The Schiller Institute held its European conference in Idstein, Germany on Sept. 24-26, 2004. Among the more than 300 participants, were guests from over 30 countries, including members and supporters of the LaRouche movement from around the world, representatives of European and Asian institutions, and a large contingent of youth who form the growing LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) in Europe. The presence of over 100 LYM members was the defining characteristic of the conference, as it represented a significant step forward in the movement’s ability to mobilize the population of Europe to halt the global economic collapse and the drive for perpetual war led by Dick Cheney and his cohorts in the Bush Administration.

The conference came in the wake of a breakout in the movement’s activity in Germany, represented by the election campaign in the eastern German state of Saxony, and the mass protests against austerity which were launched by the LYM and Helga Zepp LaRouche, Schiller Institute founder and leader of the Civil Rights Movement-Solidarity party in Germany (BüSo)—protests which eventually involved tens of thousands and spread to 240 German cities, as well as to Paris, Vienna, Switzerland, and across the Netherlands.

This intervention, in which BüSo candidates quadrupled their vote in Saxony and forced the so-called “major” political parties to address the financial establishment’s attempt to dismantle the European social welfare systems, has thrust the LYM into the center of German political life, and demonstrated the potential for bringing about a radical shift in the population during this period of crisis.

In his keynote address to the conference, Lyndon LaRouche told those listening in the conference hall and around the world on the Internet, that we are living in a time whose importance exceeds that of any in the memory of any living person on this planet. “What will happen between now and the date of the inauguration of the next President of the United States, will be the greatest turning point in history, for better, or for very much worse, in a very long time.”

Strategic Context

LaRouche then gave an in-depth presentation of the strategic context in which the conference was taking place. The fight, he said, is between the principles embodied in the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution, and the British imperial system, which has looted the world and attempted to reduce human beings to the level of cattle. In the Eighteenth century, the faction which sought to create a true republic was unable to do so in Europe, but they achieved their goal through the creation of the United States of America, as “a beacon of hope and a temple of liberty for all mankind.”

LaRouche explained the philosophical background to this fight, and the challenge before us today in guaranteeing the immediate survival of our civilization.

The following day, Helga Zepp LaRouche addressed the conference, detailing the shift which the BüSo has forced in German politics, and comparing it to the revolutionary ferment which led to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. Dennis Small and Lothar Komp used data and animations developed by EIR’s economics staff to document the drastic collapse of the physical economy in the United States and Germany. On the same panel, representatives from Italy, the Czech Republic, Slova-
could have been a good President.
How did it happen, then, that a
George Bush, a “certified mental case,”
was re-elected as President? This is the
tragedy of the American people today.
Therefore, LaRouche said, we must talk
about the remedy: Americans must re-
learn real economics. We must go back
to the physical-economic policies that
Franklin Roosevelt carried out, to bring
the United States out of the Great
Depression.

The Remedy: Real Economics

“You are the remedy,” LaRouche chal-
 lenged the audience. “Your freeing your-
selves of the shackles of illusion, is the
remedy. Your giving up belief in money,
is the remedy.” What you need,
LaRouche said, is housing, food, cloth-
ing, education, medical care. “The dollar
in your pocket is imminently worth
nothing!” His comment that, “It’s like
the mathematician who married a plastic
dummy, because her measurements were
nice,” produced uproarious laughter.

“We’re now in the greatest depression
in modern civilization’s history. What I
have to do, in this process, is to get Amer-
icans to understand what economics is,”
he said, and illustrated, with a series of
animations, the collapse of the physical
economy, using the state of Ohio as a case
study. The principle of animations, he
explained, “is to take what is happening,
or will happen, in an economy, over a
period of years, or months at least, and to
accelerate that into a lapsed-time picture
of the actual changes occurring over that
larger period of time.” This was done in
Cleveland, at a recent Larouche PAC
town meeting, and the audience under-
stood for the first time what had been
done to them: “They saw Ohio being
transformed from one of the richest
industrial states in the United States, over
a period of about 10-15 years, into a rust-
bucket, based on cheap, hotel maids’ jobs
and restaurant jobs. And they saw it!
And they were shocked by it.”

Using these methods—Classical art,
science, and animations to educate our
people in real economics—we will be a
catalyst in reorganizing the Democratic
Party. “For the fact is, that Bush is going
to fail. The war in Iraq is lost. It’s fin-
ished. The financial system, of the
world, is collapsing. It’s finished.
There’ll be a general financial collapse,
worldwide, beyond anything that most
of you in this room could even begin to
imagine—and it will come on fast.”

Therefore, LaRouche concluded,
“We have to put the positive side, we
have to bring the spiritual side forward,
in the real sense, not this false, tent-show,
snake-oil, sense that we get from these
fundamentalists. But, the real sense: That
man is a creature made in the image of
the Creator! And that man must be
respected as that; man must be developed
as that. Man must have regard for other
human beings based on that. Nations
must cooperate on that basis. Cultures
must be developed on that basis.”