

LaRouche: Rebuild FDR coalition and retake the Democratic Party

On Dec. 11, Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. addressed some 250 supporters gathered in Los Angeles via satellite. His remarks were simultaneously webcast, with simultaneous Spanish translation. Subheads have been added.

I want you to keep in mind, as I present a case to you today — keep in mind something I discussed with Harley Schlanger earlier today: the implications of a plan by someone to have the San Fernando Valley escape from Los Angeles. That is symptomatic of a deep problem within U.S. society, and I shall situate that problem, and what I propose we should do about it, in this report. So I'll get back to that at a specific point, and you'll see what I'm leading to.

Now, we are presently in the worst crisis in the Twentieth Century. Not only do we have a disintegration of the present world financial system — and I'll describe that as well. But, we are also in what has heated up very rapidly recently as a potential military conflict, not exactly like World War II or even exactly like a nuclear version of World War II, but something much more chaotic, but nonetheless, in the final analysis, just as destructive.

I refer, of course, inclusively, to the reports of the statements by Boris Yeltsin, the President of Russia, during his visit to China, and the comments on Yeltsin's statement, both by Chinese leaders and spokesmen, Russians as well, and also the reactions of terror which these developments have provoked on the continent of western Europe, and which, despite the attempt to cover over the issue, has evoked a sense, a shudder of fear and awe in large portions of the U.S. population itself.

The key to understanding our problem, is the fact that 30%, approximately, of the eligible voters, the citizens who would be eligible to vote in the United States, are controlling most state, local, and national elections. This group is controlling the parties, both in the Republican Party, and in the Democratic Party in particular.

Most of the constituencies that used to be considered the Roosevelt base of the Democratic Party, are being squeezed out: African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, local labor leaders and their constituents, senior citizens in large numbers, and farmers, and so on.

So the majority of the American people, which represent largely the lower 80% of family income brackets, are being

squeezed out of politics, of any real influence in politics, especially at the top, and replaced by a dominant role, controlled from Wall Street, of an influence which is exerted largely through those or parts of the population whose family incomes occupy the top 20% of the population.

So therefore, we are headed away from the idea of a republic with a representative government, and into, instead, the kind of oligarchical society which horrified the founders of the United States in the United Kingdom (that is, Great Britain) during the Eighteenth Century and later.

Now, the only way we're going to fix the problems which I will relate to you today, is to create a set of coalitions among those who represent the lower 80% of family income brackets in the United States. Our objective should be *to take over the Democratic Party during the year 2000*, to determine who the Democratic Party's leading candidates shall be, and a greater number of such candidates, and also, hopefully, to influence the Republican side in a similar manner — perhaps not as effectively, but at least to a similar degree.

By doing that, and bringing the control over parties and elections back to organized constituencies of the American people, especially the lower 80% of family income brackets, we can revive the kind of response to crisis which many of us remember, either directly or through — by reputation, from Franklin Roosevelt, and what President Franklin Roosevelt did in response to the great crisis of the Great Depression of the 1930s, and the last war.

And we should remember also with affection, that despite the premature death of Franklin Roosevelt, some, at least, of his important contributions to the postwar period, were carried out and continued through the 1950s, especially through to 1958, and even until after the death of John F. Kennedy.

Our objective should be to bring back into government a leadership which has the same view in general, of the responsibility of the government of our republic, to meet the demands of the General Welfare for ourselves and our coming generations: that same outlook which characterized the Roosevelt administration.

The return of 'the Forgotten Man'

We will only get that, in the way that Roosevelt got it. Roosevelt spoke, when he was running for his first Presidential election — he spoke of "the Forgotten Man." Today, ap-



Lyndon LaRouche, during a satellite broadcast to reporters gathered in Los Angeles, Dec. 11, 1999. "The crucial thing that must be done," he said— "otherwise, nothing else is likely to work—is we must build a mass constituency from among the 80% of the lower-income brackets of this nation, the so-called Forgotten Men and Women of this period."

proximately 80% of the U.S. population, citizens who are eligible to vote, are being treated by the leadership of the parties, by the mass media, and so forth, as, again, the Forgotten Man.

