

## LAROUCHE PAC NATIONAL ACTIVISTS' CALL

# Imperatives for Food Policy

July 13—*The following dialogue took place on the [July 13 LaRouche PAC National Activists' Call](#). Participating in this call were several of the speakers and other participants in the International Food for Peace Conference, "Food For Peace & Thought: China-U.S. Agricultural Cooperation," held in New York City on July 7.*

**Dennis Speed:** Last Friday there were two historic meetings. One was in Europe, the G-20 Summit, where despite all of the attempts to stop it from happening, President Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin of Russia actually met and had a discussion which was described by various commentators, including in the United States, as potentially one of the most important meetings since the War, and I think they meant the Second World War. Prof. Stephen Cohen, an important commentator in the United States, commented that perhaps what we have seen is Donald Trump emerge as a major American statesman as a result of that meeting.

The other thing that we should definitely point out is that last Saturday, simultaneous with the meeting of the G-20, the Schiller Institute, the Foundation for the Revival of Classical Culture, and China Energy Fund Committee, held a joint symposium at which 32 representatives of Chinese industry, as well as government and non-government organizations, participated in a forum with about 175 persons from the Schiller Institute and media that came to cover it. That conference, which took up specifically the issue of advanced agricultural capability to feed the world, actually took place as a way of allowing the United States—the process of the United States

joining the Silk Road—a way to get into the highest levels of this actual discussion.

Helga Zepp-LaRouche prepared a video for that conference. What was important about what she emphasized, was that you can't take up any matter, whether it's agriculture or whether it's new infrastructure processes, or other elements—you can't pick up anything like this without looking at the core relations between Russia, China, and the United States. What we are seeing—what we are involved in right now—is obviously an attempt by treasonous factions both based in the United States and also factions around the world, for that matter, trying to destabilize the Presidency, even though that victory occurred on Friday.

You know, we call these "fireside chats," and on Saturday of last week, the conference or sections of the conference visited the FDR Presidential Library Museum and FDR's home. About 25 members of the Chinese delegation went there, and another 35 or so Schiller Institute and other members went. When you are at that location and you hear the discussion, and you



Jason Ross

*Speakers on Panel I of the July 7 conference—"Food for Peace and Thought: U.S. China Agricultural Cooperation." Right to left: (former) Mayor DeWayne Hopkins, Muscatine, Iowa; Dr. Patrick Ho, Deputy Chairman, and Secretary General, China Energy Fund Committee, Hong Kong, China; Lan Huasheng, Chairman of the Board, Shenszhen Dasheng Agriculture Group; Wei Zhenglin, Agriculture Attache, Embassy of China; Robert L. Baker, Agriculture specialist, EIR, and Schiller Institute; Dr. Carl Pray, Professor and Chairman, Department of Agriculture, Food and Resource Economics, Rutgers University.*



Robert L. Baker

*Shown here on the steps of the home of Franklin Delano Roosevelt is a 25-person Chinese delegation with 35 Schiller Institute members from Metro New York City, for a tour on July 8 of Hyde Park, including the FDR Library, and the Henry Wallace Center.*

think about what Roosevelt did in the time of his Presidency, and you then put that in the context of what JFK did for the space program, when you look at what President Trump has been saying concerning issues of state and the fact of the meeting between himself and Vladimir Putin, and then the meeting with Xi Jinping—there is a clear basis for the country to be moved forward.

And it is to be moved forward from the highest platform of space technology—space technology applied to industry, to agriculture, and to the revolutionizing of the very machine-tool process, the process by which all forms of activity are done in the world.

At this point, I'm going let Ben Deniston take it. He spoke at our conference, and gave a conference presentation which was rooted in making sure that the persons in the room were aware of the pivotal role of Lyn [Lyndon LaRouche] in his discoveries of physical economy, and in the formulation that became known as the World Land-Bridge.

**Ben Deniston:** I think it's appropriate to reflect back on what I think is the principle underlying the conference and what we're looking at now. Helga Zepp-LaRouche launched a whole series of international confer-

ences, in which she started calling for a new paradigm of global relations and a concept that dovetails very well with the policy of win-win cooperation being promoted by the President of China. I think we certainly have a unique role in promoting Lyndon LaRouche's absolutely unique and original contribution to this entire discussion, because as Helga has emphasized, as our organization has emphasized, and as Lyn has emphasized, we're not talking about just fixing some problems in the world or alleviating some bad conditions—we're talking about what it is going to require to move mankind to a new historical stage, to a new level of humanity.

