

Editorial

No Excuses

The Democratic leadership of the Congress has all but abandoned the ship of state for the year 2007. With the minor exception of Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's decision to keep the Senate technically in session over Thanksgiving, in order to prevent recess appointments by President Bush, the Reid-Pelosi team has thrown in the towel. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer has announced that there will be no new legislation pursued before the end of the year; the Senate is, similarly, waiting out the clock.

And what will they say as the U.S. dollar and economy plummet into the abyss, and if Vice President Cheney succeeds in getting his long-advertised war against Iran? Undoubtedly, "It's Bush and Cheney's fault. Elect us in November 2008, and we'll deal with the problem."

Not true. There is absolutely no objective impediment, or excuse, at this moment for the Congress not to take the two decisive measures which would deal effectively with both of these crises:

- First, immediately pass LaRouche's Homeowners and Bank Protection Act, which will freeze the values of mortgages, freeze foreclosures, and start us on the road of rebuilding the economy.
- Second, immediately launch impeachment proceedings against Dick Cheney, as the only chance to prevent a war-without-end against Iran.

Nor is it true that the Democrats could "make it better" if they were to win in the 2008 Presidential elections. As many military spokesmen, alarmed at the imminence of a U.S. assault on Iran, have emphasized, the launching of that new war would create disasters beyond the wildest imagination. The genie of irregular, clash-of-civilizations warfare will not be able to be put back into the bottle.

Listen, for example to the testimony of the witnesses at the Nov. 14 hearing of the House National Security Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. John Tierney (D-Mass.). The question on the table was whether there are any military options for dealing with the threat allegedly posed by Iran's nuclear program. The witnesses included Col. Larry Wilkerson (ret.), former chief of staff to Colin Powell; Col. Sam Gardiner (USAF, ret.);

retired CIA analyst Paul Pillar; and Lt. Gen. Paul Van Riper (USMC, ret.). The four witnesses agreed: If the United States launched military strikes on Iran, the result would be a strategic blunder much worse than the U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq.

Wilkerson said the result would be "disastrous," and argued that such strikes would spur the Iranians to accelerate their nuclear program, and would solidify the population behind the government. The United States, he said, "would reinforce strategic failure." Gardiner went through what the potential major military targets are in Iran, and concluded that in every case, the effectiveness of air strikes would be limited, but would put the U.S.A. on the road to a war *it could not end*.

In discussion with *EIR* before the hearing started, Wilkerson too emphasized that once such a war starts, there's no way out.

Pillar warned the panel that "Iranians would consider any action aimed at crippling Iranian nuclear capabilities as an act of war," and that the most likely Iranian response would be in the realm of asymmetric warfare. General Van Riper argued that the present leadership of the Bush Administration has no comprehensive understanding of the complexities of international relations, or complexity of consequences that can occur when military force is used.

This may be technical, even somewhat bureaucratic language, but the meaning is clear: A war against Iran will plunge the Earth into Hell.

Also, the physical economic devastation that will result from an unchecked financial devolution, already in process, will rival that of perpetual irregular warfare—perhaps best called World War III. True, the world has become inured to the mass deaths from starvation and disease which already characterize the shortening lifespans of much of the populations of Africa, Asia, and South and Central America. But this too, is just the beginning of the bestiality and chaos which can be expected to sweep the entire world, if all protections for the sovereignty of the nation-state collapse.

But *these horrors can be stopped*, if the actions outlined above are taken. The Congress has no excuse for not acting, and neither do you.