

= Walther Leisler Kiep =

Walther Gottlieb Louis Leisler Kiep (5 January 1926 ? 9 May 2016) was a German politician of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) . He was a member of the Bundestag between 1965 and 1976 and again from 1980 to 1982 . After switching to state @-@ level politics , he served as minister of economy (1976 ? 77) and minister of finance (1976 ? 80) in Lower Saxony under Ernst Albrecht . In 1982 , Kiep was the leading candidate for the CDU in two successive state elections in Hamburg , losing both to incumbent Klaus von Dohnányi . From 1971 until 1992 , he was treasurer of his party at the federal level . In this position , Kiep installed a system of unreported income accounts , leading to the CDU donations scandal in 1999 .

= = Life and family = =

Coming from a liberal family , Kiep was born on 5 January 1926 in Hamburg to Louis Leisler Kiep , a navy captain and business man , and Eugenie Maria Anna vom Rath . Kiep went to school in Hamburg and Istanbul , achieving his Abitur in 1943 before joining the Wehrmacht . On 20 April 1944 , Adolf Hitler 's birthday , he joined the Nazi Party . In the same year his uncle , Otto Carl Kiep , was executed by the Nazis for his membership in the Kreisau Circle . After the war , he started to study history and economics , but did not graduate .

Before moving into politics , he worked for the Insurance Company of North America from 1948 to 1955 . Starting in 1955 , he worked for a company called Gradmann und Holler , an insurance broker company for large businesses . Kiep owned 15 percent of the company in 1982 . His involvement with Gradmann und Holler sparked controversy . When Kiep became minister in Lower Saxony in 1976 , Volkswagen and other local companies went into business with Gradmann und Holler , creating a possible conflict of interest for the minister . Kiep also served on Volkswagen 's board of directors . Kiep denied abusing his power as minister , saying that the deal with Volkswagen had been financially damaging rather than profitable for his company . Due to his successful business ventures , Kiep was considered to be one of the richest politicians in Germany . In an interview , Kiep told Playboy that he could live well just from the interest from his savings .

From 1950 , Kiep was married to Charlotte Kiep , born 1920 , daughter of IG Farben board member and convicted war criminal Fritz ter Meer . They met when Kiep was only thirteen years old . He needed to visit Fritz ter Meer in Landsberg Prison to ask for his daughter 's hand in marriage . They had four children together , sons Walther , Michael and daughters Charlotte and Christiane . Their second son , Michael Jürgen , died in 1975 , aged 24 . The parents started a foundation for young journalists in his name . From a previous marriage of his wife 's , Kiep is stepfather to another son , Edmund .

On 30 November 1974 , an assassination attempt was made on Kiep , during which a man fired three shots at the door of his sauna , though he remained uninjured . The assassin was never found and leads hinting towards involvement of the Red Army Faction proved inconclusive . As the German magazine Der Spiegel wrote a year later , some party colleagues allegedly considered it possible that Kiep had staged the attack himself .

= = Political career = =

= = = Member of parliament = = =

Kiep became a member of the CDU in the fall of 1961 , gaining a seat in the county council of Obertaunus in 1963 . Following the 1965 federal election , he became a member of the Bundestag , winning a mandate in the Obertaunus constituency . He retained his seat in 1969 and 1972 , this time as part of his party 's electoral list in Hessen . In 1972 , Kiep was one of only a few CDU parliamentarians who voted yes to the Basic Treaty (Grundlagenvertrag) between West and East Germany . Other supporters of Willy Brandt 's Ostpolitik were Richard von Weizsäcker , Karl

Carstens and Olaf von Wrangel . During the 1972 federal elections , Kiep was named as prospective Federal Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development in the shadow cabinet of Rainer Barzel . He left parliament on 24 February 1976 to join the state government in Lower Saxony . During his tenure as minister , he also held a seat in the Landtag of Lower Saxony from 1978 to 1980 . He regained a seat in the Bundestag following the 1980 election , entering through a place on the electoral list for Lower Saxony . In order to concentrate on his role as leading candidate in his home state of Hamburg , he once again left parliament on 26 April 1982 .

= = = Minister in Lower Saxony = = =

1976 saw the state government change in the German Bundesland of Lower Saxony , when the coalition government of the SPD and FDP was unable to agree on a successor to minister @-@ president Alfred Kubel . As a consequence , the CDU used renegade votes from the government camp to elect Ernst Albrecht into office . Albrecht called Kiep into his government , as minister of economy and finance . After the CDU minority government was replaced by a coalition with the FDP in January 1977 , Kiep left his position in the ministry for economy , but continued to lead the ministry of finance until 1980 .

A controversial topic during his tenure as minister was the search for a radioactive waste site in Lower Saxony . In 1975 , three locations had been deemed suitable for further investigation : the salt domes Lutterloh , Lichtenhorst and Wahn . Two years later , however , the state government designated the Gorleben salt dome as a single location for the repository and waste disposal center . In 2011 , a commission of enquiry of the Bundestag investigated the award procedure . Journal entries of Kiep 's had implied that he was the driving force behind the decision to promote Gorleben , putting the idea forward at a meeting with Albrecht and three federal ministers in Hannover on 11 November 1976 . Since he had attended a meeting with delegates from the nuclear power industry on the same day , it was speculated that the lobby had exercised influence on Kiep . Appearing before the committee as a witness , Kiep claimed not to remember the events exactly but said that he considered it " unlikely " that he was the one who proposed Gorleben , because he did not have enough expertise in the matter .

