

BüSo Conference Offers New Leadership for Germany

by Rainer Apel and Bonnie James

The dramatic shift of political constellations in the United States, toward what Lyndon LaRouche has called the “New Politics,” after the Nov. 7 midterm elections—in significant part brought about by the political “mass effect” introduced by the LaRouche Youth Movement in mobilizing the youth vote for the Democrats—has not yet led to changed policies by the German establishment and its media. The German government, the political parties, the “experts,” are still on autopilot, as if nothing had changed since Nov. 7. So far, the LaRouche movement in Germany and its political arm, the BüSo (Civil Rights Movement Solidarity), have been the only ones to respond to the changed U.S. situation, reshaping the party to make it fit for the political struggles to come. On Dec. 18, the BüSo held its national party convention at Frankfurt/Main.

BüSo chairwoman Helga Zepp-LaRouche and Lyndon LaRouche, who heads the LaRouche Political Action Committee in the United States, addressed the convention (transcripts of both speeches will appear in an upcoming issue of *EIR*). But for many, the highlight was the role played by the members of the LaRouche Youth Movement. They set the tone for the convention with beautiful music, including the American civil rights rallying-song “Battle Cry of Freedom” and Beethoven’s setting of Schiller’s “Ode to Joy.” After Zepp-LaRouche’s speech, four of the youth who had run as candidates during 2004-06, gave reports on the most important phases in the development of the LaRouche Youth Movement in Germany.

In her keynote, which opened the proceedings, Zepp-LaRouche challenged the BüSo members to break with the paradigms of the past—the system of monetarist “old politics”—and adopt a new paradigm, which puts mankind, its dignity, its creativity, at the center. Caught within the web of cultural pessimism of the past, many people will respond with skepticism to the idea that reality can be changed, she said, but reality has already changed significantly, with the LYM intervention and success in the U.S.A. on Nov. 7. The creativity of the young people has created a mass movement in the United States, ushering in a new era of politics, which, for the first time in human history, opens up the prospect of development of humanity’s true potential.

Lyndon LaRouche, whose speech closed the conference, was blunt about the crisis facing humanity: “We are now a

few hours, in history, away from doom,” he said, and declared that only the United States, with its republican institutions, is capable of leading the way back from the abyss.

Cusa’s Battle Cry Against the Oligarchy

Zepp-LaRouche focussed her presentation on the contributions of the great Renaissance thinker Cardinal Nicholas of Cusa. Looking back at the early 15th Century, she said, when man’s creative potential was proclaimed, we find the young Nicholas of Cusa, publishing his *Concordantia Catholica* (Catholic Concordance) at the age of 29—a revolution in thinking about politics, which was prepared by the rediscovery of the ancient Greek philosophy and science that had been lost for 1,700 years. The *Concordantia*, for the first time, portrayed a true republic, based on the individual citizens electing their own representatives. This battle cry against the oligarchy, against the feudal system, was the foundation of what later, in 1776, became the American Revolution.

The process set into motion by the Renaissance, Zepp-LaRouche stressed, created many other revolutions: in music, with Bach and Beethoven; in science, with Kepler; in poetry and historiography with Schiller, for example. To enter the “Age of Reason,” which Schiller saw on the horizon, we must go beyond the daily political struggle; it takes people, notably young people, to be conscious of their crucial role in the historical process, to replace the system of the oligarchy.

Zepp-LaRouche pointed again to the U.S. elections, underscoring the impact of the LYM, whose “New Politics” caused a political explosion that helped elect many new Democrats (see this week’s *Feature*).

The world economy will be reorganized, Zepp-LaRouche said, with a changed U.S.A. at its center; it will not and cannot be reorganized without the United States; the other powers like Russia, China, India, Europe, cannot do it alone. The change can only come from the U.S.A., because there, the tradition of the American Revolution is still vivid, unlike the other parts of the world, notably Europe, where the counter-tradition of the oligarchy still prevails.

Zepp-LaRouche then defined the particular problem facing Germany: that its elites have discarded the LaRouche warning in 1989, that, should they adopt the free market radicalism ideology after the collapse of the communist system, they would create a situation much worse than communism.

