

Editorial

It's the Economy, Stupid!

There was no more telling indication that President George W. Bush is not in the real world, than his comment at his Nov. 8 press conference, that he didn't understand why the "great economy" did not result in a Republican electoral victory. It's no wonder that our loopy President doesn't get it. The question is: Do the Democrats? Do they realize that we stand on the edge of financial disintegration that will take the entire world into hell on Earth, or do they believe in the fairy godmother called the stock market?

Now that the Democrats have taken the majority in both Houses of Congress, there can be no more stonewalling by the Democratic leadership on the question of reviving the U.S., and world, economy with FDR-style measures. Impeachment is definitely a first item of business, but it must go hand-in-hand with reversing the Administration's disastrous policy of free trade, which has let the productive core of U.S. industry, and its infrastructure, disintegrate into collapse.

How the question of economic policy is going to be addressed by the Democrats can already be foretold in broad strokes. There is going to be an all-out brawl between two factions: On the one side will be the spokesmen for Felix Rohatyn, who has already positioned himself as the "reformer"; on the other will be supporters of the LaRouche approach, for bankruptcy reorganization and government intervention to put the nation to work building up our vital transport, power, and water infrastructure. Which side wins, will determine whether the U.S. economy survives.

It is in this context that political activists must now begin to more seriously pay attention to LaRouche's leadership, starting with his post-election webcast on Nov. 16. LaRouche has already broadly circulated a legislative plan for a recovery of the U.S. economy, named the "U.S. Economic Recovery Act of 2006." There, in the context of the discussion of the ripping-apart of the U.S. auto industry, LaRouche proposes the following first steps:

1. Identify the immediately threatened productive facilities, and the manpower that is either still there, or recently associated with production there.

2. Divide the principal body of operatives associated with the plants, into two major categories: those associated with production of the product issued from those

premises, and those associated with machine-tool design capacity.

3. Identify the most crucial national infrastructure projects which are required in order to increase the net income of the nation per capita and per square kilometer, faster than the rate of annual amortization of the investment.

4. Move to create a Federal Public Corporation, by Act of Congress, to adopt elements of the automotive industry which can be retooled, and put to work, rebuilding the nation's economy.

It's not surprising that the Rohatyn types, and their comrades on the Republican side, are prepared to fight to the death to prevent a program such as that put forward by LaRouche. Rohatyn, like George Shultz, represents a brand of synarchist banker which is determined to maintain control over governments, and populations, for the benefit of their own power. Global cartels, cheap (slave) labor, and privately controlled infrastructure are all hallmarks of this system. They are even willing to flirt with "soaking the rich" in order to achieve their objectives, as long as the *control* lies with the globalized banking establishment.

To fall for the Rohatyn trap, would mean the Democrats marching straight into a new fascist world order, and those who try to promote the FDR-LaRouche model are surely going to come under fire. It was not for nothing that the Rohatyn forces did their best to ensure that the Democrats did not win a smashing landslide on Nov. 7. A landslide would have emboldened the Democrats even more to act on behalf of the general welfare of the people—rather than according to the bankers' bipartisan agenda.

The Democratic victory on Election Day was a precondition for the radical change in policy that must take place in the U.S. government—and the double impeachment of Cheney-Bush will be another. But any person concerned with the future of humanity had better be thinking long and hard about how to put LaRouche's economic reconstruction program on the agenda *now*. This economy is gone—and only a U.S. government dedicated to an FDR approach can create a future fit for our children and grandchildren to thrive.