

Sane People Are Looking for Solutions, To Prevent Thermonuclear Armageddon

Mike Robinson, host of “UKColumn Live,” broadcast this video [interview](#) with Lyndon LaRouche on July 27, 2012.

Mike Robinson: Lyn, before we talk about current events, for people that aren’t familiar with your work, could you give us a short introduction, maybe tell us how you got started in political activism? Was there any event in particular that caused you to leave your “day job”? Or was this just a general process from teenage years? How did that come about?

Lyndon LaRouche: I think it might be described as an “itch,” which started in my adolescence, and went on to the end of World War II; and I got into forecasting, and economics in general, and also very much political material, on the unusual side, but I think the more relevant side.

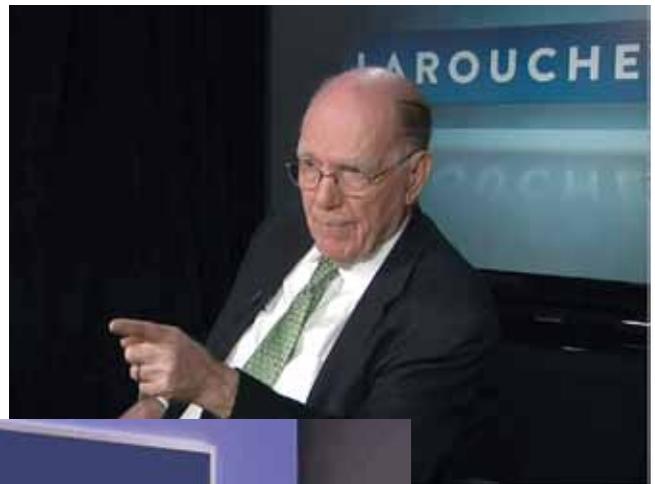
Shift in Britain on Glass-Steagall

Robinson: Okay. In terms of what’s going on today, where do we start? You know, we’re looking at potentially, economic Armageddon, fueled by a collapsing financial system; we’re looking at potentially, a real Armageddon, if what’s happening in Syria escalates much further. How do you see the next few weeks playing out, particularly in the financial system? And what steps do we need to take, in order to solve this insanity in the world?

LaRouche: Well, you have also, currently in the United Kingdom, something that started recently from a number of leading circles; there were quite prominent people who came to decide that this Glass-Steagall approach was absolutely necessary for the economy. And it’s more than just for the economy: It is necessary! As a matter of fact, Europe

will disintegrate without Glass-Steagall, and we don’t want to have that.

So therefore, the question is, what are we going to do about the war threat? And my view is that the only way to deal with the war threat, is not to have one, because we’re getting into a period now, where if major powers come into conflict, through minor powers, we’re going to get a kind of warfare we can’t deal with. And that is deadly. We’re going into a new kind of warfare, which many people don’t realize what it is: If we get a countdown to shooting in the Middle East, with Russia on the one side and others on the other side, this



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*Lyndon LaRouche:
“We must, first of all, stop this collapse of the world economy; we must stop some of this bloody warfare; and we must actually learn to cooperate rather than kill.”*

Host Mike Robinson interviews LaRouche.

thing will go to thermonuclear war, and we must not have that!

So therefore, first of all, you want to stop the thing; and secondly, what is the alternative, that can bring nations together, in new forms of cooperation, to avoid this kind of catastrophe? And actually, Glass-Steagall, as proposed by some people in Britain, is *extremely* important. The fact that we can organize an economic recovery—which can be done; there are some difficulties in doing so, but nonetheless, it can be done—and if we can do that, instead of getting to war, I think we could handle the situation rather nicely.

Robinson: Why do you think this faction in the City of London has suddenly—? You know, these were people who up until quite recently were arguing against Glass-Steagall, actually; why do you think they’ve suddenly come out and begun to argue for it?

LaRouche: Because they’re very intelligent. And they realize that the game they were playing has run out of steam and can not be continued. They know that there’s going to be a disaster, in some quarters in London and so forth; they say, you have to have it, because the alternative is the impossible. Therefore, “We’ll make the sacrifice,” is what they’re saying, effectively, “in terms of some people’s income, which is largely gambling sort of income, and we’ll do that in order to save the whole show.”

And that’s the kind of thing that great people, or people of larger intelligence, will tend to do, when faced with a crisis of this type. When I look at the list of people who are on this team, I recognize what their past is. And I recognize that they have come to a point where they have had differing views and policies in the past, but what’s changed is, they realize that what they were doing before, can no longer work. So they’re going to do it. And they’ve posted to the United States to do it.

