-cutting were introduced into the debate only through the organizing of the LaRouche movement in the Saxon election campaign for state parliament. The BüSo is fielding 21 candidates in 60 districts in the state.

In stark contrast to this promising development, leftist organizers of the Monday rallies in Berlin, Leipzig, and Magdeburg, where Monday rally attendance has declined, were quoted in the press Sept. 14, admitting that the decreasing turnout had to do with the lack of programmatic input. The deep frustration among many anti-austerity citizens about this situation has created additional incentives for them to now look into the LaRouche programmatic material, to move from mere protest to serious dialogue on economic alternatives to budget-cutting. It is anticipated that LaRouche representatives will see requests to speak at more Monday rallies, or at the "citizens' roundtables" that are being formed now in many cities, during the coming weeks.

Industrialists Also Oppose Hartz IV

An interesting aspect of this process is how discussions about ways of creating new, productive jobs have developed into some regional initiatives, or are at least being discussed there. For example, on Sept. 14, eastern German newswires reported on an opinion poll in the state of Saxe-Anhalt, which showed that 74% of the firms there voiced skepticism about, or even opposition to the Hartz IV package, whereas only a bit more than 25% said they expect benefits from it.

And the *Mittelstand* association of smaller firms in the two states of Berlin and Brandenburg said on Sept. 13 that essential aspects of Hartz IV will not work, especially the government plan for make-work jobs at a measly 1 euro (\$1.21) per hour. It will rather be disadvantageous for larger industrial firms, and the smaller, specialized companies, which depend on a skilled workforce that needs decent pay, said the association's chairman, Dieter Keppel. He also endorsed the Monday rallies as justified and useful. Keppel said that what is required, is an economic program for the creation of new real jobs, as opposed to make-work, which he indicated he and others will be working on, during the coming weeks.

Also in the Prignitz region of Brandenburg, a group of *Mittelstand* managers who denounced Hartz IV, and also participate in the Monday rallies, has begun to work on a constructive program for the creation of real jobs at real pay. A first outline of that, a "Wittstock Resolution," is being circulated in the region.

And even Saxony's Economics Minister Martin Gillo, in this otherwise "New Economy"-oriented state government,

noted on Sept. 12 that Saxony's machine-building industry is the state's number-two provider of jobs—a point which has been prominent in the LaRouche movement's mobilization during the past nine weeks. Gillo was responding to the impact of two months of the BüSo's penetration of the machine-building region around Chemnitz, Saxony's third-largest city, with leaflets and other campaign material. It is right there, that many of the new jobs that will “make the Saxon economy grow” (the famous LaRouche movement campaign slogan) will have to be created.

Documentation

Zepp-LaRouche: Create Eight Million New Jobs

The following is excerpted from the leaflet issued on Sept. 7 by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, chairwoman of the Civil Rights Movement Solidarity party (BüSo), for the period going into the Saxony state elections of Sept. 19.

If one believes the polls, the voter participation in the coming state elections would be around 50%. The reasons are: general frustration with politics, lack of confidence in the parties, and

the pessimistic feeling, that one could “not change anything anyway.” Why then go vote? This is what many people think these days. This call is an appeal to you, to re-think this, and go to vote, and vote for BüSo! Because you, you personally, can make the difference. . . .

And therefore, we, the BüSo, propose to draw the consequences from the fact, that the system of globalization today is as bankrupt as the [former East German Communist] G.D.R. economy was in October 1989. The good news is: There is a way out. Because, contrary to the policies of Brüning, which quickly led to Schacht and Hitler, there was Franklin D. Roosevelt in the U.S.A. in the 1930s, who led America, with his New Deal policy and state credit generation, out of the Depression. This is exactly what we propose for Germany today!

As different economics institutes in the past weeks have confirmed, real unemployment in Germany is not 4.3, but rather 8.6 million unemployed, if one counts people sent into early retirement, people above 58 years of age, re-trainees, unemployed youth, or people who have given up looking for jobs. They cost the state directly 83 billion euros in unemployment payments, social aid, or non-paid social security. According to the Institute for Labor Market and Job Research in Nuremberg, they cost the national economy at least another 230 billion euros in lost value creation, because these millions of people do not work.

What we need, therefore, are 200 billion euros in additional investments per year, in Germany, 20 billion in Saxony alone, to create 8 million new *productive* jobs. This is possible, if the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) [Reconstruction Finance Agency] provides state credit for well-defined projects, which create real value and serve the common good. Among these are: infrastructure, basic research in already existing and future technologies. The building of Saxony's railway and starting new industries in Saxony, where many highly qualified but presently unemployed workers still live, are only some examples of what can be done. This state credit generation is not inflationary, because real capital values are created. Through full employment, the tax income of the state grows again, so that we can afford the social state.

I said in the beginning, that you, the potential non-voters, can make the difference. Give us, the BüSo, a chance. We are not like the other parties, but we tell you also the unpleasant truth. We tell you, that the globalization system is hopelessly finished. But that is no reason for pessimism, because there are effective historical examples of how the economy can be rebuilt with the policy of so-called physical economy—the New Deal and the German economic miracle after the Second World War.

Vote for us, if you want a real alternative!



LaRouche youth march in a Monday demonstration in Leipzig, with the banner: “Roosevelt Instead of Schacht, LaRouche’s New Deal Instead of a War Economy.” BüSo leader Helga Zepp-LaRouche wrote in a leaflet that “Roosevelt in the U.S.A. in the 1930s . . . led America, with his New Deal policy and state credit generation, out of the Depression. This is exactly what we propose for Germany today!”