That is, indeed, what happened, with the deindustrialization of eastern Germany during the past 17 years. But when the LaRouche Youth intervened in 2004 with their slogan, “In Saxony, the economy must grow (again), it met broad popular support—because Germans in the East happen not to be so brainwashed with degenerate paradigms, like the Baby Boomers in the western parts of the country.

Despite the crushing of the revolutionary spirit in Europe, following the French Revolution, that spirit is still latent in the population; one can see it in France, where the response of mayors to the LaRouche candidate for the French Presidency in 2007, Jacques Cheminade, is encouraging, and one can see it even in Germany, where pollsters find voters disgusted with all the top politicians, managers, and artists. The time is ripe for “New Politics,” and the BüSo party with its call for a 200-billion-euro annual economic recovery program is the decisive factor for the change also in Germany. What Schiller proclaimed 200 years ago, namely that a great historical moment finds a great people to act accordingly, is what shall be turned into reality today, Helga Zepp-LaRouche said at the end of her keynote address, receiving a standing ovation from the convention delegates.

Granted, numerous members of the older generation of the LaRouche movement in Germany have difficulties with the urgency of radical restructuring, and some of them also voiced that, during the convention debate. The vast majority, however, voted for the proposed new party executive of the BüSo., which now includes six members of the LYM: Daniel Buchmann, Petra Carlsson, Kai-Uwe Dücke, Katarzyna Kruczkowski, Stephan Tolksdorf, and Karsten Werner. Party chairwoman, as before, is Helga Zepp-LaRouche, joined by the two (also new) co-chairs Elke Fimmen and Klaus Fimmen. Already during the convention, the new party executive met to map out the interventions needed to establish the “New Politics” in Germany.

The Youth Speak

Newly elected to the BüSo party executive were six members of the LaRouche Youth Movement in Germany: Daniel Buchmann, mayoral candidate in the September 2006 elections for city-state parliament in Berlin, was elected as one of three vice chairmen of the BüSo. In addition: Karsten Werner, former mayoral candidate in Leipzig; Kasia Kruczkowski, former candidate for the national parliament in the September 2005 early elections, in Dresden; Alexander Pusch, former slate leader in the 2005 elections for state parliament in North Rhine-Westphalia; and Stephan Tolksdorf and Petra Carlsson.

Alexander Pusch gave a lively report on how he and about 20 other youth restarted the Leipzig Monday Rally movement, in early July 2004, with big banners and a sound-car, addressing passersby at the very square next to the Opera House where the historic 1989 Monday Rallies began. The banners called for a New Bretton Woods and for a profound change of economic, scientific, and cultural policies. Pusch



EIRNS/Chris Lewis

Kasia Kruczkowski, former candidate for the national parliament in September 2005, from Dresden, was one of several members of the LaRouche Youth Movement just elected to the Executive Board of the BüSo. She is shown here addressing the party conference.

said that whereas the first LYM rally did not attract so many people, it was clear that an important event in history was taking place—and indeed, four weeks later, 40,000 gathered on that same square. Many other cities joined, all across Germany, and six weeks after the first rally, a quarter-million Germans took to the streets in protest against the establishment’s monetarist policies, Monday after Monday, into October.

That campaign then overlapped with the election campaign for state parliament in Saxony, and on election day in September 2004, the BüSo/LYM recognition was so high among Leipzig citizens and other Saxonians throughout the state, that BüSo candidates, many of them youth, received up to 6 or 7%. That Saxony election campaign, and the Spring 2005 mayoral campaign in Leipzig, were an entirely new experience for the LYM also, because it took them into the urban residential districts for door-to-door organizing, and there, Pusch reported, they were confronted with the frustrations and worries of tens of thousands of jobless citizens. The LYM all of a sudden became the main mouthpiece for these concerns of a larger section of the population.

