

'A Republic, if You Can Keep It'

Benjamin Franklin's most famous quote should be ringing in the ears of patriotic Americans today. Asked by a woman after the Constitutional Convention, what had been wrought there, he said, "We've given you a republic, if you can keep it."

Today, we know that we are in grave danger of losing that republic. We see a leadership of the Republican Party that can only be described as fascist. The same with the Democratic Party leadership in the main, with President Barack Obama at the head of the pack. And those Congressmen who are not in cahoots with these fascists, are effectively morally dead—they seem to be just sitting there, enmired in cowardice, waiting for the whole process to come to an end.

Yet, the global reality of the mass-strike process, which is bringing millions of people out into the streets around the world, including the United States, tells us that the power, and the passion, for restoring our republic is not only there; it's in full swing. An increasing mass of people is prepared to fight to rid themselves of a ruling stratum that is bringing them, and their posterity, into the depths of destruction.

But this mass of people has a serious problem. While it clearly has the potential to take power, it also lacks the ideas with which to *hold on* to power, for the good.

To hold on to power, the mass-strike movement needs the understanding of economics, of principle, that is only available in the movement led by Lyndon LaRouche.

History is littered with failed mass movements, which lacked the principled ideas required for lifting up the people, and uniting them around a positive mission for their nations. Prototypical was the French Revolution, which began under the inspi-

ration of the American Revolution, but which became a hideous process of one dictatorship, overthrown by the next—and ending up with the fascist Emperor Napoleon, whose legacy has never been fully overcome.

What was the difference between those two revolutions? True, there was a difference in history, especially evident in the role that the tradition of the Massachusetts Bay Colony played in shaping the leadership of the American Revolution. Despite great leaders in the past, from Charlemagne to Louis XI and Colbert, France had no such republican tradition, in depth. Equally important was the fact that the Americans were at a relatively "safe" distance from the ruling oligarchy, and had, in several of the colonies, already a strong tradition of citizen literacy and intellectual aspiration.

Fundamentally, however, the decisive factor in determining the radically different outcomes, was the character of leadership. France's leadership *failed* its people, in not sticking to the principles of republicanism, thus leaving the field to the British agents and oligarchs who played the sentiments of a "mob," rather than a populace determined to act for the future.

Who will take leadership of the spontaneous mass strike movement of today? Will they have the ideas necessary to move mankind forward, to hold on to power, for the good?

That is the question to which the LaRouche movement, especially the LaRouche Political Action Committee's youth movement, is addressing itself today, by elaborating the process of human creativity and universal physical principles, as applied to lifting up mankind to his proper role as co-Creator of the universe. With those ideas, we can keep our republic.