



Conference speakers (left to right): Helga Zepp LaRouche, Michael Vitt, Helmut Böttiger, Prof. Georg Christaller.

EIRNS/Christopher Lewis

## Civil Rights Movement-Solidarity Schiller's Ideas Key To Solving Today's Education Crisis

The crisis in German education, and how to deal with it, were the subjects of a day-long conference sponsored by the Civil Rights Movement-Solidarity (BüSo) in Germany's industrial heartland on June 6. The keynote was given by BüSo chairwoman Helga Zepp LaRouche, who is also running for Parliament in the state of North Rhine Westphalia, where the conference occurred.

Many teachers, some of them candidates on the BüSo slate in this fall's national elections, were among the more than 100 participants who heard a number of speakers on subjects ranging from de-schooling and the post-1968 school reforms, to the Humboldt education program of Germany's Weimar Classic period almost two centuries ago. BüSo leaders were joined by Prof. Georg Christaller from Berlin in discussing these topics.

North Rhine Westphalia, where the conference was held, has been in the vanguard of the movement to destroy

education in Germany, a movement which has involved leading business representatives. In his opening statement, BüSo state chairman Michael Vitt spoke of the recent prominently reported downturn in German educational test results, and reminded the audience of the state's constitutional responsibility for education, which says that "Respect of God, respect of the dignity of man, and awakening readiness to act socially, are the most prominent aims of education. The youth is to be educated in the spirit of humanity, of democracy, and freedom."

### Schiller's Concept

Zepp LaRouche spoke on "The Importance of Friedrich Schiller's *Aesthetical Education* for Today's Students."

Schiller's concept was outlined in a series of letters he wrote to oppose the Kantian concept of "logic-vs.-emotion," and to promote the concept that it is through art that one proceeds to freedom. As Zepp LaRouche described it,

education must aim to develop character, and beautiful souls. The characteristic of the beautiful soul is that it does with joy, what reason demands—a characteristic unique to genius.

But Zepp LaRouche began by addressing the context for the discussion of education—namely, that the current crisis is a crisis of global civilization, not just of the schools. The whole cultural degeneration of the past 30 years, which was systematically induced through the use of the Frankfurt School's education "reforms," has created this disaster, she said.

### Humboldt Education Program

The problem with education today, Zepp LaRouche said, is that it denies the nature of man, which is based upon man's cognitive powers—and it is the development of those cognitive powers which has permitted the development of civilization. Next, she turned to the ideas put forward by Wilhelm von Humboldt, who outlined a Classical education program in the Nineteenth century. A Classical education, said Humboldt, develops the beauty of the character. This requires the study of one's own language, of a second, more elaborate language (such as Classical Greek or Sanskrit), universal history, Classical music, geography, and the natural sciences. Through this entire process, the student becomes conscious of how to make discoveries, and of how mankind's knowledge has developed.

This entire process is not academic, Zepp LaRouche stressed, but requires metaphor and a passion for truth and beauty, *agapē*, which one finds most poignantly described in St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. But there must be a political movement organized around the demand to implement such an educational program now, if we are to make the necessary recovery after the financial crisis hits with full force.

## Schiller Institute Convention in Germany

# ‘We Are the Conscience of Mankind’

“We are the conscience of mankind,” the only organized, uncompromised force for the good of mankind; an institution unique in that it does not wait, like all other institutions, for the catastrophe to happen, before thinking of action. With this concept, Helga Zepp LaRouche, chairwoman of the German Schiller Institute and founder of the movement internationally, keyed the June 27 biannual convention of the Institute in Germany.

While the Schiller Institute was not founded until 1984, the impetus for its existence, she said, began with Lyndon LaRouche’s first forecasts in the 1950’s, when the economist warned that a global financial and economic system based on consumerism and looting would lead to inevitable disaster. Taking those forecasts to heart, Zepp LaRouche set forth the agenda of achieving what Friedrich Schiller and his collaborator Wilhelm von Humboldt called “civilized mankind.” She used as a point of reference Schiller’s *Letters on the Aesthetical Education of Man*, which identify his perspective.

The *Aesthetical Letters* were written in the period after the French Revolution, and reflect the republican poet/drama-



Helga Zepp LaRouche speaks in Oberwesel, Germany, July 1998.

tist’s grappling with the failure of the French population, in particular, to take advantage of the potential of the situation—and, as a result of that failure, the horrifying effect of the French people’s collapse into barbarism. That period of crisis, and Schiller’s solution, should be studied today, to deal with the threat to civilization which we face.

Zepp LaRouche reviewed the Institute’s interventions against the genocide in Bosnia and that in the Great Lakes region of Africa, and the fight the Institute has

led for a New Bretton Woods monetary system. She stressed the failure of the established institutions to provide an effective solution to the global crisis.

Zepp LaRouche put particular emphasis on the need for the revitalization of the Non-Aligned Movement, which in its early decades fought for the right to development for

developing nations. In China and India alone, live 40 percent of the world’s population, and a new world economic system must implement measures which are in the interest of the majority of mankind.

The Institute leader urged the activists present to concentrate their energies on fighting the degeneration of the image of man, which has taken over as a result of the paradigm-shift 30 years ago. To do this, Zepp LaRouche called for a revitalization of Classical culture and philosophy.

## ‘New Bretton Woods’ Proposal Presented in Bratislava

Lyndon LaRouche’s New Bretton Woods proposal is being discussed throughout Europe, largely in the context of European election campaigns. In the run-up to parliamentary elections in Slovakia in September, Dr. Jozef Mikloško, former vice-premier of the first post-communist government of Czechoslovakia and chairman of the Slovak Friedrich Schiller Foundation, gave a joint press conference June 24 with Michael Liebig of the German Schiller Institute and *EIR* news agency in Europe, in Bratislava, Slovakia.

“What is conventionally termed the

‘Asia Crisis,’ ” Liebig said, “is devolving full force into the world financial crisis and a world depression.” The key question is whether or not the disastrous “crisis management” policies being applied at present, will be dumped “in favor of a radical reorganization of the world financial system”—a New Bretton Woods system, as designed by Lyndon LaRouche.

Attending the hour-long briefing were 20 media representatives, among them the country’s leading press agencies, financial newspapers, and Radio Slovakia International.



Dr. Jozef Mikloško

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