
National News

The 'Big Three' Are Now Too Little and Too Late

In a small, three-years-delayed echo of economist Lyndon LaRouche's big idea of 2005 for saving the U.S. auto/machine tool industry, the "Big Three" automakers have now decided they need Federal credits to "re-tool." According to the *Detroit Free Press* Aug. 5, Ford, GM, and Chrysler CEOs have been lobbying the Michigan Congressional delegation to start the ball rolling, for \$40 billion in "retooling" credits.

There is a tragic irony in this proposal from Detroit—coming, as it does, after the loss of 200,000 jobs in those three years. Throughout a two-year Congressional mobilization by LaRouche PAC, for LaRouche's Economic Recovery Act, to give auto that new mission, supported by hundreds of local United Auto Workers leaders and organizers, the CEOs told Congressional leaders they didn't need, or want, Federal credits, loans, or "bailouts." They helped fascist banker Felix Rohatyn and his allies in the Democratic Party, to kill LaRouche's proposal.

The automakers' proposal now is a bad parody of LaRouche's policy. They want to retool their U.S. plants to produce the small cars they now produce in plants, and to build electric cars. But primarily, they want Federal credit to save them from the insolvency they have richly earned. The three CEOs acknowledge they're not going to be able, with their junk credit ratings and collapsed auto-lease income, to borrow what they need to survive in the "capital markets."

Obama Calls for 15% Cut in Electricity Use

In his Aug. 4 speech on "energy" at Michigan State University, Democratic Presidential candidate-presumptuous Barack Obama touted Enron-plagued California as his model for a huge cut in electricity use in United States. In that speech, in which Obama also proposed \$4 billion in retooling credits for the auto industry to produce small and elec-

tric cars, he called for a drastic 15% cut in U.S. electricity use, on the California model:

"Finally, the third step I'll take is to call on businesses, government, and the American people to meet the goal of reducing our demand for electricity 15% by the end of the next decade.... The state of California has implemented such a successful efficiency strategy that while electricity consumption grew 60% in this country over the last three decades, it didn't grow at all in California. Think about that. The country as a whole, 60% more electricity usage over the last 30 years. In California, no change...."

California's electricity consumption per capita actually grew about 20% from 1975 to 2000, which is not much. But note that since 1999, California's *cost per kilowatt-hour* has been 50-60% above the national average, which has pushed consumption per capita back down nearly to the 1980 level: That's how Obama's "model" was "achieved."

'The One' Lies About His Big-Money Backers

Despite his claims to be independent of the influence of big money, Barack Obama is more dependent on big money than either John McCain or Hillary Clinton. A feature in the Aug. 6 *New York Times* and *International Herald Tribune* reported that one-third of Obama's contributions are in the amount of \$1,000 or more; there are 500 Obama "bundlers" who have each collected \$50,000 or more for Obama's campaign; almost three dozen have raised more than \$500,000 each, and more than half a dozen have exceeded \$1 million.

The *Times*, noted that he is raising big money at a pace almost equal to George W. Bush's "Pioneers" and "Rangers" in the 2004 campaign.

Two-thirds of Obama's bundlers are concentrated in four major "industries": law, securities and investments, real estate, and entertainment. Lawyers are the largest group; after that, at least 100 Obama bundlers are top executives or brokers from investment businesses: nearly two dozen work

for financial powerhouses such as Lehman Brothers, Goldman Sachs, or Citigroup. About 40 others come from real estate. As *EIR* has reported, in December, Obama went to George Soros's New York office to court a roomful of high-powered Democratic fund-raisers.

Fights Expands To Open Democratic Convention

Organizations that have sprung up across the country in defiance of the strongarm tactics that have been used to sideline Hillary Clinton's bid for the Democratic nomination are gearing up for the final push to ensure that the Democratic National Convention, starting Aug. 25 in Denver, is an open convention.

The fight takes on ever greater importance as Barack Obama's willingness to do whatever Wall Street and the City of London demand becomes increasingly blatant, the rock star aura of "The One" fades, and he tanks in the polls in a matchup with John McCain.

Obama has now called for the full delegations of Florida and Michigan to be seated at the convention, instead of the rules committee's decision two months ago, to seat only a portion of them, as punishment for holding their primaries early. The Denver Group, which is calling for an open convention, placed ads in newspapers in the two state capitals headlined, "Why Howard Dean Should Place Senator Clinton's Name in Nomination." The ads point out that "super delegate declarations made before Aug. 27 count for absolutely nothing," and "according to the Democratic Party's own rules they do not now have an official nominee since neither candidate won enough pledged delegates to secure the nomination." The ad then calls on Dean himself to place Clinton's name in nomination.

On Aug. 7, a week-old exchange between Clinton and a supporter began getting press attention. In it, Clinton said, "I happen to believe that we will come out stronger if people feel that their voices were heard and their views were respected."