

Hear the Echo of Alexander Hamilton in President Trump's Visit to Puerto Rico

by Stephanie Ezrol

Oct. 9—We are all born with a debt to the future. The question is how do we most effectively discharge that debt, and how does that action fuel our happiness? President Donald Trump was starkly faced with that debt during his Oct. 3 visit to Puerto Rico, and formulated a very happy answer during his four-minute, on-the-ground interview with Fox News correspondent Geraldo Rivera, which [interview](#) was broadcast several hours later on the Fox network by Sean Hannity.

Rivera, a personal friend of the President, had an exclusive interview in which he praised the effective work of the U.S. government in the unprecedented “double whammy” that hit Puerto Rico from Aug. 30 to Oct. 1. In concluding the interview, Rivera asked, “Battered by two historic storms that wiped out a power grid that was already antiquated, poorly maintained, corruptly managed, what do you do? You had the Marshall Plan to rebuild Europe after World War II: Will we see a Trump Plan to rebuild this poor island?”

Trump then raised the question of Puerto Rico’s \$72 billion debt, acknowledging the deep pre-hurricane problems of Puerto Rico’s infrastructure, and reviewed the positive and heroic work going on at that moment to help the people of Puerto Rico.

Rivera pressed further: “I totally agree. And it’s been so impressive to see. The message to the Puerto Rican people, though—to what extent do you commit to help rebuild this battered place?”

And then the happiness began, in a way that quickly sent shockwaves through the world’s predatory financial community—and certainly made the interviewer quite uneasy, as evidenced by his quick move to change the subject.



White House

President Trump being interviewed by Fox reporter Geraldo Rivera in Puerto Rico, Oct. 4, 2017.

President Trump answered his interviewer, happily, and with a keen sense of irony, “Well, we’re going to work something out. We have to look at their whole debt structure. You know, they owe a lot of money to your friends on Wall Street, and we’re going to have to wipe that out. That’s going to have to be—you know you can say goodbye to that. I don’t know if it’s Goldman Sachs, but whoever it is, you can wave goodbye to that. We have to do something about—because the debt was massive on the island.”

Steven T. Mnuchin, a second-generation Goldman Sachs banker and current Treasury Secretary, must have cringed at hearing the President’s words.

An astute observer might, at that moment, have seen Alexander Hamilton smiling: The discharging of debt and the notion of credit—as features of natural law—were themselves now firmly placed on the agenda, not only of a suffering Puerto Rico, but a suffering United States and a sick and dying trans-Atlantic economic system.

Hamilton, our nation's first Treasury Secretary, had been profoundly transformed, as a very young man, by the August 1772 hurricane that devastated St. Croix where he was then living. Read his [September 1772 letter](#) from St. Croix to the *Royal Danish American Gazette*, which gives an account of what he called "one of the most dreadful Hurricanes that memory or any records whatever can trace, which happened here on the 31st ultimo at night." However, more important than the mere account of the hurricane, is Hamilton's recounting, in that letter, of his own struggle, his own relationship to God, and his own reconciliation during the frightful hurricane, to a clearly Leibnizian higher sense of mission. That profound report by Hamilton is reminiscent of Brahms' 1868 "Four Serious Songs."

Hamilton's opponent, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin—who not only worked at Goldman Sachs but created his own hedge fund, and was mentored in modern predatory finance by Michael T. Mortara, a renowned financial predator—spoke for the anti-Hamiltonian financial predators at his confirmation hearings this past January.

Hamilton's notion of credit is very much like that of Lyndon LaRouche: Credit is the way you pay your debt to the future. The core of Hamilton's four [founding economic reports](#) is the fostering of humankind's God-given creative cognition, which generates discoveries and their concomitant advances in science and technology.

Mnuchin in his confirmation hearing, in an oligarchic denigration of Hamilton, distorted Hamilton's intent, saying, "Alexander Hamilton remarked that the wealth of a nation may be promoted by 'multiplying the objects of enterprise.' Hamilton knew the unique value of entrepreneurial activity to a thriving economy."