Kasia Kruczkowski reported how she once attended a public meeting of the BüSo in Munich, at the end of which Helga Zepp-LaRouche said that the young generation simply had to learn much more about reality. Having been at school for 13 years and at the university for another five, Kruczkowski was at first skeptical about having to learn even

more, but then got increasingly attracted by the LaRouche movement's ideas. For the September 2005 national elections in Germany, she ran as one among numerous BüSo candidates, and when her Dresden district had to hold elections two weeks after actual election day, because of the death of the candidate of another party in the middle of the campaign, Kruczkowski all of a sudden found herself in the position of the most important candidate in all of Germany, because the outcome of the Dresden vote would decide which of the two dominant establishment parties—the Social Democrats or the Christian Democrats—could win with a tiny margin: Kruczkowski was the swing vote! That special election was another important step forward, in the development of the LYM in Germany—also because of the new members who were recruited in the process.

Karsten Werner reported on the mayoral elections in Leipzig, which (with LYM candidate Thomas Rottmair) yielded 0.5% in May 2005; 0.8% in the first re-election; and 1.5% in the second re-election (both with Werner as the LYM candidate) in early 2006. Emerging out of the 2004 Monday Rallies, during which the LYM chorus made a big impact on the population with its beautiful Bach motets and other Classical songs, the three mayoral campaigns in Leipzig showed a steady increase in public recognition of the BüSo.

Petra Carlsson reported how she, coming from Sweden, with little or no knowledge of Germany, found herself in the middle of these 2004 Monday Rallies, and the broad positive response to that convinced her there is something powerful in German history and culture that is important to revive. Carlsson said that bringing back their own dignity to the Germans, is a central mission for her: that is why she ran for a seat on the national BüSo party executive.

'Normal' Ways of Thinking Won't Work

The closing remarks were made by Lyndon LaRouche, who did not pull any punches about the profound challenge faced by the international LaRouche political movement: "We are not a drinking and marching society. We are an organization internationally, which is dedicated to the purpose of trying to save civilization from a catastrophe which has taken over the world since the death of Franklin Roosevelt."

The key problem, LaRouche stated, is the breakdown of the global economy: "a complete breakdown of the type that could cause *mass death* in this planet! To reduce the world population from over 6 billion to less than 1 billion. . . . We're weeks and months away at the most, from that point; we have to make a decision."

"Normal" ways of thinking about politics will not work in this kind of crisis; a sudden change in policies of everything, is required, LaRouche said. This means "crushing" the power of the banks and the hedge funds, and putting the banks into receivership.

"You must go back to the nation-state. You must put na-

tional banking systems into reorganization, receivership. You must create large-scale credit, like the deutschemark system again. You must generate credit for investment in long-term, low-interest, infrastructure development, major capital-intensive infrastructure development, *as a driver for rebuilding industry!*"

"How can such revolutionary changes be made?" LaRouche asked. "It can be made by a revolutionary people. And where do you find revolutionary people? They are found, especially, where the American Revolution found its people. The American Revolution was made by people who were mostly between 19 and 25 years of age. They were the leaders of the American Revolution—with an old geezer like me, Benjamin Franklin, involved in it. Every great movement in history depends upon young people. . . ."

LaRouche then discussed the kind of creative thinking that is needed, with reference to the fundamental scientific discoverings of Kepler, Gauss, and Riemann, and the revolution in music made by J.S. Bach. These discoveries are the basis of the education process well under way in the LaRouche Youth Movement.

In conclusion, LaRouche outlined what must be done now: "Our job, from the United States and in Europe, in particular, is to make sure that we have an activation of a principle, a seed crystal, in each of the countries of Europe, which is ready to respond at the point that we are able to make a turn in the United States.

"But the only chance for Europe, is the United States. If the United States does not change, the situation for Europe is hopeless. The situation for Eurasia is hopeless. The situation for the planet, is hopeless.

"So this is not a game. This is not a sport. This is not speculation, this is not an investment. This is the salvation of humanity, at least for a long time to come. And we have to understand this, that we have to have revolutionaries. We have to think like revolutionaries, as I described that. We have to fix what's wrong with the world. We have to reach out, and create alliances and contacts with various parts of the world, bring ourselves into collaboration and discussion with them. We have to craft a system, which will save the planet."

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