

A Beacon of Hope

On Sept. 15, there will be convened in Germany a Schiller Institute conference which represents a potential beacon of hope for billions of inhabitants of this planet. Hundreds of people from Europe, Eurasia, the United States, Ibero-America, and Africa will come together to discuss the present crash of the international monetary-financial system, and at the same time, the measures for economic recovery worldwide.

One of these measures, which has been the focus of attention by the international LaRouche movement for decades, is the extension of the Eurasian Land-Bridge across the Bering Strait, from Siberia to Alaska, which would unite three continents: Eurasia, the Americas, and Europe. We could easily extend development corridors, preferably with magnetically levitated rail connections, down into Southwest Asia, and also directly into Africa.

As Lyndon LaRouche has explained, such a development would mean a profound geopolitical change in this planet. It would mean that no longer would nations have to depend on slow shipping, or expensive, and inefficient economically, air transport. We would be able to move not only people but freight, efficiently, by modern systems at up to 300 miles per hour, to anywhere in the world. Whole areas of the world, particularly the interior of continents which are less developed, but contain potential natural resources of value, would be accessible to humanity in an efficient way. This would mean a revolution in the economy of the world.

Yet, standing between us and this bright future, is the biggest financial-monetary crisis in modern history. To be able to seize the greatest opportunity for physical development of the world economy in centuries, we must take emergency measures, *in September*, to prevent the blowout of the U.S. economy. The first and foremost of those measures is the Homeowners and Bank Protection Act of 2007 (HBPA), as laid out conceptually by LaRouche at the end of August.

The HBPA, LaRouche has stressed, is not just an effort to keep mortgage-holders in their homes. It is *the* essential firewall to prevent the spillover of the financial crisis into the physical economy, and to pro-

tect the local banking institutions which will be required for social stability, and rebuilding the economy, while the hundreds of trillions of dollars in speculative assets simply disappear.

LaRouche's HBPA would ensure that no householder would be thrown out of his or her home, because of foreclosure on a mortgage. It would also protect the chartered banks, under Federal law, or those which are registered as state banks, under state law. This would not solve the financial crisis, but it would prevent the breakdown crisis of the United States, and potentially Europe—which is now pivoting on the effects of the mortgage bubble. And stopping the breakdown would give us the chance to launch a recovery program, with the same spirit that President Franklin Delano Roosevelt organized the U.S. recovery from the Depression of 1929-33.

It is this same FDR approach that would permit the United States to join with other major powers, such as Russia, China, and India, to create a new monetary system, and to embark on joint collaboration for massive, long-term, low-interest infrastructure projects. Which brings us back to the subject of the German conference on the Eurasian Land-Bridge program.

Can the U.S. shift in policy be carried out *in time* to prevent otherwise certain disaster? This is a question primarily for citizens in the states and cities of the United States, who have to use their clout with their Congressmen, to get them to move. At present, the global hedge funds, which have sucked the funds out of the banking and mortgage system, and thus created the problem, are counting on keeping Congress under control, through their campaign contributions, and otherwise. But the only thing which elected officials fear more than their moneybags, is their local constituencies, on whom they depend for bringing out the vote—and who can also throw them out on their ears.

After decades of pessimism and disaster, the American population is hungry for a vision of hope, based on economic growth and prosperity. Force passage of the HBPA, and that vision can become a reality.