

Zepp-LaRouche: The Chancellor Candidate for Germany's Future

Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, as expected, lost a “vote of confidence” in the German national parliament on July 1. Failing to get the required absolute majority of 301 votes for a continuation of his government, Schröder was hit by 296 votes against him (almost all from the opposition Christian Democrats and Free Democrats), demanding an end of his government.

The voting among Schröder's own Social Democratic Party (SPD) and among his Green Party coalition partner showed some surprises: 151 voted to support him, while 148 abstained. Three members of parliament who have no standing as a parliamentary group also voted against Schröder. Of the total 601 members of parliament, 6 were absent and did not vote. Schroeder had asked his party members to abstain, so that he would lose the confidence vote, and be able to compete in early elections. That so many did not heed him, underscores the fact that many Social Democrats expect to lose an election, should it go ahead.

Since opposition leader Angela Merkel, with the 294 votes of her Christian Democrats and of the Free Democrats, has no majority either, a decision by German President Horst Köhler in favor of dissolution of the parliament and early elections is likely. Köhler has three weeks in which to make his decision, and has indicated that he plans to take all the time he needs.

Zepp-LaRouche: My Candidacy Is Necessary

Immediately after the parliamentary result, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the national chairwoman of Germany's Civil Rights Movement Solidarity (BüSo), issued this statement on the situation, titled “Reality Not Mentioned—My Candidacy For Chancellor Is Now More Important Than Ever Before”:

“Chancellor Schröder has achieved what he wanted; he did not receive the required majority of votes in the vote on

July 1. Now, it is the turn of President Köhler, who is in a constitutionally complicated situation.

“The main problem with this debate was that the actually determining reality was mentioned by none of the speakers: The problems in Germany such as unemployment and decline of production are not German problems, but are a consequence of the worldwide financial and economic crisis. The main reason for this world crisis is the Anglo-American neo-liberal paradigm of the free-market economy, which has reigned much longer in the world economy than Schröder has been in office. If these underlying questions are not addressed, a solution of the world economic crisis is impossible. If the axioms on which the flawed development of the past 40 years is based are not corrected, it does not really matter which party wins in future elections.

“The American economy and the world financial system are, especially since the collapse of the U.S. automobile sector and the hedge fund crisis triggered by it, at the eye of a storm, the effects of which will soon be felt very dramatically in the rest of the world. [SPD Chairman Franz] Müntefering did address a vital aspect, with his remarks about the attacks by ‘locust capitalists,’ and so did Chancellor Schröder with his call for transparency of hedge funds, but both interventions lagged far behind what was required. The result of unbridled predator capitalism—Pope John Paul II in his 1987 encyclical *Sollicitudo rei socialis* spoke of *structures of sin*—is that the so-called system of globalization today is in the end phase of its collapse.

“The lack of a discussion about the condition of the world financial system underlines why my candidacy for Chancellor is more important than ever before. Somebody must tell the truth and put the themes on which the future of the nation depends, on the agenda. The question is: Will there be a world in which Germany can exist? This will only be possible, if the



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Helga Zepp-LaRouche addresses a meeting of her party, the Civil Rights Movement Solidarity (BüSo). In her July 1 statement, she said, "In this country, there must be at least one candidate for Chancellor who stands up for the real interests of Germany, who has a program for overcoming the world financial and economic crisis."

necessity for a new financial architecture, for a New Bretton Woods and for a new, just world economic order, is put on the agenda.

"Chancellor Schröder has made clear in his address that he wants to continue his reform [austerity] policy; it may be hoped that he quickly arrives at better insights, and turns around the mood of the approximately 9 million jobless, through a state investment program of at least 200 billion euros, before the end of this year. Angela Merkel demonstrated with her Freudian slip about the 'capacity for action by the Red-Green coalition' and with her recurring remarks about a 'well-designed policy,' that she is avoiding saying anything concrete about her government program, not because she wants to hide it, but rather because she does not know what to do, either. Her commitment to a coalition with the Free Democratic Party and therefore, her implicit announcement that she wants to go far beyond the austerity measures of [the SPD's] 'narrow-tracked Agenda 2010,' is as incompetent as it is miserable.

"In conclusion: I will promote my candidacy with energy. In this country, there must be at least one candidate for Chancellor who stands up for the real interests of Germany, who has a program for overcoming the world financial and economic crisis, and who has, in view of the falling star of the Bush-Cheney Administration—the *New York Times* already

spoke of impeachment—the right relations to America in the tradition of the American Revolution—the America of Abraham Lincoln and of Franklin D. Roosevelt."

International Implications

The importance of Zepp-LaRouche's candidacy, as her husband Lyndon LaRouche had pointed out in a recent address, is that she prominently represents, through her name and her record of leadership, the potential for a positive relationship with the United States, around the necessary new economic and political relationship elaborated in LaRouche's New Bretton Woods proposal. Zepp-LaRouche, who is also very well known internationally as the founder of the Schiller Institute, has been a prominent spokesperson for not only the New Bretton Woods, but the grand development program for a worldwide recovery called the Eurasian Land-Bridge, having travelled to China, India, Russia, and Eastern Europe to promote this new era of development.

In line with this role, Zepp-LaRouche took the occasion of her speech at the June 28-29 Berlin EIR seminar (see *Feature*) to declare that she would use her candidacy to campaign for the convening of a conference of nations on the new monetary system and Eurasian development, by the end of the year.

This conference should be really big, she said, a "government-level conference, with live TV transmission in all channels in all participating countries, and the world would change! The world needs nothing more than a vision how to get out of this misery, and we can make a real revolution in the thinking of people."

There is no question but that Zepp-LaRouche's candidacy, should the elections go ahead, will play a major role in shaping German national policy. Already, she and her husband have been identified, and attacked, in recent months in the major German press outlets, such as the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, as being the leading proponents of a return to the policies of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. While the LaRouche FDR perspective alarms the synarchist bankers, it simultaneously has found an echo in the labor-linked section of Schröder's Social Democratic Party, which has been demanding a return to state credits for job creation, in the midst of the mass unemployment situation in Germany. The activation of this base, through Zepp-LaRouche's campaign for the creation of 10 million jobs and participation in the Eurasian Land-Bridge, will be decisive as to how the election campaign turns out.

Beyond Germany, Zepp-LaRouche and her campaign will represent the outlook required for positive cooperation between the United States and Europe, within a new monetary system based on economic cooperation for peace.