

## Editorial

### *The Battlelines Are Drawn*

With the conclusion of the Republican Convention on Sept. 2, which confirmed the Cheney-Bush team as that party's electoral ticket, the battlelines are drawn for the two months ahead. Will Americans choose to go down the road to fascism, or will they rise to the level of the historic mission which this nation was created to fulfill?

The strategy of the Republican Party was in most essentials made clear at the New York Convention. The aim is to whip Americans into a frenzy against those who are "out to get us," and to support any and every means necessary to "get them first." To this end, every possible lie about the disastrous results of this strategy so far, and about the alternatives which have been forwarded by their critics, is permissible, even demanded. Follow me, they shrieked, and ignore the facts that expanded, disastrous wars will sink us into a New Dark Age, and that the blowout of the world financial system is leading us increasingly to mass epidemics, famine, and death. What they are promising is fascism: a violent exercise of power abroad, and deadly austerity at home.

It is an open question whether the delegates to that convention will wake up and realize what a bill of goods they've been sold, once they head for home, out of the Revival meeting atmosphere of Madison Square Garden. Do they really believe the economy is in a recovery? Do they really believe John Kerry, who went to war and acquitted himself bravely, is less of a leader than those, like Dick Cheney, who chose to take five deferments, or that Kerry is less committed to saving our troops, than those who sent those very troops into harm's way without adequate supplies, not to mention a plan for peace?

We suspect that many will realize what fools they've been, but that realization will only lead to another question: What alternative do the voters have to the Bush-Cheney disastrous duo?

Ralph Nader is no alternative, of course—nor any of the right-wing clowns like the Libertarian candidates. Nader has been proven to be nothing but a shill for the Republican Party, complete with Republican Party money, Republican Party petitioners, and Republican Party lawyers. The Republicans know that a vote for Nader is a vote to get Bush re-elected.

Nor is it an alternative to simply "take care of self," and stay out of the political fray. It is precisely that outlook on the part of large sections of the American people, which has brought us into the situation we are now in.

No, the alternative *is* John Kerry, the Democratic Party nominee. But, to be successful, Kerry must become the standardbearer for his party's best legacy, the legacy of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and for the interests of the vast segment of the U.S. population, the "forgotten men and women," who are now being ground up in the meatgrinder of the bankrupt economy.

Look at the matter the way Lyndon LaRouche does, for maximum clarity. The only alternative to fascism under Cheney-Bush, is to rebuild the institutional commitment to our Founding principles, by establishing a team around a President Kerry which would ensure that he follows the right path. Kerry has the proven capability to fight for our nation's principles. That's what he was doing when he criticized the horrors of the Vietnam War, and when he took on the drug-running corruption of the Iran-Contra operation. With the proper advisors and commitment, Kerry can show that leadership again.

Since the Republican Convention, there are some signs that Kerry has decided to throw off his "triangulation" consultants, such as Bob Schrum, and lead a serious fight. But it's only the beginning of what must be done. This election will be won or lost, on whether the Democratic Party, including Kerry, mobilizes itself to totally reverse the economic and military policies of the Bush Administration, and to embrace a policy of economic growth and international cooperation like that of FDR.

The more than quarter million Americans who went into the streets outside the Republican Convention clearly had a sense of the urgency of the fight. They felt the danger of the Bush-Cheney policy for themselves, our nation, and humanity as a whole. Now, they must take the next step to understand the *policies* we need for survival, as LaRouche has laid them out. It's going to be an intense Autumn, and the fate of the world depends upon it.