The solution to all problems—the real solution to all problems, is to bring the Forgotten Man of today, back into control of the Democratic Party, and do it quickly, *now*. That means combining the experience of the Civil Rights movement under such brilliant leaders as Martin Luther King—and that's a very important part of the American experience. Remember, slavery in this country dates from early on in colonial times. And the struggle for civil rights on behalf of African-Americans, is the most important lesson in our national history.

Some civil rights leaders today, those who were either associated with Martin Luther King, or who carried on his tradition as younger people, represent the continuity of that struggle, and the lessons of that struggle. If we can combine the experience of African-Americans, with the aspirations of the more exuberant Hispanic-American constituency now, and if we can bring the most viable sections of the labor movement constituencies, and senior citizens and farmers, and others who are simply concerned Americans, into a coalition, *based on the experience of the lessons of civil rights*, we will have, in government, the selection of people who are qualified to deal with these problems.

Now, on alternatives, let me speak frankly. It's obvious to most of you, that the worst, but most notorious dummy in America, Texas Gov. George W. Bush, has been selected as their favorite dummy by a Wall Street gang of ventriloquists. And they are spreading the word that George W. Bush, the best-known dummy in America, is about to become President.

On the Democratic side, we have the so-called leadership

of Vice President Gore, a fading leadership of an unelectable man, who is known for his thuggishness and his bad policies, and his knifing of his President, Bill Clinton, in the back, repeatedly, on crucial issues of international and domestic policy.

George W. Bush is not capable of thinking, and Al Gore is not willing to think. How could anyone imagine electing this pair of bozos—one of these pair of bozos, to become the next President of the United States, under the conditions of the grave global financial, economic, and strategic crisis we face in the coming period? How could we have descended so low, that we no longer care what kind of rubbish we choose to put in the Office of the U.S. President, one of the most powerful and important positions in the world as a whole today?

What kind of stupidity, and folly, and recklessness, would allow us to consent to such a travesty, such a betrayal of our nation, and its people?

The General Welfare vs. 'my money'

Yet it comes back very much to Wall Street. The upper 20% of the income brackets—led by Wall Street, orchestrated by Wall Street, and by a Wall Street-controlled mass media—are controlling U.S. politics. *These fellas don't want a President who can think! They want a bozo, like Al Gore, or George W. Bush, someone who will do as they tell him.* They will do the thinking: the Wall Street crowd, the bankers and lawyers of Wall Street.

They will be supported by an hysterical middle class, the upper 20% of the income brackets, who are concerned about one thing: *their money, their ill-gotten gains, and who are willing to sacrifice the health care, the education, and the general welfare of the rest of the population—the lower 80%—in order to protect what they consider "my money."*

And so these are the dupes, like the Brown Shirts in Hitler's days, who are prepared to go to whatever means they think necessary to make sure that 80% of the American population doesn't vote for anything which interferes with what the upper 20%, or part of it, thinks is "my money." And Wall Street controls them, as you can see in the news media every day.

So, Wall Street *wants* dummies, wants a dummy like George Bush; wants a wretch, an ambitious wretch, like Al Gore, as their preferred choices for the next President of the United States. The plan, of course, is to have Gore take the Democratic nomination, by hook or by crook, especially crook, if possible, which would ensure the ability to elect the biggest dummy, George W. Bush, as the next President. And then the Wall Street crowd, backed up by an hysterical type, as we see among the Stone Age Republicans in the Congress, and some Democrats, too, would run the country as they choose.

That's the danger. These men are not only greedy people,

but they're very foolish people. These are the people who want us to get into major wars in Asia and elsewhere. These are the people who *don't care what happens to the country*, as long as their money, their gambling on Wall Street and elsewhere, and in London, is protected.

There lies the danger. There lies the importance of having a true Republic, in which the majority of the citizens, suitably informed and educated, and doing some serious thinking, actually control the selection of the politicians who make policy.

