

“The bailout could cost \$24 trillion, so there have to be austerity cuts, to reduce the Federal deficit,” the source revealed. “Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner and White House chief economic advisor Larry Summers have both promised the Chinese, and other major holders of

U.S. government debt, that there will be massive cuts, to reduce the deficit. Unless they get their independent panel, to impose severe cuts in health-care services and payments, they won’t succeed.

“This is what the President believes, for now. Health

## Members of Congress Say ‘No’ to IMAC

*The following letter, addressed to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and issued at the end of July, was initiated by Rep. Richard E. Neal (D-Mass.), and is being circulated for signatures. Reports are that 75 Members of Congress, from both parties, have added their names as of Aug. 13. The letter is also being circulated by other institutions, including the Illinois Hospital Association.*

Dear Madam Speaker:

We, the undersigned members of Congress, write to voice our strong opposition to the “Independent Medicare Advisory Council (IMAC) Act of 2009” and the “Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) Reform Act of 2009” (H.R. 2718, S. 1110, S. 1380), and the inclusion of any of any of these proposals in the “America’s Affordable Health Choices Act” (H.R. 3200), or any other legislation.

The role that Congress has traditionally played in crafting the Medicare program to provide the best policies for beneficiaries is one that has had a significant impact in our communities. Through the legislative process, Members are able to represent the needs of their communities by improving benefits for seniors and the disabled, affecting policies that fill the health care workforce pipelines, and ensuring that hospitals are equipped to care for diverse populations across our individual districts. Such a responsibility is one that is not taken, nor should be given away, lightly.

These proposals would eliminate the current advisory role of MedPAC and severely limit Congressional oversight of the Medicare program. By placing this authority within the executive branch, with no Congressional oversight or judicial review, the legislation eliminates the transparency of Congressional hearings and debate. Without the open and transparent legislative process, Medicare beneficia-

ries and the range of providers who care for them would be greatly limited in their ability to help develop and implement new policies that improve the health care of our nation’s seniors.

The creation of this commission would also eliminate state and community input into the Medicare program, removing the ability to develop and implement policies expressly applicable to their different patient populations. These national policies that would flow from such a commission would ignore the significant differences and health care needs of states and communities. Geographic and demographic variances that exist in our nation’s health care system and patient populations would be dangerously disregarded. Furthermore, all providers in all states would be required to comply even if these policies were detrimental to the patients they serve. Such a commission could not only threaten the ability of Medicare beneficiaries, but of all Americans, to access the care they need.

These legislative proposals would also limit Congress’s ability to work with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to create and implement demonstration and pilot projects designed to evaluate new and advanced policies such as at home care for the elderly, the patient-centered medical home, new less invasive surgical procedures, and collaborative efforts between hospitals and physicians, and programs designed to eliminate fraud and abuse. Additionally, these proposals eliminate Members’ ability to represent the needs of their own districts and states by addressing issues such as current and future provider workforce needs, the classification of hospitals that may qualify as critical access or rural hospitals, and obtaining critical health care services such as home health, ambulances, trauma centers, and nursing homes.

We urge you to reject the inclusion of these proposals or any like proposal in H.R. 3200 or any other legislation.

Sincerely,  
Richard E. Neal

care is just one part of the overall austerity scheme they are trying to pull off.”

These austerity schemes are doomed to fail, and that poses the next big question for Obama’s ultimate controllers in London: When do they decide that the President is beyond salvation, and what do they do then? For the moment, they are reeling from a serious defeat on a major battlefield, a defeat that they identify with the name “LaRouche.”

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## Documentation

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# Mass Strike Explosion At Town Hall Meetings

Aug. 14—“Your government has lost the faith and trust of the American people,” someone shouted out at the Aug. 12 town hall meeting in Hagerstown, Md., giving voice to the sentiment of most of those in the huge crowd, who cheered loudly, as Sen. Ben Cardin winced. This scene is one that has been repeated dozens of times across the country, while the LaRouche political movement’s interventions (with the now-famous poster of Obama sporting a Hitler mustache) and literature distributions have provided leadership for the mass strike that has erupted against President Obama’s Nazi health-care plan.

Despite attempts by the White House and Obama Democrats to portray the nationwide outpouring of disgust and rage against both the President and Congress, as “orchestrated” by a far-right-wing cabal, the protests are genuine, if inchoate, as millions of Americans lose their jobs, and homes, and face a future with draconian cuts in medical care.

When Senate Democratic Whip Dick Durbin tried to push the line that the town hall protesters were being orchestrated and instructed by shadowy outside forces, in an appearance on CNN’s “State of the Union” Aug. 6, host John King interrupted him: “Let me ask you something—let me interrupt, Senator. Is there anything wrong with that? This country was founded on a whole series of events, including the Boston Tea Party in my hometown, where people were organized and instructed, and they were instructed to go somewhere and raise hell. Is there anything wrong with that?”

The vignettes that follow, demonstrate that what we’re seeing is a popular revolt, in which people of all political persuasions feel threatened by their government, and are pouring out their frustration and rage, but, at the same time, are looking for sane leadership.

## Town Meetings Across the Country

Here are reports from some of the town meetings held over the Aug. 8-9 weekend, where Americans were raising Hell:

- Rep. Mike Burgess’s (R) town hall meeting in Denton, Tex., was packed with 500 people. As seen on YouTube: A woman shouts at Burgess, “I can’t believe you voted on something you hadn’t read! That’s an outrage! You are threatening my two young daughters by doing that!”

“You’re right,” replied Burgess, “and your outrage is justified.”

Next, a 40-year-old man, with his 8-year-old son, spoke: “We are having our future taken away from us... What political activity is equivalent to standing in front of a tank in Tiananmen Square? Why can’t we get our representatives to do that? The people in Iran are not going through the system to change things. You guys must find some way to stop this—I mean, put your political career out there... Tell the Democrats there will be people marching to their front door if they don’t listen.”

Burgess responded, “My [GOP] leadership does not appreciate the emotion you’ve just showed. . . .”

Another woman stood, and, very worked up, presented a pages-long “Letter to Our Leaders,” saying: “I get angrier every day. They are passing bills in the middle of the night. What do we do—vote every single person out of office? The Republicans have left us; the Democrats have left us; what do we do?”

- Rep. Rick Larsen (D) held a town hall meeting in Skagit, Wash., in a room holding 150 people. About 500 more sat on the lawn outside, listening to loudspeakers. The two-minute YouTube segment shows signs, including those of LaRouche PAC; the narrator says, “The Lyndon LaRouche PAC brought Obama as Hitler signs [showing Obama with a Hitler mustache]. They were also passing out pictures of the two world leaders chumming it up [the cover of the LPAC pamphlet, “Act Now to Stop Obama’s Nazi Health Plan”]. Larsen angered constituents when he said he did not support the single-payer plan.

LPAC organizers reported that, without fail, when