Helga has often referenced the comparison of mankind pre-renaissance—as looking at European culture as a reference point—pre-renaissance human civilization as compared to post-renaissance human civilization. Mankind went through a qualitative, revolutionary change in what he actually represented as a creative species on this planet. That is something that mankind uniquely does, and must always continue to do, and that's what we should be making in the present period, that level of historic change. This idea of the United States in an alliance with China and Russia—that is no joke—that is a power bloc that can take the world, and the Solar system and beyond, in a completely new direction.

## The Underlying Conceptions

One thing we should keep up front and at the center is what is the idea, what are the conceptions underlying that new direction? One thing that I highlighted in my speech, which I think is worth bringing up again, is that Helga has recommended ending geopolitics, and Mr. LaRouche's work provides an invaluable and necessary grounding for that, in getting rid of this idea of a "zero-sum game," or this "limits to growth" idea which really underlies a lot of the geopolitical thinking today.

This idea that we're all in a race to control some finite amount of wealth on this planet, and we're up against other nations, other cultures, and other peoples, in attempting to access and control what we can get before "they" can get to it, and to undermine the ability of other nations to get to these resources or these technologies before we do, and so on. We have entire discussions about how the British Empire has pioneered this bestial way of thinking. The point is, that is false, that is not only an inhuman way of thinking—suppressing the development of other nations.

The conference that we held was on the subject of food for peace. Food has been a major means of control

by these types of forces. The British used controlled, induced famines with horrific results to control the population of India, for example. This is just one example of how this type of thinking has led to the geopolitical suppression of populations, the suppression of the development of people. That idea must end. It doesn't end by just saying, "Hey, that's bad, and we shouldn't do that to people." That's true, but there's a deeper issue, which Mr. LaRouche has defined very uniquely, in his work, which is that mankind is an absolutely unique force on this planet, that can by its very nature fundamentally revolutionize and change its relationship to the environment. There is no such thing as fixed resources available to mankind.

You can take any example. Some people are saying that water is the new oil, it's the new shortage in the coming generation or two; water is going to become a scarce resource that we're going to compete over, and financial interests are already trying to position themselves to take advantage of it. It's all crazy. If we develop the infrastructure system and new technologies needed—there's more than enough water on this planet to provide all of the agricultural, urban industrial needs, human needs, biospheric needs for a much greater population than we have today. This requires applying the technologies we have available.

You have craziness about control of energy supplies—people believe they are competing to control these finite supplies of coal, oil, natural gas, what have you—when we already know that it is just a pittance compared to the power supplies available to mankind with nuclear reactions—the energy reactions of nuclear power, fission and especially fusion. You just look up at our Moon; our Moon is covered in helium-3, probably the best fusion fuel we know of, which will provide not just fusion power, but the most advanced form of fusion power that has many additional benefits. We could supply a much larger population and higher living standards.

This is a very real, very historic, very exciting period we're in; again, I think we have a unique role as messengers of Lyndon LaRouche's underlying ideas—not just ideas, but the scientific principles on which this



*The Chinese delegation and Midwest farmers sample milk at their July 8 visit to the Shenandoah Farm, in Dutchess County, N.Y., which is part of a 10-farm cooperative marketing "Hudson Valley Fresh" products. See [www.hudsonvalleyfresh.com](http://www.hudsonvalleyfresh.com)*

new paradigm is based. It can't just be a negation of bad things; it must be premised on a higher principle, a positive recognition of what it is that makes our species unique. We have different cultures, we have different nations, we have different histories, but we can come together around a unified principle of humanity, around shared growth and development based on that principle. That has to be the positive conception carrying us forward, and I think it was reflected very strongly at this event with this delegation from China, a very interesting delegation who got a chance to meet some American counterparts—in our organization there are representatives of farm leaders, of agriculture in the United States. I think that's just typical of the kind of dialogue and collaboration and coordination that we can be moving toward.

## China's Achievements

**Marcia Merry Baker:** The conference on July 7 in Manhattan was followed on July 8 by a trip to Hyde Park, where Franklin Delano Roosevelt's home is, and a visit to a dairy farm operation that's typical of such farms outside big cities, so there was a lot of opportunity to talk. What came through in the presentations—about twelve of them in the day-long conference, six or seven from China and then some from the United States—what comes through is that in the last 40 years or more,



China has upgraded its agriculture deliberately to achieve a very secure food supply. The speakers from China described how they did it, and how they upgraded the diet that people have every day.

The principle behind it is that a population can go ahead and do that for its own nation, and we can collaborate between nations. But what that implies is the opposite of what we hear in the United States. We're told that it's the markets, not your government, that has to decide whether you are going to improve your agriculture or not, whether you're going to have enough to eat or not, and whether you will respond if there's an emergency like there is now overseas in Yemen, or South Sudan, or somewhere else that needs food. This was very outstanding.

