
Conference Report

LaRouche throws out challenge to Americans to save their nation

by Nancy Spannaus

Over the course of the Presidents' Day weekend, Feb. 19-21, approximately 700 political activists from around the United States, joined by a number of international guests, assembled in Reston, Virginia, at the semi-annual conference of the Schiller Institute and International Caucus of Labor Committees, to hear the challenge presented by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. and leaders of his political-philosophical movement: Americans must stop being fools now, or face total disaster.

The keynote presentation came from Mr. LaRouche, the third candidate in the race for the Democratic Presidential nomination. The problems we face in the economy, and strategically, derive from the fact that Americans are acting like fools, Mr. LaRouche said, and therefore we must get them to change on a fundamental level. "If you're going to do what we have to do, you're going to have to make the fundamental issue of politics, once again, the definition and knowledge of the difference between man and an animal."

In elaborating on how to deal with issue, both in his keynote, and in the extensive periods of discussion with the audience. Mr. LaRouche focussed on the principles of Classical thinking in art and science, which depend upon the mind grasping the truth of an idea through cognition. While the bulk of the conference was dedicated to showing what would happen if such principles were *not* taken up, a panel discussion and performance of Beethoven's Mass in C, plus beautiful artistic presentations by internationally renowned baritone William Warfield, and young soprano Katherine Mungur, provided a counterpoint of the kind of Classical beauty today's population so desperately needs.

The entirety of the conference proceedings were made available on Mr. LaRouche's campaign website—thus making the conference available internationally, and multiplying its immediate impact.

Where is the U.S. heading?

Mr. LaRouche's keynote, which is available in video and in print on www.larouchecampaign.org, featured history, economics, and the philosophy of human knowledge, in such density as to make it virtually impossible to summarize. The statesman reviewed the history of the United States, with

special emphasis upon how Franklin Delano Roosevelt was able to cut through what had been the immoral folly of Americans of the 1920s Flapper era, and mobilize the forgotten men and women of the time behind his program.

This, said Mr. LaRouche, is what we need to do again. It was Roosevelt, he said, "who brought back to the United States the principle on which it had been founded, a principle enshrined in the Preamble of the Constitution: the General Welfare.

"The only legitimate basis and authority for government, is a commitment of government to efficiently promote the general welfare for all its people, and for all their posterity. And Roosevelt, with whatever imperfections he showed, and with whatever limitations confined him, nonetheless restored this nation, saved it, carried it through a war, and gave us the foundations for every success we had in rebuilding this economy and this nation from the pit during the 1930s and afterward, into the middle of the 1960s, until we began to go thoroughly crazy and immoral again, probably worse than we have been at any time in this century, which we have continued to the present.

"We are now the most immoral, the most degenerate United States we've been in our entire history. And that has been the increasing trend of the past 30 years, especially the past quarter-century.

"We're now again, because of the foolishness—not simply because of Wall Street. . . . We're a degenerate people, and have become more so. And because we have become degenerate, this went on. We didn't change it. *We voted for the fools who took us, step by step, beginning with Carter, for example, step by step, down the road toward hell.* We voted for them. The majority of Americans who voted, voted for them, because they were supposed to be 'front-runners,' whatever kind of disease that signifies.

"And it is the American people with their foolishness, a people which *by law* has the authority to choose its own government, which chose nothing but bad government, either by voting or by not voting. By voting and not thinking; by not voting, and not thinking. And said: 'This is the way things are going. We have to learn to get along with the way things are

going. We have to go along to get along' . . .

"We have to change the citizens from the way they've been behaving, the way Roosevelt changed the citizens, in 1932-33, with his election campaign for the forgotten man. Roosevelt convinced the American people they had been fools, and they had to stop being fools. They had to vote for the cause of the forgotten man.

"Today, in a similar way, we must induce the American people to stop being the fools they have been too long, and to vote for the fundamental interests, in particular, of the lower 80% of our family-income brackets, the forgotten men and women of the United States today."

