

LaRouche in surprise Midwest campaign tour

by Marla Minnicino

At surprise press conferences in Chicago, Illinois and Council Bluffs, Iowa Nov. 13-14, Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche assailed the “penny ante” actions of the Reagan administration and the Congress to forestall financial disaster through tax increases and budget cuts, likening these moves to those of “a man trying to bail out the *Titanic* after it’s going under water.”

LaRouche, in the Midwest for private meetings with selected groups and individuals, called for emergency measures to prevent the financial crash from becoming a “second world depression.” He urged political leaders of all parties to put aside their differences on other issues, and tell the Congress and the President to “end this nonsense,” and declare a national economic emergency.

“We are in the first phase of an accelerating financial crash” which “probably will be the second-greatest, in depth of impact, since the crisis in Europe during the middle of the 14th century,” LaRouche told reporters in Council Bluffs. There is “no possible trick by which the stock markets and related financial markets could be propped up. . . . From 14 to perhaps double that number of trillions of dollars of nominal book values will be wiped out between now and next summer.”

LaRouche said congressional efforts to reduce the federal deficit by \$30 billion were inadequate to the scope of the crisis, and would do more harm than good. What the President, Congress, and “that zoo” the Council of Economic Advisers are saying, is “the worst pack of nonsense we’ve heard since 1929, when Hoover and the Congress did about the same thing that they’re doing now.”

Economic emergency proposals

“We’ve got to go into a recovery program immediately: Protect the value of the U.S. dollar at all costs; protect the value and integrity of U.S. government debt at all costs; keep the banks functioning even if they’re insolvent, and prepare to ensure that the depositors’ savings are settled at 100% of par value.

“If we do those kinds of things,” LaRouche said, “and get credit going rapidly through the banking system, new

credit at low prices to selected targets of investment in production and capital improvements, infrastructure, and a few other projects, we can prevent the worst financial crash in modern history from becoming the worst depression in history.”

LaRouche contended that although the 1988 presidential campaign was important, “that’s not everything. We have to get through the next 14 months.” LaRouche said his primary efforts were directed toward bringing together bipartisan forces at the state and local level, “where reality is more immediately felt” than it is in Washington.

“What I’m working on now is, regardless of what party affiliation, that local people and others in the Democratic and Republican Party must begin to come together and work together to tell Washington to wake up to reality, and to say to Washington that if the President and the Congress begin to take actions which we can support, then we will begin to organize full support for their actions, in the common interests of fighting this emergency.”

Asked what he would do in his first 30 days in office, LaRouche said he’d “do most of it in the first day.” He said he already knows what has to be done over the next 4-8 years, “so, why wait?” LaRouche put forth measures for international monetary reform to prevent a collapse, as early as 1975.

Pressed by reporters to discuss his opponents, LaRouche characterized them as “10 little Indians,” saying none was qualified to be President. On the Republican side, George Bush has support “a mile wide and a hair deep, but seems to have neither a program nor even a personality.” He characterized Dole as a “cross between J.R. from ‘Dallas’ and Johnny Carson—sort of the cornball Hjalmar Schacht,” and Kemp has the “concentration span of a grasshopper.” Of the Democrats, Gephardt seems to be to be “dead from the neck up”; Senator Simon is a “hollow little man with a booming voice”; Jackson is a “fixture,” and Dukakis, stung by scandal, would be forced to withdraw from the race. Gore is a “wholly owned subsidiary of Armand Hammer.”

On his own style of campaigning, LaRouche said: “The era of the media campaign is at an end.” His emphasis is on a longer-term process of “recruiting organizers of voters, not voters.” As to his relationship with the Democratic Party, LaRouche noted that party chairman Paul Kirk is a tool of Armand Hammer—a “Soviet gentleman for 70 years’ duration”—and the party is run by a “Hollywood bunch, whose cultural and other views I do not share.” This faction is “out of step with reality and the average voter.” LaRouche said he intends to take over the party, not by becoming its head, but by putting his support “behind a new figure who I think is more representative of the base as a whole.”

LaRouche said that his campaign was being taken seriously by the population, because he represents changes in policy. “People don’t want mediocrities any more, they want sweeping changes.”