In short, what several of the people from China described, is that by 1984 they had achieved enough grain production (wheat, rice, and other grains) to make China's food supply secure. No need to worry; they even had a surplus. So then, what did they do? They had maybe many hundreds of millions of people by then, eight hundred million or so.

They decided they could take some of the land out of food and put it into cotton, because "we need that." We can take some of the grain capacity we have for rice and wheat, and we'll produce corn for livestock or wheat for livestock, so they did that. And then, after another 20 or more years or even 30 years, instead of only 8% of their grain capacity going to feed meat animals (hogs, cattle, and chicken), now close to 30% of the grain they produce goes to these meat animals—and their diet was improved to have a lot more pork, a lot more eggs, and a



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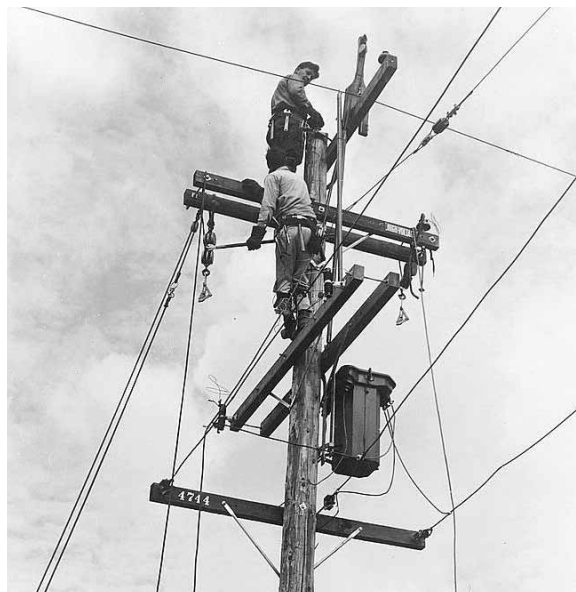
*Famine in colonial India in 1943 was met then, with inaction by the British. Food shortages, present day neo-British Empire defenders say, are inevitable.*

lot more dairy and milk.

This has been done deliberately, and the nature of what has been done has gone hand in hand with bringing 700 million people out of poverty over the same time period. This model is the kind of model that you can have for the world, and it isn't as if people didn't know how to do it—but we've been told in the last 40 years by the neo-British Empire types that we'll always have a food shortage—not true!

So the conference was very exciting. Remember, think for a minute, that twice in our own history, whatever age we are, we know about Abraham Lincoln, and that his government organized advances in agriculture. For example, there was the Homestead Act that gave away 160 acres out in Oklahoma if you would agree to farm and improve it—a deliberate intervention. Then fast forward to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in the 1930s, during the Depression. Deliberate measures were taken to lift people out of poverty and put people to work, even in the rural areas through the Civil Conservation Corps. Also, FDR developed electricity in rural areas to reduce poverty.

I'm only pointing to those two interventions, because the United Nations right now is meeting on how to eliminate world poverty by 2030. It's called "Agenda 2030" or the "2030 Project." There has been talk like this for decades—how can we get people out of poverty? If you don't change the system, you will never do it. But now, we have the active mobilization by China in collaboration with Russia, and the offer to the United States to work with them is on the table. Agriculture people got together on this here, and said "now we can use the China model,



Library of Congress

*Rural electrification, one of FDR's major initiatives, in California's San Joaquin Valley in 1938.*

which is really the American System model, and we can succeed.” The goal is still there for 2030, and what we had on July 7 and 8, just with a dialogue, is for real. There are a lot more specifics that I could tell you about, but this much is illustrative.

**Speed:** Very good Marcia. Thanks a lot. I want to point out a couple things that we want people to do. What we’re telling you about here is two things: One, there was a major victory when Trump actually did meet with Vladimir Putin. That has been seen, but everybody on these phone calls knows we’ve been talking about it for months as something that needed to happen. It was something that every major intelligence agency in the world (on the wrong side, that is) deployed against, and it happened nonetheless. Now, the next phase has to be to get Trump to act against Wall Street, but the way to do that is not by asking him. *The way you do it is, you’ve got to go out and do something.* We’ve had a lot of discussions about this over the past weeks. There is this silliness that supposedly the President is supposed to come in and change everything—and people applaud it. It doesn’t work that way.

All a President is supposed to do actually, is to respond to the initiatives being taken by the American citizenry, and obviously he ought to have his own ideas, as well; but the American citizenry has the obligation to advocate and to organize for changes in policy and changes in the direction of the country. That is what we understand. That’s not something that we happen to have an ambition to do; that’s a responsibility of citizenship.

