

Editorial

George 'Wrong' Bush's Impending Breakdown

All of the early warning signs of a collective crackup of the Bush-Cheney team are there. After the *New York Times*, on Sept. 16, leaked the existence of a July 2004 National Intelligence Estimate (NIE), revealing that the United States is in big trouble in Iraq, Vice President Cheney banned *Times* reporters from Air Force II. The Veep's public display of anger is a sure sign that he is losing it. Under normal circumstances, Cheney would have responded to such a leak by sacking his national security team on the unfortunate reporter, rather than getting into a pissing contest with the Eastern Establishment's "newspaper of record." Just ask Ambassador Joe Wilson and his wife, Valerie Plame.

President Bush, true to form, in response to the same *Times* story, merely announced that he would ignore the intelligence community's warnings, and would continue with his disastrous Iraq policy—as if the world were reduced to campaign trail sound bytes, and reality were irrelevant. In fact, the President announced that he had formally rejected the National Intelligence Council—the intelligence community's collective brain-trust—assessments that the U.S. is being overwhelmed by the insurgency in Iraq.

Perhaps Karl Rove ought to consider unfurling a new campaign banner for the Bush-Cheney duo: "Whom the gods would destroy, they first make mad."

One of the underlying causes of the Bush-Cheney frazzled reactions is the shakeup in the Kerry-Edwards campaign since the beginning of September. Bob "0-7" Shrum, the confessed bosom-buddy of California's muscle-bound Governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, has been unceremoniously moved to the sidelines, and the Bill Clinton "Comeback Kid" team of 1992 War Room fame, has been moved in. And none too soon.

Lyndon LaRouche noted, in a Sept. 16 radio interview in Philadelphia, with some satisfaction, that John Kerry's Sept. 15 speech at the Economic Club in Detroit, Michigan represented a turning point in the Kerry campaign. Kerry was accompanied to the Detroit appearance by former Clinton Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, a qualified economist who makes no secret of the fact that he sees the world financial system headed for a crack-up—soon. Kerry took on the fundamental issue that

LaRouche has personally been hammering at since he launched his own campaign for the Democratic nomination. In the words of James Carville: "It's the economy, stupid." Or, in LaRouche's more scientifically precise lingo, "It's the physical economy, stupid." The day after his Detroit appearance, Senator Kerry spoke before a National Guard audience and blasted the Bush Administration for its lies about Iraq. Citing the just-revealed NIE, Kerry finally went for the jugular against the Administration, vowing that, as President, he would never ignore the findings of his intelligence community, and would never lie to the American people about something as serious as the worsening crisis in Iraq.

Forty-eight hours on the campaign trail does not a comeback make, particularly after Kerry's Shrum-bum performance during the "lost month" of August. But the shift to the offensive, on the essential issues of war and peace, and the onrushing Depression, are good signs of a building momentum.

Kerry must follow LaRouche's prescription, and shift the agenda of the campaign, away from the Rove-set tableau of single-issues and buzzwords. Take on President Bush in the two scheduled debates, on the issue that G.W. cannot handle: the collapsing standard of living for the vast majority of the lower 80% income brackets. Remove Bush's "blue blanket," his fabled teleprompter, and he will have the psychological meltdown that his handlers have feared from the day of his inauguration. George "Wrong" Bush cannot handle real politics, especially the politics of an economic crash that he is totally incapable of grasping and acting on.

Because the American electorate has been terrorized by the constant barrage of 9/11 propaganda emanating from the Bush-Cheney campaign, they have to be shocked back to reality—the reality that the President of the United States is just one reality-check away from a padded cell. For the good of the country, for the good of the world, John Kerry must use the remaining six weeks of his campaign to draw out George Bush's demons, and let them stand exposed before the voters. And the best way to do that is for Senator Kerry to tell the hard truth about the economy and the worse-than-Vietnam disaster that Bush-Cheney perpetrated in Iraq.