Therefore, the crucial thing that must be done—*otherwise, nothing else is likely to work*—is we must build a mass constituency from among the 80% of the lower-income brackets of this nation, the so-called Forgotten Men and Women of this period. We must do this by bringing together African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, concerned representatives of labor and farmers, and so forth, as well as senior citizens, and bring them into a *grand constituency* of the otherwise forgotten men and women, who will march into the polls, no matter what the mass media tell them to do, and take over politics in this country again, and select the kind of thinking leaders which they need to deal with what are, in fact, manageable crises coming up fast ahead.

That's the general program which I represent.

Become thinking citizens

Now, as part of this process, what I have to do, is to induce you, and people like you, to think. You know, when you consider yourself a person in the lower 80% of the family income brackets, and when you believe, effectively and sincerely—and justly—that you are being frozen out of politics, that you are not allowed to independently make up your own mind about what's good for the country, and to demand the kind of dialogue that enables you to decide competently what is good for the country, then you sit back and say, "I'm not—there's no sense in my thinking, I have no power. All I have is the ability to choose among one or other of these bozos which the Wall Street gang offers to me. When I go to the press, the press says, 'Well, here's a list of the issues. Where do you stand on these issues: issue number one, issue number two, issue number three. Are you for or against or neutral on these issues?'"

You are allowed to choose what other people serve you as the alternatives. You're not permitted to intervene, to tell the press or the politicians, or the leading parties, what they should be talking about, what they should be thinking about. Therefore, you sit back and say, "There's not much I can do about this. I simply have the power to make a choice among one of the offerings which these cooks are putting on the table. So what's the sense of my thinking? I'll go sit in front of my television set, and try to forget it all, and hope that everything works out, despite the fact that I'm not able to do anything to change it."

Now, once you get the idea, you citizens—and some of you are, of course, thinking citizens. But let's speak about the

generality of the 80%, the lower 80% of the family income brackets: How do you get them to think? How do you get them to vote intelligently, to intervene intelligently in the national process of making policy?

You have to give them a sense that they have some power, that they're not simply the slaves of the political machine run by Wall Street and dominated by the upper 20% of income brackets. How do you do that? Well, you have to build alliances. You have to build political constituencies, which have power.

The case of the San Fernando Valley

Now let's look again at this San Fernando Valley issue. What percentile of the population of Greater Los Angeles, represents African-Americans, Asian-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, labor, senior citizens, and so on? Isn't that the dominant population? How can somebody else say that they are the majority, that they represent the majority opinion, or public opinion?

Why does San Fernando Valley want to secede from Los Angeles? Because they don't want to pay for Los Angeles. They want to have their own niche, where the upper 20% of income brackets controls politics from the colonial capital, the San Fernando Valley, while the poor in Los Angeles are led into some kind of horror show: down, down, down.

But people in the Los Angeles area are the majority. They are the citizens. If they get together, they have the power to change things. The same thing is true across the country.

Now the Democratic National Committee, typified by the Democratic Leadership Council around Al From, people like that, don't want that. They don't want that any more than that little private dictatorship called the Republican Party. The mass media, which is owned by Wall Street, or foreign interests in London—which are about the same thing—this mass media wants a controlled situation. They have the same impulse that you see in the effort of the San Fernando Valley to secede from Los Angeles. There's the problem.

So thus, what we have to do, is *flank* the situation in the party. There are good people in the party leadership, but they are a little bit cowardly when it comes to taking on the bozos, bozos like Al Gore, or bozos like the machine behind George W. Bush. So they're frightened.

We have to create the majority, by assembling it, to turn the party back to the legacy of Roosevelt. Not everything Franklin Roosevelt said or did was right. He made a lot of mistakes. But at least he had a commitment to the foundation of our Federal Constitution: the Preamble, which includes the emphasis—is "to provide and promote the General Welfare, and secure those blessings of liberty to ourselves and to our posterity," to the generations that come after us. That's the fundamental principle of a republican policy, that is, in the sense of a modern republic as opposed to oligarchy.

Roosevelt took the right side on that fundamental Constitutional issue. And he fought for the right side. He made

compromises, he made mistakes, and so forth. So what? But he was on the right side. His mistakes were made largely on the right side of the political ledger.

