

Nomination of Ex-Nazi Vexes a Party Elder

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KURT-GEORG KIESINGER
... CDU elder protests

BONN, Nov. 12—One of the most respected elder statesmen of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) has threatened to resign from the party in protest against the nomination of Kurt-Georg Kiesinger as Chancellor-candidate.

August Dresbach, 71, a founder of the CDU and member of parliament from 1949 to 1965, told a Duesseldorf newspaper last night:

"For me it is intolerable that a Nazi Party member until the bitter end, who was at the same time evading military service, should become Chancellor."

Dresbach, severely wounded in World War I, was an editor of the liberal Frankfurter Zeitung and Koelnischer Zeitung in pre-Nazi Germany. In the postwar Bundestag (Lower House of Parliament), he was known as an independent-minded defender of civil liberties and opponetn of the return of ex-Nazis to high office.

Dresbach said he had written a letter to former Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, honorary president of the CDU, expressing his protests.

[News agency dispatches reported that outgoing Chancellor Erhard had endorsed Kie-

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singer in a telegram to the CDU youth group saying, "The party and the floor have chosen a man who has proved himself in all situations."

[A spokesman for Kiesinger said an anti-Nazi Protestant clergyman, Provost Heinrich Grueber of Berlin, had wired Kiesinger his "heartiest blessings" for "your difficult task." Grueber, 75, has been a sharp critic of former Nazis in government. Grueber was arrested by the Nazis in 1940 for aiding Jewish refugees.]

Kiesinger has admitted joining the Nazi Party in 1933, but has said he became disillusioned a year later, although remaining a member. He served in the radio-political department of the Foreign Ministry from 1940 to 1945. According to a document released by Kiesinger on Thursday, he was deputy chief of the department. But his office said today he had never been given the title of deputy chief, merely assumed some of the duties.

Dresbach's statement is the first open protest from CDU ranks against Kiesinger's nomination, although several CDU deputies have privately expressed disquiet as new facts have come to light in the German and foreign press.

Among the facts emerging was that Kiesinger had been

interned for more than 14 months after the war by U.S. occupation authorities as a political offender.

There has also been some controversy over the manner of Kiesinger's denazification. The candidate has said he was "completely exonerated," and a spokesman for him said today the internment and denazification were routine.

But nearly all experts here agree that, in the five categories of deNazification, Class Five, complete exoneration, was accorded only to those who had actively resisted or personally suffered under the Nazi regime. It is felt that at best Kiesinger might have been placed in Class Four—collaborators or fellow-travelers—but that the facts to which he has admitted would normally place him in Class Three, "minor offenders."

Newsmen and others seeking to establish such facts have been barred from inspecting Kiesinger's file in the Allied Documentation Center in Berlin. Allied officials there have also refused to answer questions on the contents of the file.

[In Washington, U.S. officials declined to comment about Kiesinger's internment; earlier, they also made no comment about his career during the Nazi era.]