

Leo Cherne preaches global perestroika

by William Jones

As “old soldiers never die,” but “just fade away,” so aging Leo Cherne, collaborator of former Bukharinite Communist Party leader Jay Lovestone, although getting up in years, still maintains his old zing—and old loyalties to the Anglo-Soviet Trust agents he brought into the U.S. intelligence community.

Leo Cherne is the vice chairman of the President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, and intelligence sources report that he has used that position to prevent any official comprehension of the Anglo-Soviet Trust. Instead, as documents released under the Freedom of Information Act also show, he has used his post to open an FBI witchhunt against Moscow’s avowed enemies, such as Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., the founding editor of *EIR*.

Cherne has been an adviser to Presidents for 40 years, since he was swept into an administrative post during the Roosevelt administration. Where Cherne once took a courageous stand to mobilize the U.S. economy for World War II, after that war, he admits that he sold out the returning GIs and their dream of an American Century to endorse a plan for Mussolini-style corporatism of the sort advocated by Wall Street spokesman Bernard Baruch. Cherne explains privately that Baruch and his associates were just too powerful for anyone, including the GIs who had defeated Hitler, to beat.

Perhaps it is the same propitiation of powerful forces within the eastern Establishment that explains Cherne’s recent David Abshire Lecture at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, which he gave in Washington on Nov. 14. The title of Cherne’s lecture was revealing enough: “Global Perestroika.”

We have come to a period, Cherne explained, in which “something has occurred which has had an irreversible effect in changing the nature of the world.” Like Lenin’s proverbial “useful fools” among the capitalist elite, who extolled the 1920s New Economic Policy as a counterrevolution against communism, so Cherne compared “global perestroika” with the invention of the printing press. “Much of the civilized world will be wrestling with its consequences” for some time to come.

Cherne said that this global restructuring was to a large extent effected by the Gorbachov era in the Soviet Union, although Gorbachov “was pitched into perestroika,” rather than being its author. Another element of this “restructuring” is the emergence of Japan and the nations of the Pacific Rim

as major competitors of the United States, with the U.S. financial system now totally dependent on the inflow of foreign capital. This was due to the “global financial revolution” brought about by the “information age” and the “computer revolution.”

If the United States is not to be totally overwhelmed by the “irreversible changes” of this restructuring, it were essential, according to Cherne, “that the United States restore confidence in its ability to meet its financial commitments.”

The problem with the U.S. election debates was that they did not “create a public understanding of the real problems facing the nation.” The United States must develop the willingness to “endure and pay for our structures.” This would require an understanding by the public of the sacrifices they will have to bear during a period characterized by an “increasingly blood-thirsty competitiveness.”

“Hardness and pain and suffering will characterize our restructuring,” said Cherne.

Later, when asked if he was proposing slashing entitlements, he said, “Don’t touch the entitlements, but eliminate the cost-of-living escalator.” Social Security payments would be eaten away by inflation in a period which Cherne characterized as one of “painful transition.”

Forget SDI, forget NATO

Defense spending would also have to bear some of the suffering, stressed Cherne in private comments after the lecture. “There will be drastic cuts in defense. SDI will be out,” he said confidently—again displaying the “useful fool.”

Cherne, who has also called for U.S. troop withdrawals from Western Europe, again said he saw little hope of maintaining a strong NATO alliance. Although NATO will not be so important militarily in the future, it would still play an important role “politically.”

Not that Cherne was especially optimistic about the possibilities of Gorbachov succeeding. “Gorbachov will not master the situation in the U.S.S.R. His country’s culture may prove a greater obstacle than the bureaucracy.”

Nevertheless, the United States would “have a better chance if he does make it than if he fails in the process.” Cherne said that he would like to help Gorbachov achieve better relations with the Bush administration in order to set up negotiations between the two which would “lay out the rules of this period.”

Cherne disciple David Abshire expressed the hope that the Bush administration would have the benefit of such a “man of ideas” in deliberating policy.

With his track record of helping the Bukharinite Trust networks of Lovestone riddle the U.S. intelligence community with moles during the days of the Office of Strategic Services, and his self-abasing fear of the power of the Establishment, if the Bush administration wants to repair the damage done to the Western alliance by the Gorbachov’s *maskirovka* (disinformation), it would do well to give the aging Cherne a long-overdue retirement.