And it was the Roosevelt generation, of which, in a sense, I'm a part; that is, my adolescence was during the Depression. It was the Roosevelt generation which gave us the legacy which, in the 1950s and 1960s, enabled the Civil Rights movement to change this country in the way that Abraham Lincoln explicitly had intended. That generation is the true Golden Generation, with all its faults. And the best things that were done in this century, apart from a few good things done by Harding and a few others — this is what made our country able to survive this horrible Century of Crisis.

So, what we have to do, is build an alliance, which is based on the principle of the General Welfare as the Constitution defines it, in the Preamble; as Franklin Roosevelt — mistakes or whatever — also understood that principle, as opposed to the Supreme Court and Wall Street of that time. We have to revive that.

My job is to catalyze you into bringing together African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, Asian-Americans, labor, senior citizens, and other relevant groups, farmers, and so forth, bring that together as a majority coalition, to march in to the Democratic Party, and, insofar as possible, the Republican Party, to take politics back for the people, for the cause of the General Welfare.

My specific job has two parts. One, I know what has to be done. I'm an expert in this area, and all the others who are running as competition or against me, are totally incompetent in dealing with this financial crisis.

Yes, I hope to be able to influence and advise President Clinton to do what he must do as this crisis sharpens in the period ahead. And I will do everything — always, always, if we have a viable President — to make that President as effective a President as possible, whatever his shortcomings or mistakes or whatever my disagreements with him, as I have done with Clinton.

But we need a President in the year 2001 who is competent to address and solve these problems, in the sense, as we recall, Franklin Roosevelt taking office in March of 1933. I'm qualified. No other visible candidate on the horizon — some of them are not bad people, some of them are qualified for some things — *no other candidate visible in the United States at this time, actual candidate or prospective candidate, is presently competent to deal with the fundamental issues of economic and strategic policy issues coming up now. None.*

Secondly, more important than that, though that role by me is important (I'm an older person, I'm not going to be around forever), my job is to make that turn, to lead in making that change in U.S. politics.

My job is to get you to think

My other job, probably equally important — more important for the long run — *is to get you to think*. Not to limit

yourself to so-called bite-size opinions, largely copied from the mass media or a few protest movements. But to actually think.

That means to think as if you could imagine yourself as being the President of the United States, or a leader in the Congressional faction, faced with the problems, the deadly problems, which face the United States and the world today. Can you think through what those problems are, and think through what the solutions or the direction of choice of solutions ought to be? That's what I mean by a thinking person.

Do you know something about the history of the United States and the world? Do you know something about the history of modern European civilization? Do you know about the cultural issues, which are defined in Asia, Europe, Africa, the Americas? Can you think in those terms? Can you think in terms of what might be possible?

Now, you might not know the answers, but at least you can think about the questions, and you could discuss the questions and the answers with people who should know some of the answers and questions.

Then you, as a citizen, whether you're qualified to be President or Senator or not, you can participate, and must participate effectively, in shaping the way politicians think. You must force the politicians, not to give you a bite-sized answer on a proposition; you must force those politicians to engage with you in a process of thinking, in which you are an active, thinking person.

Now, you're not going to do much thinking if you think that you, as a citizen, have no power. You say, "What's the sense of my thinking? I'm not allowed to choose anything. I can only select from that list of candidates, that list of so-called 'hot topics' or issues, as the mass media calls them. I can't think of anything. I'm going to sit in front of my television set, or sit with my family and my children, and try to forget all this, and enjoy living as much as I can. I don't feel like thinking. Why should I think? Who's going to listen to me?"

'You require two things'

So therefore, to become a thinking citizen, you require two things. You have to be stubborn, like me. I don't care if I was a minority of one, I'd still think. It's my nature. Other people tend to get discouraged, and concerned more with practical, family, and related issues. But they're capable of thinking, every person is capable of thinking. If you haven't done it recently, try it, it's fun.

But what you need, as a group of people, as a constituency, *is a sense of power*. If you have no hands and no tools, how can you do anything? You become discouraged, you become pessimistic, you withdraw. You let *them* run the country. You watch. You protest a bit, but you watch. You don't think; you look at your choices, the options that are presented to you.