I see we have some questions, and also, I just want to say that if there are people who were at the conference, please get in the queue and let’s see what we can do here.

**Question:** This is Alvin here in New York. My question is, we have Congress still in session, so should we not be looking to mobilize and organize our citizens not only for the petition drive, but to get down there to the Hill and begin the process of raising the roof on Glass-Steagall once again? They’re still in session. We have some time. This is a national call. There are people here from everywhere, and I just wanted to raise that, so that we should start next week to organize and get some turn-outs, not just a handful of people. My question is, can we do that and should we do that starting next week?

**Speed:** I know that the Senate is in session; I’m not sure about the House. I’ll put it like this: Since people

are on the call from around the country, one of the better things for them to be able to do, of course, is going to see people in their districts. That always has a tremendous impact, and two or three people going to see somebody in the districts is an excellent idea. With regard to the Senate, that’s true. I suppose that we just ask about that and see what the viability of that is. That’s my own answer. I don’t know if Ben or Marcia has anything to say.

## **Urgent Messages from Farmers**

**Marcia Baker:** I want to fill one thing in. A couple of the messages to the conference last week, from farm leaders in the Farm Belt (Kansas and Indiana), concerned exactly what you said, Alvin, about Glass-Steagall, and making a shift and ordering what must be done in the country. I’ll read you just a couple of sentences from James Benham. He’s the President of the Indiana Farmers Union, and he sent this in last Friday. He quoted what he said in 2013 when he sent out a public letter, which said, “We must return to economic policies which protect the nation’s ability to produce. Glass-Steagall will cut the speculators off from the public trough, the first step to restoring a sound banking system and setting up a production-tied credit system.” He went on to say, “pass Glass-Steagall and we can get on to the business of rebuilding our nation. Then we’ll be able to pass farm and food-supply legislation based on the principle of decent parity pricing for farmers, and get food security for Americans and have domestic production and reserves.”

Just as Dennis said, in different home districts, a huge impact can be made. Some people may be on the phone from the Farm Belt states to elaborate on this.

**Question:** Hello, this is J. from Iowa. I’ve lived my life in agriculture. I want to ask Marcia a question or two here: Marcia, you were commenting on China launching its agriculture infrastructure, if you will? Is that done by private citizens as I am, or is that done by government organization?

**Merry Baker:** Well, the exciting thing is, it’s both, as I understand it. For one thing, there’s a five-year plan, and over something like the last thirteen years, almost three five-year plans. Every year there’s a January report on the state of agriculture by the government, so the government lays out both: “Here’s what we’d like to see,” and the government gives grants for such things as irrigation systems.

The government does send people into the poorest,



Eli Santiago

*Chinese visitors speak with the owner of Shenandoah Farm, and family members, at their porch, July 8. The property has been in their family since 1892, now specializing in the milk herd, and in corn, alfalfa, and pasture.*

most rural villages to do some work on helping figure out what can be done, like putting together a list of all four hundred families, and seeing what the land is like. But the individual decisions are still made by actual farmers on the land. I'm giving you some examples, because it's definitely a decision that's made from the top, through the government—but then, when it gets implemented, it's implemented on the ground by actual people. It isn't some kind of government-run plantation; it's not like the old British East India Company plantations as I understand them.

**Follow-Up:** Well, this is a huge concern of mine, and there should not be hungry people in any corner of this world, as far as I'm concerned. I know that I run a relatively small-scale farm compared to some, but I figured it up one time, off of USDA standards, and with what I produce in cattle and grain, I should be able to feed 950 to 1,050 people every day of the week, 365 days of the year.

And the problem that I have with everything that's going on, is, I borrowed three-quarters of a million dollars in January, hoping that the speculators would let me make at least that much by December, so that I could pay my bills. At the same time, you go to the grocery store and a lot of the people that I'm talking about feeding, can't afford to buy what I produce and put on those shelves. And that absolutely drives me nuts, because I risk my livelihood in losing everything for the fourth generation now, and we don't get rewarded—nor can people that are soon to be hungry—they can't afford

what we're producing. Somewhere in the middle, somebody's taking a huge cut: Marcia, what does a rib-eye steak cost where you come from?