And we in the United States *should* be doing it—the sooner the better—and on this Libor crisis, and the sooner we do that, the sooner we can get on with other kinds of cooperation that we have to have, with other nations as well; because we *must*, first of all, stop this collapse of the world economy; we must stop some of this bloody warfare; and we must actually learn to cooperate rather than kill.

What Is a Credit System?

Robinson: I think Glass-Steagall is a good first step, if we can actually get it implemented. But that

alone isn’t going to solve our economic problems. I know that LaRouchePAC has a number of policies, a number of campaigns running, for the United States, at least, which would restart the economy in the U.S. Can you give us an overview of what else is required, other than Glass-Steagall?

LaRouche: What you have is a situation which goes back to the time of the founding of the United States under its Constitution, in which we set up a new kind of a system, as opposed to a monetarist system; an economic system which is based on credit. The idea is, that if you can borrow money, or create value, you can use that to do something which will generate more wealth than you’ve paid in, for this sort of process. Then you can have a growth pattern.

The problem today is, in the trans-Atlantic world, with all this crazy investment in wild money, we’re at a point where we’re in hyperinflation. We’re in a hyperinflation in the trans-Atlantic region, beyond anything known in history today. The reason we’re able to do it, is because of the political power behind that. But what’s going to happen, is that this financial system is going down. And the people in London and so forth who are for Glass-Steagall, have come to an understanding of this, and have also come to an understanding, by proposing cooperation with the United States, that if the United States and the United Kingdom *agree* on this measure, we can both come out of this alive, and this can extend our ability to other parts of the world.

We’ve reached a point, where the weapons of choice are thermonuclear fusion, not to say matter-antimatter, but those are the things on the agenda. The United States, and to some degree the United Kingdom, but less so, is the only nation that has the power to launch a genuine thermonuclear war against, say, Russia and China, and also India. So there’s the danger. And mankind might live, some people might live, through a thermonuclear exchange, but the civilization would not. Because the aftereffects of the blast of thermonuclear weapons, launched under such warfare, would be such that probably the human species would not exist after that, as a result of the consequences of that kind of warfare.

So we’ve got to come to the point where we realize that, yes, we will have conflicts on issues, we will have policy conflicts, but we will manage them, so we do *not* get the danger of thermonuclear fusion as warfare.

Robinson: Okay. You mentioned a creditory



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LaRouchePAC organizing for Glass-Steagall and to dump Tim Geithner, in New York City, July 18, 2012.

system, and I think that this is may be one of the questions that you're asked most often, but it's one of the concepts that people seem to have trouble grasping: Can you expand on what you mean by a creditary system rather than a monetary system?

LaRouche: Well, the idea is, when we talk about money, are we talking about credit, or are we talking about gold or some surrogate for gold? In other words, does value lie in a currency, or does it lie in the productive powers of labor—productive powers meaning *actually* productive, not just the ability to produce something, or do some work?

And therefore, we have, essentially, since the middle of the 1960s in the United States—and it's been pretty much the same throughout the rest of the world—there has been a long-term decline, a real declivity, in the productive powers of labor, in effect, in the world. Now, we have some growth in China, but China's growth is dependent upon the world market. If the world market, the trans-Atlantic region, goes under, China goes under. If the trans-Atlantic region goes under, Russia goes under, and that's not to mention other countries.

So therefore, what we need now, if we clean that up with Glass-Steagall, we're going to find we have a very small amount of monetary emission available to main-

tain the economies. Therefore, we have to go someplace else; not having any real money, or value out there, we're going to have to borrow. And how do we borrow? A *government* creates the responsibility for the selection of *credit*; this credit, if it's used and applied to the purpose of increasing production, then, you have paid for what you borrowed.

So the whole business in this thing, is to find ways of borrowing on credit, by nations. In other words, a nation goes into debt, uttering credit. Now, we must carefully select what we do, to make sure that the credit we use actually will repay itself *in terms of productivity*. And that's what we're up to, in this fuss in the United States today, the fuss against Libor, which is both a United Kingdom and a U.S. problem right now.

Robinson: Yes, well, on Glass-Steagall itself, most people understand that a separation of the investment, speculative arm of banks from the retail arm of banks, a complete separation, rather than this ring-fencing idea of the Vickers Report. And it's interesting to note that the Libor scandal would have actually happened within the ring fence. So the ring fence wouldn't have prevented that kind of activity at all. But, once those banks are separated, are you arguing that the majority of the debt that is therefore outstanding stays with the investment banks, and they can basically fail as much as they like? And nations effectively write off most of the bailout debt that exists?

