Zepp LaRouche Tells Schroeder: Implement the Lautenbach Plan!

DURING the first week of November, Helga Zepp LaRouche, head of the Civil Rights Movement-Solidarity party (BüSo) in Germany and the founder of the international Schiller Institute, issued an open letter to German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder. Citing the immediate threat to Germany’s industrial jobs posed by changes in the credit policies of banking institutions, Zepp LaRouche called upon the Chancellor to initiate at once a change in policy which would result in the creation and protection of productive jobs, and penalize speculation.

Germany’s middle-sized industries, which represent two-thirds of all jobs in the country, are currently threatened, the political leader pointed out. “We need legislation which makes it possible to create productive jobs, and which changes the tax laws in the direction of promoting production and preventing speculation,” wrote Zepp LaRouche.

And if such an approach, oriented toward Germany’s vital interests, is contradicted by the Maastricht Treaty and the guidelines of the European Commission, then the European Commission should go to hell!”

Zepp LaRouche outlined two models which the Chancellor might follow, in order to protect national industry.

The first is the Credit Bank for Reconstruction, which could easily play a role similar to what it did under the Marshall Plan in the postwar years.

“But there is an even more dramatic point of reference in German history,” Zepp LaRouche continued, “the alternative which the economist Dr. Walter Lautenbach proposed in 1931, which represented the only way to prevent Hitler’s rise to power.” She described proposals which Lautenbach presented to a secret conference of the Friedrich List Society in September 1931, in which he set forth “the principles of a state-based productive credit-creation under conditions of economic depression and international financial crisis.”

Lautenbach’s proposals for increasing production and employment were geared to reviving the entire German economy. The use of unused productive capacities, and the improvement of infrastructure, would effect an increase in economic productivity, which would mean that the extent and tempo of the expansion of production would grow relatively faster than the expansion of credit.

Zepp LaRouche concluded her letter by touching on the need for Schroeder to break from British Prime Minister Tony Blair’s “Third Way,” and seize the opportunities for expansion offered by especially the markets in Asia.

Helga Zepp LaRouche, shown campaigning in Berlin last November, has challenged German Chancellor Schroeder to protect jobs and penalize financial speculation.