**Marcia Baker:** I don't know! I have to ask someone else on the phone. [laughs]

**Follow-Up:** Because if it's over \$2.75, you're getting charged a lot more than I'm getting for it.

**Marcia Baker:** Oh yeah, we're talking about \$9.

**Follow-Up:** That's the difference, is what I'm saying. Also, we can only do what we are capable of out here, and then the rules and regulations on everything that we are doing are getting

so stiff—I have to have a thirty-seven point check list to take care of pigs every day. Those kinds of things just seem absolutely crazy to me. I've been doing it for 30 years, and now some guy that has never raised a pig in his life tells me what checklist to make every day, to make sure I'm doing it the proper way.

So I guess, with what China's doing, the United States already has the highest regulations to make sure the food is as clean and as healthy as it can be. And I see countries like China—and I read some of the reports also, that say what China is doing and getting ready to do—we are already here, but not in a fashion that it is going to work, and we have farmers that are going broke every year doing the same thing that we can't get rewarded for ...

I know that something has to change, and has to change relatively soon, but I guess the hard part here, is nothing happens on the timeline that I think it should. But you know, something's got to change here: There should be no hungry people in this world. And China is doing the absolutely right thing! They're going to make sure their people stay as full as they can, and I appreciate that.

**Speed:** Great! We have a lot of other people on the line. I'm going to go to the next one, but thank you very much for that. I think that was really helpful for people.

**Question:** Hello, this is D. in Florida. I come from a West Texas oilfield background; I'm taking an interest in greenhouses, as well as the economy and management set-up. So the call from the fellow in Iowa was

very interesting to me, as he has an inside viewpoint that I'm not real well acquainted with ... Would the National Bank be able to help him out with his financing? And then would it go through a state bank, or would it be more like the IRS, where it bypasses the states and goes directly from the Federal to the individual?

**Marcia Baker:** Well, I think we have several things, but to keep it simple, and on principle, I think the point is that of course, farmers do need credit to operate, by season. They need it when they need it, for the planting, for the harvests, and for the other functions. So the point is, if you have sound banking, instead of this wild Wall Street bail-out banking system we have right now—if you have sound banking with community banks chartered properly, you would have, as we had before, loans for when farms, businesses, and genuinely useful functions and activities need it—not to mention credit for infrastructure projects—irrigation, water management, and transportation.

So that is what we need, and there would be no problem between the state and Federal level. We must put in the Glass-Steagall law, so that you have commercially useful banking as we've just described it, totally separate from any kind of speculative financial house. We understand that.

And in particular, we need a National Bank, a national institution that can be a primary coordinator for funds and investments, and including international investments. China has said they're willing, in fact, to put in the directed credit for the larger projects—the ones that we need for upgraded nuclear power systems, water systems, and waterway repair of locks and dams—a whole new level.

Back to the farmer, the problem that we've had is not just the repeal of Glass-Steagall banking in 1999. We also had, a year later, what's called the Commodities Futures Modernization Act, which allowed anything-goes speculation on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, on and off exchanges. We can restore credit by government mandate, so that we can have successful individual farms. And we must also return to parity-based pricing to cover your costs of production.

And Dennis Speed described the trip last week to a farm outside New York City, which is a dairy farm. Milk is perishable; the dairy situation in the United States now is in complete crisis, because the prices don't cover production, and you've spent years developing your dairy herd—and you have to keep feeding those animals every day. So that's in a crisis. We've had

three or four years of grain prices being under the cost of production. That doesn't have to be.

In fact, it's the system we have, and that's why we're seeking to force a change in the whole thing. It's so crazy that last year, the Obama government filed a lawsuit against China in the World Trade Organization, asserting that China was putting a floor under the prices for its corn growers. So the corn growers in China get a certain price. And the U.S. government suit said that should not be allowed, because it takes away the opportunity for American farmers to be able to produce and have a market. That's crazy! It's to the benefit of everyone, to have “win-win” agriculture, and for nations to decide what their farmers need, because that's the way everybody can eat.

That's the short answer.

## A New Ice Age?

**Follow-Up:** I sure appreciate that. One other question that affects agriculture. What's the review on the possibility of a coming ice age? I look at [spaceweather.com](http://spaceweather.com) on the sunspot cycles, and we have had more sunspot-less days this year, already this year, than all of last year.

**Deniston:** Sure, that's absolutely true. There's a longer-term and shorter-term cycle, which we probably want to distinguish when people talk about an ice age. We tend to be talking about cycles on the order of tens of thousands to 100,000 years. So we're currently in what's called an Interglacial, a period in between two ice ages. Now a full-on ice age is when you have a mile-thick sheet of ice down to the area of Chicago, and it reaches all the way up north; those changes tend to be more on the tens of thousands to hundred thousand-year timescales.