Minister @-@ president Albrecht and Kiep were prominent representatives of the liberal wing of the CDU , who aimed to move their party towards support for the Ostpolitik of the SPD / FDP federal government . In 1976 , they lobbied for their party 's approval of new treaties with Poland , against conservative figures such as Alfred Dregger , Franz Josef Strauß and Hans Filbinger . This was also considered to be part of a plan of CDU chairman Helmut Kohl to bring the liberal FDP back into a coalition with the Christian Democrats (which was ultimately successful in 1982) . That Kiep 's work was popular with the FDP was proven in early 1976 : the party 's Theodor Heuss foundation (de) awarded him with their highest award , which Kiep refused in deference to his party affiliation .

In 1978 , Kiep served as a special representative for chancellor Helmut Schmidt during a debt crisis in Turkey , mediating between the government of Bülent Ecevit , with whom he developed a friendship , and the International Monetary Fund . Kiep eventually collected 910 million US \$ for Turkey from various states .

In the 1980 federal election , Kiep was named as foreign minister in the shadow cabinet of Franz Josef Strauß .

= = = Candidate in Hamburg = = =

In 1982 , Kiep served as the leading candidate for the CDU in two separate state elections in his hometown of Hamburg . The first , regular election in June brought a majority of votes for Kiep and heavy losses for the SPD and incumbent First Mayor Klaus von Dohnányi . Since the Green Party gained enough votes to be represented in the Bürgerschaft , the political situation was at a deadlock . After von Dohnányi proved unsuccessful in forming a minority government tolerated by the Greens , new elections were called for December . Kiep was once again the CDU candidate , but in " an election upset " , the SPD was able to get enough votes to form a government on their own . This

was seen as a sign of support of Hamburg 's population for former chancellor Helmut Schmidt (born in Hamburg) , who had been replaced in a constructive vote of no confidence by the CDU in October .

= = = Treasurer of the CDU and scandals = = =

Kiep served as federal treasurer of the CDU from 1971 to 1992 . During his tenure , the party was involved in several financial scandals . Shortly after taking over , Kiep brought in economist Uwe Lühje as general agent and public accountant Horst Weyrauch as a financial consultant . Together , the three started an elaborate system aimed at accumulating funding for the party . The Staatsbürgerliche Vereinigung 1954 e.V. (de) was used by major companies to donate money to the CDU anonymously , while the donations were fully tax deductible due to the Vereinigung being considered non @-@ profit . Just in the election year 1972 , 30 million Deutsche Mark are said to have been accumulated in this fashion . Over the course of its existence , the Vereinigung gave 214 million Deutsche Marks to political parties between 1969 and 1980 . The procedure was made public during the uncovering of the Flick affair in the early 1980s . Kiep was ultimately accused of having amassed 18 @. @ 5 million Deutsche Marks in illegal donations for the CDU , evading nine million Deutsche Marks in taxes . For his role , he was sentenced to a payment of 675 @, @ 000 Deutsche Marks in 1991 , but the verdict was revoked a year later by the Federal Court of Justice .

In 1995 , the public prosecution department of the city of Augsburg obtained the calendars of Karlheinz Schreiber , a German arms dealer . With the help of the documents , the persecutors were able to decipher a code of aliases and money movements , leading to Kiep . On 4 November 1999 , the prosecution office issued an arrest warrant against Kiep , charging him with having accepted a payment of one million Deutsche Marks from Schreiber in 1991 without subjecting the money to taxes . After turning himself in a day later , Kiep declared during his interrogation that he had accepted the money , with Horst Weyrauch present , as a donation for the CDU . This started the CDU donations scandal , in which a system of illegal accounts was uncovered . On 30 November , former chancellor Helmut Kohl took full responsibility for the accounts and later admitted to having personally accepted a total sum of up to two million Deutsche Marks from anonymous sponsors , which were not declared . As a consequence of the illegal proceedings , the CDU was sentenced to a payment of 41 million Deutsche Marks by President of the Bundestag Wolfgang Thierse on 15 February 2000 . Kiep was ultimately involved in several lawsuits concerning tax evasion . One was closed in January 2004 , after Kiep paid a monetary condition of 75 @, @ 000 Euro . In another trial in 2001 , he was sentenced to pay 45 @, @ 000 Deutsche Marks . In early 2004 , Kiep accepted a sentence of 40 @, @ 500 Euro for a false statement given at the enquiry commission on the donations scandal .

= = Death = =

Kiep died on 9 May 2016 , surrounded by his family in his home in Kronberg im Taunus in Hesse , at the age of 90 .

= = Awards and memberships = =

= = = Awards = = =

1977 : Cravat man of the year

1994 : Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany

1998 : Lower Saxony Order of Merit

= = = Memberships = = =

From 1984 to 2000 , Kiep was chairman of the Atlantik @-@ Brücke . From 1994 to 2000 he served as president of the EBS University of Business and Law . He was a member of the International Advisory Boards of Fuji Bank and Columbia University , as well as a member of the board of Volkswagen and Deutsche Bank .