Hamilton presents a different subject, which is in fact a core element of every success in American History. The full statement by Hamilton, in his *Report to Congress on the Subject of Manufactures*, puts *agapē* and its object as the subject—"To cherish and stimulate the activity of the human mind, by multiplying the objects of enterprise, is not among the least considerable of the expedients, by which the wealth of a nation may be promoted." That is the question brought to the fore



Photo/Xinhua

US Secretary of Treasury Steven Mnuchin testifies at a hearing before the House Financial Services Committee on July 27, 2017.

by the recent destruction which visited the human race with earthquakes and hurricanes, which destruction was made incalculably worse by criminal neglect, combined with the 40 years of predatory financial destruction of industrial, agricultural, energy, and infrastructure capacity in the United States, Mexico, and Puerto Rico.

The Productive Powers of Labor

The fierce opponents of the American Revolution—such as Adam Smith and John Locke—with its Leibnizian anti-Locke promotion of the pursuit of happiness, denigrate the human being to an object, not a human being in the image of God, but a talking animal that can be enslaved like an ox to a plow. Hamilton's commitment, as spelled out in his [Report to Congress on the Subject of Manufactures](#), was to increase the productive powers of labor, with the protection and promotion of crucial raw materials, foodstuffs, and manufacturing, particularly heat-powered and increasingly industrial machinery.

Our solutions today, the necessary echo of Hamilton, were put forth in a succinct form by Lyndon LaRouche during the depths of the destruction known as the Obama regime, in June 2014. LaRouche's Third and Fourth [Laws](#) speak particularly to President Trump's profound reaction on Oct. 3 to what he had just seen in Puerto Rico.

The Third Law goes to the purpose of a Federal Credit system (credit being that which makes our debt to the future repayable) “to generate high-productivity trends in improvements of employment, with the accompanying intention, to increase the physical-economic productivity, and the standard of living of the persons and households.” Credit is neither to be extended for frivolities, nor for the rapacious looting of hedge funds, leveraged buy-outs and vulture funds. Credit is not about money—it is about building the future, which is how we happily discharge our debt to our posterity.



Alexander Hamilton by John Trumbull, 1806.

LaRouche, like Hamilton, directly addresses the method of increasing productivity: “by reliance on the essential human principle, which distinguishes the human personality from the systemic characteristics of the lower forms of life: the net rate of increase of the energy-flux density of effective practice.”

This thoroughly scientific approach doesn’t use money as a metric: “The ceaseless increase of the physical-productivity of employment, accompanied by its benefits for the general welfare, are a principle of Federal law which must be a paramount standard of achievement of the nation and the individual.”

The Fourth Law presciently includes both “Adopt a Fusion-Driver Crash Program,” and the principles of an emergency relief program: “This means emergency relief measures, including sensible temporary recovery measures, required to stem the tide of death—measures required to preserve the dignity of what were otherwise the unemployed.”

Paying the Legitimate Debt

The debt to the future is the subject of the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution, that “We the People of the United States” have created a Constitution to “secure

the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity.” Hamilton was assigned the task by the U.S. Congress to assess and deal with the accumulated debt of the American Revolution, which he clearly states must be honored because it “was the price of the liberty.”

The debt bubble of the trans-Atlantic system, as a predatory assault against more than 99% of the human population, was kicked off by Nixon’s 1971 decision to break with FDR’s Bretton Woods Agreement for fair trade based on international currency stability. Lyndon LaRouche then immediately forecast that the resulting post-1971 “floating exchange rate system,” would

be a disaster. All of the world’s countries and their people, other than the United States, Europe, China, and the Russian-led communist bloc, were looted over and over again. Their debt obligations were doubled, tripled, and worse through currency speculation personified by, but certainly not limited to George Soros.

Today’s debt bubble of trillions of dollars, which is now looting the United States and Europe, includes financial instruments called “toxic waste”—transactions so insane that even Daniel Webster’s devil would blush. President Trump directly faced that toxic-waste monster in his response to Geraldo Rivera in Puerto Rico on Oct. 3.

The challenge today to leaders in business, labor, education, healthcare, and every community is to move with President Trump on the LaRouche-Hamilton approach. The toxic financial debt cannot be paid, and has no standing under the principles of the American Constitution. Our debt to all of God’s children and their posterity, can and must be paid, as happily as Alexander Hamilton demanded in his report on the necessary response to the 1772 Hurricane, and as he crafted in his four reports to the U.S. Congress.