But you're correct in noting that the Sun is getting weak. It's getting very weak, the weakest we've seen really since we have had modern instrumentation in the past couple of generations. There's strong evidence that the Sun is going into a period of low activity that we haven't seen in four hundred years. The last time this occurred—that we saw this very weak solar activity—it corresponded with what is called the “Little Ice Age,” which is different from the larger ice ages. It was a period of prolonged, dramatic cooling that affected the planet in the 1600s. That is definitely something that we need to be thinking about.

Climate does change. It changes by natural variation, and we should be thinking about how mankind can come to control those processes, and ensure that we can





Eli Santiago

*Members of the Jackson family (with hats) answer questions from their visitors. They described the pressures on their farm from urbanization, taxes, and soaring insurance costs, while dairy prices to the farmer—nationwide—are too low. Family members work off the farm as well. One Canada-based visitor was surprised to find there is not a pricing and production policy for U.S. dairy farmers, like that in Canada.*

were completely awestruck. They couldn't imagine that that would be possible.

And that doesn't mean that the farm isn't productive, and it doesn't mean that the people aren't highly skilled—they are very skilled. They do precision agriculture with the highest-tech machinery, but the marketplace just doesn't have the price structure necessary to keep smaller farmers in business. And thus, we've seen a steady evolution, where the marginal farmers keep falling backwards, and then bigger farms develop, because they're farming on smaller and smaller margins, and very deep in debt.

That is not the American System. It's not the system Alexander Hamilton had in mind,

maintain agriculture, the viability of the biosphere, and human economic activity in the context of the climate changes which are going to occur. So those are the kinds of things we should be thinking about, and thinking about how we should prepare ourselves. How do we actually begin to control some of these processes and influence these things? That's something that's not really that far away at this point, if we decide to come together to do that.

**Follow-Up:** That sounds good to me. I sure appreciate your explaining it.

**Speed:** Is Bob Baker here? Bob spoke at our conference. He gave a terrific presentation about the application of space technology to agriculture. And as you go into that, Bob, I think the story that Ron Wieczorek told us about his brother, and how much land he farmed, and what his situation is, I think that might be relevant for people to hear, because it's so apparently unbelievable.

**Bob Baker:** Well, the situation is—and Ron may be on the phone. Ron's father raised six kids on a 300-acre farm and did quite well, but today, there are known cases where people have 50 thousand acres and a half-billion-dollar investment or more, and they've lost money for the last three years. And when we discussed this with the Chinese delegation over the weekend, they

or the other Founding Fathers, and it's not the way the nation ran even back in Franklin Roosevelt's period. Because Roosevelt actually found the policies that you might say we're on right now when he came into office—a massive crisis in agriculture, farms driven into bankruptcy everywhere, unavailability of credit, and prices down. But just by executive order, Franklin Roosevelt said, "there'll be no more farm foreclosures." He outlawed all farm foreclosures, and he set up a national credit system—and within one year they refinanced all the farmers that were in trouble in the United States. And that's just indicative of the magnitude and the power of government of the American System, if it's determined to do that.

Now, I just might add a couple of things, because a lot of people even in agriculture don't understand—or maybe aren't one hundred percent aware of—the consolidation of our food production into the hands of a very few people. We have 2.2 million farmers in the United States, but only 10% of those farmers produce 75% of the food. That means 90% of U.S. farmers produce the other 25%. Most of them are subsidizing that food production with one or two non-farm jobs. Also, if you look at the consolidation of many parts of the food industry,—Take the pork industry. The United States is the world's third-largest producer and largest exporter of pork. And



90% of U.S. pork is produced by 1% of the U.S. farmers! That's a shocking figure if you think about it.

If you look at chickens, the United States is the world's largest chicken producer, the largest exporter, but 95% of all the chickens in the United States are produced by 1% of the U.S. farmers.

**Dairy:** The world's largest producer and exporter of cow's milk, but *twenty* giant dairy entities produce 76% of all the milk in the United States. That's a vertically integrated operation.

And I could go on. The beef industry—5% of the feedlots in America produce 85% of all the beef. And so we could go on and on. The United States is the biggest producer of ethanol in the world, the biggest exporter of ethanol, and the biggest *importer* of ethanol! And we import it from Brazil, which is the second largest producer of ethanol, and its biggest export market is the United States, and our biggest export market is to Brazil! That's pretty amazing.

Those parameters give people some sense of the magnitude of the monopolization of food production in America, to say nothing of the grocery stores, which all are continuing to merge, because they can't make it.

