

ments radiate throughout the right wing of the GOP, from Congress to state houses, where Abramoff's and DeLay's financial patronage created a vice-grip over Republican Party politics.

Dick Cheney was personally hit with two other big shocks, with the Oct. 5 plea agreement by Pentagon analyst Larry Franklin, and the Sept. 30 grand jury appearance of *New York Times* reporter Judith Miller, who testified for five hours about her relations with Cheney's chief of staff, Lewis "Scooter" Libby. Libby and Cheney are at the center of a two-year probe by independent counsel Patrick Fitzgerald into the leaking of the identity of undercover CIA officer, Valerie Plame, the wife of former Ambassador Joseph Wilson IV.

Franklin Will Cooperate

Larry Franklin, the former Iran desk officer at the Pentagon Office of Special Plans (OSP), the propaganda and operations hub of the Cheney-led Iraq War drive, pled guilty to three conspiracy counts in Federal Court in Alexandria, Va. on Oct. 5. The plea agreement, which was unsealed in court, pledged Franklin to fully cooperate with an ongoing investigation into Israeli espionage in the United States, which was centered in the Pentagon civilian bureaucracy. OSP head William Luti, who moved to the DOD from Cheney's office in mid-2001, boasted to staffers that he actually reported to "Scooter" Libby.

Both the Franklin and Plame cases heavily implicate Cheney and his closest Executive branch allies, including Libby

and acting UN Ambassador John Bolton. Bolton's name has come up repeatedly in the Plame investigation, and a CIA officer who served as Bolton's chief of staff at the State Department, during the first Bush-Cheney term, is widely suspected of passing Plame's name on to Libby and others in the VP's office, prior to the leaking of Plame's identity to syndicated columnist Robert Novak.

The Fitzgerald probe could be completed this month, creating a further pile-up of scandals and crimes for Cheney.

A New Iraq Policy

LaRouche has described the Iraq situation as reaching a turning point, which requires immediate and dramatic U.S. action, "a fundamental change in direction." To safely withdraw American and British troops from Iraq, as many leading retired military officers are demanding, there must be a demonstrable shift in the Bush Administration. Since, LaRouche emphasized, Cheney's name is most clearly associated with the disastrous Iraq policy, from day one, no credible policy shift can occur without his removal. Once Cheney is out, even President Bush can go to regional Iraqi leaders, and to all sections of the Iraqi people, and propose a fresh start. With a shift towards full involvement of the Sunnis, including many former Ba'athist military and political figures, not from the Saddam Hussein inner circle, Iraq can be saved from disintegration. All of Iraq's neighbors, including Iran and Syria, will cooperate with such an effort, which aims to prevent a regional explosion that will benefit no one, LaRouche asserted.

Let Cheney-Bush Go Quietly Now

The Lyndon LaRouche Political Action Committee issued the following statement on Oct. 2.

Suddenly, recently, the White House Cheney-gang seemed to shift away from their lust for an immediate attack on Iran to target Syria. Then, the answer became clear, in Defense Secretary Rumsfeld's fit of hysteria at the blackboard, as Rummy attempted frantically to deny the rapidly deteriorating position of the U.S. military forces in Iraq. An attack on Syria would be an obvious cover for a desperate attempt to allow the U.S. forces to shoot their way out Iraq.

So, in *EIR*'s weekend intelligence round-up in Leesburg Oct. 2, the facts we had been accumulating during the past two weeks clicked into place.

The key fact we needed to put the evidence as a whole

into place came together as we conducted our weekend report on the status of the current strategic situation globally.

The bottom line for all this and much more besides, is that the current Bush-Cheney administration is the worst, most incompetent, and also most brutish government in all of U.S. history to date. This is a view which is largely shared by those who are my personal leading adversaries as much as friendly circles. We agree on one thing: this administration is a disaster which our republic could not survive for three more years of the present trends.

The time has come to tell the President and Vice-President to go quietly, for the sake of the nation, and also, like Nixon, to avoid the legal consequences of continuing to attempt to "tough it out." We could be most generous to them in their early retirement years, if they would kindly assist us in expediting the urgently needed return, by the established constitutional route, to the sane government we so urgently needed in this time of the gravest kind of global monetary-financial and economic crisis.

—Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.