

**Dr. Ludwig Erhard**, West Germany's Economics Minister and a staunch friend of free enterprise, has been drafted by leaders of the Christian Democratic party to run for the Presidency of the Federal Republic this year.

But the draft might not stick. There is opposition to taking him away from the economic helm. There is also talk in Bonn that Dr. Erhard, 62, is being "kicked upstairs" by politicians who dislike his policy of keeping Germans from returning to the business cartels of pre-war years. A party convention has been called to pass on his candidacy.

Dr. Erhard himself is not anxious to run, since the German Presidency is little more than a ceremonial office and he is one of the men in line to become Chancellor when Dr. Konrad Adenauer, now 83, steps down.

During Hitler's regime, Dr. Erhard taught economics at Munich and Nuremberg, worked as an industrial counselor. As a director of the Bizonal Economic Council after World War II, he instituted currency reforms. He joined Dr. Adenauer's Cabinet in 1949. Throughout his career, Dr. Erhard has preached the advantages of free enterprise over any system of state regulation.

German observers say one reason why Dr. Erhard was chosen for the July presidential contest is this: He is a tireless campaigner, one of the best vote getters among the Christian Democrats. Party leaders say he's the best bet to beat Dr. Carlo Schmid, the Social Democratic candidate.

U. S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, March 9, 1959

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2008

9 Mar. 1959