

LaRouche Youth Take On 'Rohatyn' of Berlin

Daniel Buchmann, 24, is campaigning for mayor of Berlin, heading a slate of 20 candidates of the Civil Rights Movement Solidarity (BüSo), the LaRouche party in Germany, in the Sept. 17 elections. Abdul-Aliy Muhammad of the LaRouche Youth Movement interviewed him on May 1.



EIR: Daniel, why are you actually running in the election on Sept. 17?

Buchmann: Because nobody in the other parties is qualified to be mayor of Berlin. These old farts in these old parties have spent the last decades proving they can't do the job!

EIR: What is your campaign set to do for Berlin?

Buchmann: We just put out our first pamphlet, and the main slogan is the question of the reindustrialization of Berlin and 1 million new productive workplaces for Berlin; that means high-tech industries, including infrastructure and other modern technologies that can't be produced in other parts of the world efficiently.

EIR: In the BüSo campaign, there are a lot of young people on the slate, and you're probably one of the youngest. Do you think that the question of the youth in this election is very important? What does that have to do with the shift of politics in Germany?

Buchmann: As Mr. LaRouche said, "If you don't have a youth candidate, you don't have a serious campaign," because what you see in politics in general is a big, big generational conflict, where the "68er" generation failed to organize society. They somehow managed to organize their careers, but they failed to organize society, and the youth are faced with a no-future crisis, so the youth have to take over society. That's why the youth are attracted to our campaign, and are joining the slate. And as the election proceeds, we are going to recruit more and more young people into the campaign.

EIR: How is the BüSo planning to bring the question of the

Eurasian Land-Bridge and the intercontinental airport into the campaign?

Buchmann: After reunification in 1990, the whole discussion in Berlin was about connecting Western and Eastern Europe, and Berlin being the hub of Germany, and Germany being the hub of Europe and all of Eurasia. For that, Berlin needs something other places don't have, and something Berlin doesn't have yet; and that's a transcontinental airport for transportation of people and goods, as an intersection of traffic for all of Eurasia.

EIR: Lyndon LaRouche has said that Germany is important as a collaborator of the United States—if we get a change in the U.S.A. And that also, Germany is the only nation in Europe that can provide some leadership. What do you think about that?

Buchmann: It's absolutely crucial. I mean, Germany was most successful when she adopted the policies of the American System of political-economy, as in Friedrich List's Zollverein, or customs union; Bismarck's industrial and social policies; as in the reconstruction after World War II; and as in what LaRouche proposes with the Eurasian Land-Bridge. The U.S. can't reorganize the entire world monetary system without allies in Europe—that's why Germany's an absolutely crucial nation in this.

EIR: Berlin is probably one of the most bankrupt cities in Germany, and probably is comparable with New York City in the 1970s. You also have a similar kind of situation here as we had in New York, with Felix Rohatyn under Big MAC, with the Finance Minister of Berlin Thilo Sarrazin. Can you tell us about your campaign to destroy him, politically?

Buchmann: He wants to privatize everything. When you look in his face you see no emotion; what you see is an accountant—people don't count for him, only his balance sheets. As we all know, before we can balance the budget, we have to balance our minds, and the main problem we have in Berlin is deindustrialization. Berlin is bankrupt because we lost our industries, and through that our taxpayers, so we've got to bring back our industries. Sarrazin has no proposal to solve the problem, but his program would make it worse, cutting the budgets for everything—for children, kindergartens, schools, universities, infrastructure—everything. They are shutting down the city.

EIR: He doesn't believe in the sovereignty of Germany over its banking system, because he went to the EU—

Buchmann: Yes, what he wants to do is privatize the savings and loan banks of Berlin, but he can't because these banks are a part of the General Welfare principle; and the government said no, these banks are for the people. Sarrazin went to the European Commission to complain. He is hated by the people.