

Germany's 'Monday Rallies' Restarted!

Zepp LaRouche Sparks Drive for Jobs, Recovery

Like a spark setting tinder afire, the call for a new series of Monday demonstrations in Germany has set off a blaze of social ferment. This spark was set by Helga Zepp LaRouche, founder of the Schiller Institute and of Germany's BüSo Party, and the LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM), who issued a mass leaflet in July with a call for revival of the rallies, which in 1989 toppled the Communist regime in East Germany.

In launching this phase of the drive for economic and social justice, Helga Zepp LaRouche had very much in mind the lessons of 1989, when the leadership of the mass demonstrations succeeded in bringing down the Communist regime, but lacked the ideas and power required to deal with the economic crisis. Opposition to the German government's current "Hartz IV" program of cuts in pensions and unemployment compensation, had to pose an alternative of jobs creation, she insisted.

In a mass leaflet issued August 4, Zepp LaRouche said, "We're now paying the price for our failure to utilize the Great Opportunity of 1989, which was rightly described at the time as Germany's shining hour. Because, unfortunately, after the Iron Curtain came down, instead of being modernized with modern infrastructure and 'development corridors,' as I had proposed in my 'Paris-Berlin-Vienna Productive Triangle' program, the East's economy was stripped bare."

Zepp LaRouche went on to insist that the key to a successful movement this time, is to take up the demand for a *real* alternative to the collapse of the world financial system. This alternative lies with Lyndon LaRouche's program for a New Bretton Woods and the Eurasian Land-Bridge, which would create at least 8 million jobs in Ger-



EIFRNS



EIFRNS



EIFRNS/Simon Jensen

LYM rallies on Monday, August 9, in Leipzig, Germany. Left: Helga Zepp LaRouche addresses the crowd.

many, and 10 million in the U.S., in order to rebuild the world economy.

Talk of the Nation

While the Monday rallies had begun to spread to cities outside Leipzig by August 2, the new ingredient which began to polarize the country around the question came from Economics Minister Wolfgang Clement, who came out on August 6 to call the idea of new Monday rallies "totally ill-placed," and an "insult to the historic Monday rallies."

In the wake of the expansion of the demonstrations to 33 cities on August 9, Germany's press attacked the idea, put out by the BüSo, that the government should create jobs, not cut social services. Helga Zepp LaRouche responded with a statement August 11:

"This is exactly the critical point, which differentiates us from neoliberal ideology. The state *can* create productive full employment. That is exactly what President Franklin D. Roosevelt did with his New Deal policy in the '30's, and how he overcame the depression in America, while we in Germany were stupid enough to go from Brüning to Hitler."

On August 18, a day after Helga Zepp LaRouche issued a Manifesto for the Monday Demonstrations, German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder foolishly announced that the Hartz IV austerity package would be pushed through "without any changes." Lyndon LaRouche responded that the Chancellor's address "marks the actual beginning of the collapse of the rotten-ripe world monetary-financial system."