

LaRouche to Boston Council: 'Shot Heard 'Round the World'

December 4, 2000

Since my general views on the matter before you have been previously stated, and are widely known among some leading circles of government in many parts of the world, I limit myself to the immediate circumstance in which the present matter comes before you.

The world, including our United States, is presently gripped by the final phase leading into the general financial collapse of this planet as a whole. Although the onrushing crisis will be worse than anything experienced during the earlier depression of 1929-32, the principles of government which succeeded under President Franklin Delano Roosevelt then, are the precedents by which our nation can master the presently erupting depression of today.

These indispensable actions, on which the continuation of a decent life depends, must be shared in various ways at various levels of government, not only Federal and state, but municipal and county levels. In this process, the essential task of the present moment, is to build up a

consensus among our citizens for the kinds of remedial action which must be taken at the various levels of government. We must each and all act as the circumstance requires, but the first step to those actions is to resolve to work together for that great common and urgent cause.

Neither Boston, Massachusetts, nor New England as a whole, command the glories today with which they were adorned during the decades I was a child, youth, and young man, living in those quarters of our nation. Nonetheless, there are reasons why decisions made in Boston and its vicinity can still shake the world for the better, and the measure before you, if adopted, is surely, once again, a shot which will be heard around the world.

I am optimistic about what we can accomplish as a nation. I am worried about our willingness to undertake the needed task. If we unite for what needs to be done, I am expert enough in such matters, to be qualified to assure you, that if we resolve to do what needs to be done, what we do will then have the means sufficient to succeed.

I ask you: Let the shot which I recommend be shot, whose sound shall reverberate, once again, from Boston and its neighborhood, will be heard, loud and clear, around the world. If you do that, I can assure you, that shot will be heard, and I am ready and waiting, at your pleasure, to do my part to bring that result about.

City Council the week before the hearings. When he testified, he told Chairman Flaherty, Councilman Turner, and the audience, "What was important was not how long one lived, but what you do with the years that you have—the impact you have for humanity." He said that something must be done quickly on this fuel emergency, and that he "would not stop petitioning until it was done."

EIR Explodes Market Myth

Witness John Hoefle, of *EIR*'s economics staff, honed in on the manipulation of the price of fuel, using charts attached to his prepared testimony (see *Documentation*). He showed that supply is not down, but up, yet prices have exploded, in part due to mega-mergers of the big oil companies. Hoefle detailed the role of the spot market and the fundamental change in energy pricing, especially highlighting the deregulation mania. Next, he graphically showed how the price of oil has been increasingly divorced from the production and supply of oil, and noted that this was just one reflection of the hyperinflation hitting the entire economy which is caused by the general disintegration of the economy.

Councilman Flaherty asked Hoefle a number of questions. "What do you mean by speculation? Who is speculating, in what? How is speculation driving the market? Is this in terms of futures, or speculation of countries?" Hoefle took the op-

portunity to give a mini-class in how futures work. He said that people are very successful in making money, buying and selling, but with no intention to deliver the oil itself. Flaherty then asked about the offer of Venezuela to supply oil to the United States, and asked why the offer was refused. More questions came from the audience, including questions concerning how and why refinery capacity has been cut in the United States.

Following Hoefle's testimony was that of retired State Sen. Bill Owens, himself a 25-year veteran of public service. While he was not on the hearing agenda, when he arrived asking to testify, his request was immediately granted. Owens began speaking on the "crisis of the cold" and its impact on the elderly, poor, and the sick. He discussed his own experience in battling a long-term illness, and the need to "keep yourself warm by any means" under these circumstances. This can be a real hardship for the elderly and low-income families. In this light, he asserted, "the buck stops with us." Elected officials have to act in the interest of the General Welfare, he insisted. "I don't know how much money the city has allocated for poor people for fuel . . . but even if it is \$12 million, it may not be enough." Pointing to Boston's place in our nation's history, he said, "we set trends for the country," therefore we must act for the Good, he concluded.

Owens also took up the importance of listening to