However, turn around: Create a majority that represents the hard core of 80% of the lower-income brackets of this

nation. Now you represent some power. Now, suddenly, you find the confidence, and the impulse, to do some very serious thinking, and to think of joint actions to get the politicians to pay attention to what you're thinking. Then you become a true citizen, a thinking citizen.

And that's what my job is, is to help you become empowered, thinking citizens, and to lead in the process by which you—not me, but you—take power back, as it's supposed to be in a republic.

Whereas, on the other side, the people who are faced with a crisis, like the big financial interests typified by our own Wall Street layers and bankers gang, or typified by those people who are corrupted by the fact that they have an advantage of being in the upper 20% of family income brackets, and therefore are determined to maintain their advantage, no matter what it means in terms of accelerated death rates among senior citizens, accelerated death rates among the poor, accelerated disease, accelerated suffering, accelerated violence in our school, and so forth and so on. That's the issue.

And that's what my job is, is to give you that kind of leadership, and above all, to get you to see clearly, as I do, that if we can bring these constituencies—African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, Asian-Americans, labor, farmer, senior citizens, at least the majority of them—together as a *conscious advocacy constituency*, to take over the Democratic Party from below; to take over as much as possible the Republican Party from below; to reestablish the Constitution in our government; to clean up the Federal Court system; to clean out the scoundrels in the permanent bureaucracy of the Executive Branch; to clean up the horror shows we all see and most are afraid to touch: That's our job.

And that's what I'd like to talk about with you, right now. Thank you.

International support for LaRouche's campaign

As LaRouche campaign workers are petitioning to put their candidate on the Democratic primary ballot in all 50 states, endorsements of his Presidential campaign are coming in from around the world. Here are some recent examples.

Africa

Nigeria—Sam A. Aluko, Msc. PhD. (London) D.Sc., professor of economics, former chairman, National Economic Intelligence Committee of the Federal Government of Nigeria, 1994-99.

Since May 1994, when I first came into contact with some leading staff members of Dr. Lyndon LaRouche, Jr., I have grown to admire not only the personality of Dr. LaRouche, but also his economic and internationalist views and those of

his organization. I receive regularly Dr. LaRouche's publications, the *Federalist* newspaper and the *Executive Intelligence Review* journal, which I read avidly and with great interest and admiration. I have also read some books and special reports by Mr. LaRouche.

I find Dr. LaRouche's publications incisive, practical, and with suggestions and proposals for the solution to many of the present and emerging difficulties facing the world financial and economic system, particularly as the existing system continues to destroy the fabric of the economic growth and stability of the developing countries that constitute over two-thirds of the world population. Unless most of the views of Dr. LaRouche are appropriately and urgently adopted, earlier rather than later, there may be a collapse of the world economic and financial system, including that of the United States.

LaRouche is truly and consistently warning the world that we are operating in a false economic and financial system whose cataclysm may be worse than the 1929 financial crash. LaRouche's prescriptions appear to me to be more germane and more capable of enriching the U.S.A. and the world economy on a more permanent basis than the gambling system that we operate in the world today.

Dr. LaRouche's views are particularly germane to my country, Nigeria, which has been regularly, and continues to be, pauperized and criminalized by the impact of the financial and economic policies and practices of the developed countries under the leadership of the U.S.A., World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

I unhesitatingly endorse Mr. LaRouche as a frontline Presidential candidate of the United States of America in the year 2000. I wish him every luck and success.

Nigeria—Dr. Charles O. Akinde, former state legislator, former sociology professor, and former political prisoner, currently local chief of Ondo State:

Now that a new opportunity is open to the American people to choose a President who will lead the country in the beginning of the next century, the American people will do well if they could give Mr. Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. a chance to be the next American President.

Not only is this man the foremost economic thinker of our age, he is the foremost lover of national independence and freedom for the oppressed portion of humanity.

Having a man of his stature as the President of the United States of America at this crucial period of world history, will be the greatest gift that the American populace could give to humanity.

We know that America and Americans are champions of individual freedom. How better can they prove this, than by electing a man as their next President, who we all know will give credence to the known values of the Americans?

There is no doubt that America is the most powerful industrial country in the world today. That is why everyone who loves justice and independence is concerned about the elec-