

Kucinich Files Cheney Impeachment Resolution, But Dems Flunk the Test

by Edward Spannaus

On April 24, Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio) filed a resolution in the House of Representatives containing three Articles of Impeachment against Vice President Richard Cheney. Kucinich declared that he was doing this in an effort to stop Cheney from starting a war against Iran, as Cheney had done in 2003, in launching the invasion of Iraq, using false pretenses.

The Articles of Impeachment charge that:

(1) Cheney manipulated the intelligence process and lied to the nation about Iraq having weapons of mass destruction.

(2) Cheney manipulated the intelligence process and lied to the nation about Iraq's alleged ties to al-Qaeda.

(3) Cheney has "openly threatened aggression against the Republic of Iran, absent any real threat to the United States."

Lyndon LaRouche first called for Cheney's removal from office in 2002, during the build-up for the Iraq War. And in his March 7, 2007 international webcast, LaRouche again stressed the urgency of impeaching Cheney first. The campaign has been taken up by the LaRouche Youth Movement, which will be raising the impeachment of Cheney at the California State Democratic Party convention in San Diego on April 28.

Impeach Cheney First!

Kucinich had scheduled his press conference for noon April 25, but cancelled it upon being told that Cheney was undergoing a "medical emergency." *EIR* was told that the Democratic leadership in the House had put heavy pressure on Kucinich to cancel. But Cheney's emergency was simply a routine follow-up visit regarding the blood clot in his leg, and Cheney was feeling well enough to go to Capitol Hill for his weekly Tuesday visit.

In fact, instead of avoiding the television cameras, he jumped in front of them to savage Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid for his opposition to the Iraq War. "I have waited six years for this occasion," Cheney ranted, "when I've been coming up and usually avoid press comment when I'm up here, but I felt so strongly about what Senator Reid said in the last couple of days, that I thought it was appropriate that I come out today and make a statement that I think needs to be made.

"What's most troubling about Senator Reid's comments yesterday is his defeatism. Indeed, last week he said the war

is already lost. And the timetable legislation that he is now pursuing would guarantee defeat."

Reid responded by saying, "I'm not going to get into a name-calling match with the Administration's chief attack dog."

So, by mid-afternoon, Kucinich had re-scheduled his press conference to announce the filing of H.R. 333, the resolution containing the Articles of Impeachment. "It is urgent that Congress take steps to check the abuse of power" being carried out by Cheney, Kucinich stated, and "that's what this impeachment resolution will do."

Later that same day, on CNN's "Situation Room," Kucinich explained that he is doing this now, "because the Vice President is beating the same drums of war against Iran that he beat against Iraq, under false pretenses." Kucinich emphasized that he is going for Cheney first, because if Bush were impeached first, then Cheney would become President.

LaRouche immediately endorsed Kucinich's impeachment resolution, emphasizing that the removal of the Vice President from office is the only effective means of avoiding another senseless and devastating war—this time against Iran, and, possibly Syria. "When the issue of war and peace is so starkly on the table," LaRouche commented, "and so many of my fellow Democrats fail to show the simple moral courage to act on their constitutional oath, I fear for the survival of our country." LaRouche also assailed Congressional Republicans for their own failure to directly tackle the Cheney issue, choosing instead to focus on lesser measures aimed at "containing" the Bush Presidency for the next 20 months.

Vermont Resolution Blocked

On April 25, under pressure from the National Democratic leadership, the Democrat-dominated Vermont State House voted down, 87-60, a resolution to impeach both Cheney and Bush, despite the presence of hundreds of impeachment supporters in the House chamber, and the Senate's previous passage of the resolution. Had the House voted up the same impeachment resolution which the Vermont Senate passed 16-9 on April 20, the U.S. House of Representatives would have been obliged to take up impeachment, under the rules of its Jefferson Manual on House procedures.

The Vermont Senate had transmitted its resolution moments after it passed, to the state's Congressional delegation,

Sens. Patrick Leahy (D) and Bernard Sanders (I), and Rep. Peter Welch (D). These three responded to the Vermont Senate's resolution by releasing a statement, saying that they shared the anger of many of the state's residents at Bush and Cheney, but wanted to give time for several Congressional investigations to run their course.

Their Vermont constituents had also passed impeachment resolutions in 40 towns, and at the Vermont Democratic Party's state convention in March.

Candidates Fail the Test

After the April 26 MSNBC-sponsored debate between eight of the declared Democratic Party candidates for the Presidential nomination, Lyndon LaRouche stated that "seven of the eight flunked the Cheney Test." He was referring to an exchange between MSNBC moderator Brian Williams and the eight candidates, as reported in the Federal News Service transcript of the debate:

"Williams: Another show of hands: Is anyone on stage willing to enter into Congressman Kucinich's effort to im-

peach Vice President Cheney? (No hands raised.) That being the response, Congressman, and perhaps it's an appropriate question: Is this a proper use of public Congressional time and energy?

"Rep Kucinich: This is a pocket copy of the Constitution, which I carry with me, because I took an oath to defend the Constitution. We've spent a lot of time talking about Iraq here tonight and America's role in the world. This country was taken into war based on lies. This country was taken into war based on lies about weapons of mass destruction and al-Qaeda's role with respect to Iraq, which there wasn't one at the time we went in.

"I want to state that Mr. Cheney must be held accountable. He is already ginning up a cause for war against Iran. Now, we have to stand for this Constitution, we have to protect and defend this Constitution. And this Vice President has violated this Constitution. . . ."

The Articles of Impeachment and related documents are at: <http://kucinich.house.gov/SpotlightIssues/documents.html>