**Speed:** Thanks a lot, Bob, that was very useful, and I think will shock the hell out of people.

We've been saying—if you're doing things, we have a lot of people who go out and deploy in the street, and we invite people to do that if you're in touch with your regional office—that's important. But getting out there to actually advocate the Four Laws: Glass-Steagall; a national bank; and a new credit system with directed credit for purposes of our industry, and agriculture, and infrastructure; and then, of course, energy.

One thing that Ben Deniston pointed out, is the issue of energy density. What we were talking about at the conference, and what we introduced to the Chinese delegation, was Lyndon LaRouche's idea of energy-flux density. The notion that you've got to somehow fight the whole world for scarce resources, is not true. It falls on its face when you take technological progress into account, and you use the idea, for example, of thermonuclear fusion.

Forty years ago it was calculated that one cubic mile, I believe it was, of the Earth's crust, using fusion technologies, could provide the raw materials for all the industries in the world for a year—and that was back in the 1970s that that was calculated. And therefore, when people give these arguments about how thermonuclear

fusion is forty years in the future, the thing they have not considered is, what if there had been a full-scale crash program for thermonuclear fusion in the 1970s? What would have been the significance of that for ending dependence on oil or natural gas as fuel sources, and also, what would have been the significance in terms of the efficiency of production?—of energy production as well as industrial production for the world as a whole?

So the British-intelligence, new colonialist view of the necessity for scavenging and somehow killing other people, or cannibalizing the world because of our needs—that is something we should *never, never* give in to. And if you go out and deploy with us, that's an idea we can definitely overcome.

## What Our Farmers Need Now

**Question:** This is Ron Wieczorek from South Dakota. I was at the conference, and I would just like to thank everybody that had something to do with making that conference happen. I was sad that I could not see a thousand farmers there, but I understand the reason why, when we look at the total number of farmers. Bob was talking about 2.4 million farmers. I believe it was back in the 1930s and the 1940s, there were 33 million farmers! They had political clout. Ben, the Farmers Union man that you were referring to, made a comment about 220,000 Farmers Union members. In the 1930s and the 1940s, there were 10 million members, when the total population was half of what it is today.

So the percentage of farmers was high; we had real political clout because of the numbers. Our farmers today have to merge, and the farmers that are out there are going to have to organize for outreach, so we can increase the number; we can't increase the number with the farmers—we have to create the numbers that support Lyn's Four Laws, and without Lyn's Four Laws this country is not going to make it.

I mean, we've got to have Glass-Steagall on the books, and we've got to have a New Bretton Woods system that gives a parity ratio to the currencies of the world so you can have just trade, rather than having speculators running the currency values up and down. We have to have a parity pricing! My grandson asked me this afternoon, why we don't have a world price for food? I believe the Chinese and the Japanese are getting something like \$9 or \$10 for their corn, and that's three times what we're getting for our corn; of course, it costs a lot of money to ship our corn there, but somebody's still making a lot of money on the movement of this



Eli Santiago

*(Former) Mayor DeWayne Hopkins, of Muscatine, Iowa, speaks with a member of the Chinese delegation, on their visit to the Hudson Valley dairy farm July 8. Hopkins fielded many questions about Iowa farming, and what Chinese President Xi Jinping has done on his two visits to Muscatine—now a sister city to Zhengding, China.*

corn around the world.

Those are just some of the things I wanted to comment on.

**Speed:** I have a question for you, Ron. Didn't you do a meeting in the last couple of days, when you got back?

**Follow-Up:** Yesterday morning I started calling people, I don't know how many calls I made, but it was a number, and last night we had a meeting with twelve people who showed up. One state legislator called and wanted to meet with me later, because he had a prior commitment. I had four other people say they had prior commitments, too. So I think people are really interested in what's going on, especially in our area out there. Many of the people that attended were farmers, but not all—at least half were working people.

But in South Dakota here, our land prices have been run up by some speculators. We've had a 365% increase in our land values since 2009. And a lot of these farmers are "rich" by their assets. And this has nullified a lot of

the suffering on the farm, especially of the older farmers, because they feel comfortable with this high-priced land they got. But that can't last, and when that starts crumbling, the banking factions are very worried about this farm crisis, or food crisis, or whatever you want to call it.

I just spoke with a banker who has a bank in Iowa. There was a farmer in Iowa who two years ago lost \$6 million, and last year, he lost another \$10 million. Now the only reason he could still operate, is because of inflation on his land. It's not because of anything that he got paid for; it's just that the assets that he had have tripled in value, or even more than that. So he still has financial statements that show assets—and I don't know how long that can go on. I think if we remember 1984, when they cut land values in half here in South Dakota, and the farmers' machinery values in half—it was a devastating time, and we lost a hell of a lot of farmers to suicide.