Another segment of LaRouche's speech was concentrated on his famous Triple Curve, a schematic diagram of a "typical collapse function," which demonstrates the way in which financial and monetary aggregates are growing at the expense of the physical economy. Toleration for this process, he emphasized, is the result of the fact that the population has turned its back on sanity, and is virtually living like the Roman proletariat, wallowing in degenerate "entertainment." People are dissociated from reality. It will take the equivalent of "a big, wet fish slapped in their face"—the collapse of the financial system—to get people to face reality, LaRouche said.

After quickly reviewing the kinds of measures that will have to be taken—basically, dumping all forms of globalization—Mr. LaRouche went to the fundamental, related questions of the nation-state and the nature of man. What must be reasserted, is man's unique ability to exercise cognition, and each individual must locate his or her identity in his or her cognitive ability, the ability which permits us to change the universe for the better. By abandoning pleasure-seeking, and returning to a culture based on cognition, Mr. LaRouche concluded, we can not only lead mankind away from its current course to extinction, but perhaps end the recurring cycles of threatened doom, and resurrection, which have characterized the history of man.

The threat to the children

In the evening after Mr. LaRouche's speech, John Sigerson presided over a presentation of Beethoven's Mass in C, performed pedagogically by the Schiller Institute Chorus of Leesburg, Virginia. Mr. Sigerson explicated certain critical concepts of Classical music in between performances of sections of the Mass. Such exposure to beauty was actually essential to prepare the audience for the next morning's speech by Helga Zepp-LaRouche.

"America's Children Are in Mortal Danger" was the title of Mrs. LaRouche's report. She began with a strategic overview of the impulse leading toward war confrontation between the West, and Russia and China. Utilizing Caspar Weinberger's scenario book, *The Next War*, in particular, she gave a picture of the way the war-game scenarios are being spun out, and used to guide strategic thinking, to the peril of the entire world.

Then Mrs. LaRouche shifted her attention from the war games to the way in which the very same training technologies are being used to destroy the minds of youth. This is a process that has been deliberately undertaken and implemented in America over at least a 30-year period, she said, with increasingly disastrous results. The philosophical underpinnings are those of John Locke, who asserted that man's mind is a *tabula rasa* which can be shaped through sense perceptions, precisely the way society's gamemasters wish.

Mrs. LaRouche shocked the audience with a series of video clips, to demonstrate how the minds of children are indeed being bombarded with blood and gore horror movies and "point-and-shoot" video games, to the point that they are being effectively deprived of their humanity, and turned into killers. She concluded with a plea, and demand, that this evil be fought with the intensity of a war for survival, survival of our children.

Assault on the nation-state

After an afternoon question period with Mr. LaRouche, the Schiller conference concluded with a panel that depicted the direction in which the world as a whole is headed, if control by the British-centered financial oligarchy, and their U.S. co-thinkers, is not overturned.

EIR Ibero-American Intelligence Director Dennis Small began with a global picture of the assault on the nation-state, documenting how the so-called solutions to the crises of 1997-99 have murdered Indonesia, Russia, and now a host of nations in Ibero-America. He demonstrated the mentality required to revive the nation-state, by use of Plato's dialogue "The Meno."

By far the most gripping speech on this panel was the second, by Linda de Hoyos: "Where Are Our Children? What Are They Doing?" With a series of charts and photos, she presented a horrifying picture of how children are being killed, or worked as slave laborers, or otherwise dehumanized, by the way in which the current economic and political system is working.

The last two presentations, one on the development of a state of the financial bubble, by *EIR*'s banking columnist John Hoefle, and another on the last ten years' deliberate destruction of the nation-state, by *EIR*'s Counterintelligence Editor Jeffrey Steinberg, filled out the picture of the assault on national sovereignty.

As Mr. LaRouche stressed in the final business meeting of the conference, what was presented overall was done according to the principle of Classical tragedy. People saw the horrors of the last decade, 30 years, even century, playing out before their eyes. The question is posed: How could such a result have been avoided? What must be done *now* in order to change course?

It can be said that most organizers of the LaRouche movement left with not only a sense of the challenge, but a sense of optimism as well.