**Speed:** You just brought up something that I want to make sure *everybody* understands: Now you people should understand that Glass-Steagall is literally a matter of life and death. Because if you don't have

food, if your country doesn't have farmers,—you heard Bob Baker's evaluation earlier about pork, and about the percentage of food being grown by so few people. I think what is important for us all to get, is the fact that you listened to the conference on Saturday, Ron, and you traveled on Sunday. Now it's Thursday. You had a meeting on Wednesday. So that means that you got back and basically organized the thing in three days.

I want this to be clear to everybody on the phones, because we have about 30, 31 states or so on every phone call. If we were doing that, and begin doing that—and again, let's look at Glass-Steagall, because it's the one thing that we can all see now, whether we're talking about food, or we're talking about housing, about individual employment, or industry. It's clear that this is a means, not merely for Glass-Steagall, but this idea of a new credit system and the Four Laws as you said, Ron. That is where we've got to strike.

The deployments are one part; the meetings are another part; this phone call is another way that people can be activated, as we're seeing from this experience

tonight. So I just want to interject that. We're going to move on, Ron, but that report was invaluable, and in the aftermath of the conference, we should make sure that this is an element that we keep in the consciousness of all the people that are coming onto our phones. Thanks a lot.

**Question:** Hi, this is Andy Olson from Minnesota. I was at the conference, but I got on the call late tonight, so I don't know exactly what transpired, but here's just a little bit of an idea of what I got out of the conference. It was American farmers there, plus the Chinese, who represented a big part of their agriculture. So theirs is a command economy, which is working well for them, and ours is supposedly the American System, we're the independent farmer—but I really believe the American System is being watered down. And it's really alarming when you see that farmers have been moved into this idea of contract farming—they contract essentially with an entity that deals with the cartels. And it's happened in meat especially—in pork, broilers [chicken], milk, and beef. And in crops not so much, but that's starting to occur also.

And we have to realize what is happening to us—and I don't think that even I have been aware of how far this has gone. I don't know how to stop it, but I think dialoguing with the Chinese was really useful. They can see what we are faced with, or maybe got an inkling of what we're faced with, and were surprised that we were under this kind of attack. And we could see what success they are having, and it's pretty impressive. So it's the beginning of a dialogue that I think will be positive in the future.

**Speed:** That was great, because you summarized for a lot for people who were not there, not only your own response to what happened, but actually—that was precisely what it was for. It was a promissory note for a more in-depth discussion that now needs to be engaged in. So I want to thank you for saying that.

I think we'll go to closing responses, Marcia, from you and then from Ben.

**Marcia Baker:** One thing we're going to do at the request of our South Dakota friend, Ron, is have a press release on the follow-on, not just to the event on Friday, but also looking to what we need to do, here and now, right now, in this country. We will emphasize the Four Laws, and emphasize the discussion that's gone on between the very high-level Chinese delegation, and our

farm-based representation from South Dakota, Minnesota, and Iowa. We also had messages from Kansas and Indiana. And Dennis, I'm going to do that press release in the next couple of days for Ron and other people in the Midwest.

But this is our moment! With all the rotten stuff that we see being slammed against the institution of our Presidency, nevertheless there's tremendous opportunity.

**Speed:** Ben, would you like to summarize?

**Deniston:** Yes, only to say that we should take this as a call to go out and organize, and for each of us to go out and get more people on the call next week; we have our LaRouche PAC website—Dennis mentioned our report on the United States joining the New Silk Road, and the one on the Silk Road becoming the World Land-Bridge, that are available on our website in digital format. We have a lot of informational material there, and a lot of information that people need to organize around these ideas. We have all this available, and we need to think about building our movement and building our impact, day to day, week to week, at this incredibly important time.

Coming out of this conference, with what's being discussed, it's exciting to hear how the entire nation can be mobilized and awakened in this way. You know, all this talk about the so-called “flyover states” across America that have been largely ignored by both parties—these are the people that have been building things—the last bastions of productivity, and they've been largely ignored. These are the people we need to mobilize now, to ensure that we can support Trump and push Trump to go with these programs, and everything outlined here.

**Speed:** The key idea is that there was a victory last Friday—Trump and Putin met. Trump and Xi met again. Xi and Putin have the best relations between China and Russia in history. This means, given what Lyn did for us, in his design of the Four Laws, the ball's in our court. We have a President who will respond if pushed. Our job is to push, and not just for what he is going to do, but to push our fellow citizens for what they are going to do.

I want to thank everybody for being on the phone call tonight. We have a Monday night call, for those who are doing organizing and want to get into the particular reports and nuts and bolts. Let's get more people on the call for next week.