LaRouche: Yes, essentially. There was a place for these private banks, but the point was, that they were presumed to be on their own responsibility, and therefore, would not gamble recklessly. What we did with the repeal of Glass-Steagall in the United States, was we opened the gates for wild speculation, wild monetarist speculation, with no reason whatsoever. And we now have—all the bubbles in the past, are modest compared to what this bubble is.

Certain people who are powerful politically have



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NAWAPA will bring currently wasted water from Alaska, Yukon, and British Columbia southward to the parched areas of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico.

been able to force the bubble on nations. Now, the point has come, that more and more people of responsibility and influence have recognized that this bubble must go.

The problem is, that when we clean up the bubble, most of the so-called money available, in both categories, is not too valuable. It's bankrupt. So therefore, our problem is that we do not have, in the existing banking systems—the legal part, the clean part—enough credit to accomplish a regrowth of the economy. Therefore, governments must go into debt: *governments*—because only governments are responsible for this kind of problem; governments must go into debt, by making investments or funding investments, *which are actually useful in terms of their physical productivity*, to meet the needs of the population, to meet the needs of nations, the physical needs of nations.

And therefore, we have to go to what was called a credit system, which was used, actually, in two cases in the United States. One was the original Massachusetts Bay Colony, which had a credit system which worked. But then they got crushed, and therefore the credit system went away. This was revived by people like Benjamin Franklin, and then others who followed, in forming the U.S. Federal Constitution. We found that

that the costs of the war were such, that we had no way, with the ordinary money, of keeping the United States functioning, once it had won the war.

So therefore, we recognized that we had to go to a credit system, where the Federal government would go into debt, which it could repay, because it would use the money that it had created, as credit; this would provide for actual physical growth, and therefore, we would have a higher rate of growth than the cost of maintaining the credit uttered for it. That's the principle of the system.

The NAWAPA Plan

We have also one thing in the United States, which we're pushing very much: NAWAPA, the North American Water and Power Alliance, with Canada, the United States, and northern Mexico. We now have tremendous problems in terms of water shortages in the central areas of the United States, and similar kinds of problems. So now, the NAWAPA project involves 4 million jobs, very high-skill jobs at the top, and this system, in North America, would ensure an immediate process of *rapid, accelerating* recovery.

So, if we take these kinds of projects, which are

government-funded projects on credit, if the credit is properly managed, we can develop a recovery of economies. We can extend that to other parts of the world, as well, particularly if we are cooperating.

For example, if we are cooperating with China, which is one of the big export factors, in terms of European production, and India's significant in that way, also, then we can bring these nations into cooperation with us, under suitable agreements, where we can use credit for *physical* improvements in the economy, which will warrant the investment we're making.

It's an option. It's the only real one available right now, and I'm pushing for it all.

Robinson: Just so that people in Britain that aren't familiar understand, is NAWAPA a massive irrigation program, isn't that correct?

LaRouche: It's more than that. It's power, it's everything. In the case of water, it's not just using more water, or getting more water. The problem is, say, in the Western part of the United States, which was usually water-shy, now, we have a situation in a major crop-growing area of the United States, the water table has sunk! It's been drained. A foolish policy was used, of drawing down the water-supply level in the Western Plains and similar areas. Now, we have a non-functional area. We have a food shortage in the United States, which is crucial. There are various factors involved, but the basic thing is, we didn't prepare for this.

What we do, essentially, is we take a certain amount of water, we manage it, all the way from Alaska, down into northern Mexico, we manage that water. We manage it, and actually, to such effect, that we actually *increase* the effective water. Because, going across the entire territory of the United States, from the Pacific to the Atlantic, you have a certain flow of rainfall patterns; if you stabilize the rainfall patterns, you find that you have probably 2.7 times the amount of water you're going to recycle, because water is not used up, it's just recycled; and if you recycle it frequently enough, you can increase your supply.

Originally the system was proposed in 1964, it [the proposal] was fully in place. It never worked because of the war in Indo-China. The thing was just dropped. The proffer still exists. The improvements which we have designed now, are based on thermonuclear power and things of that sort as well. But we have the capability of increasing the actual water available, by recycling of water through this kind of process, that we can now in-

crease the actual ability to grow crops and do other kinds of things, by this kind of management.

This involves the use of, today, nuclear power. We have a nuclear capability in the United States, which is sort of postponed, but it's still there, potentially. This also means that Canada has a great potential. As you know, if you look at the territory, if you look at what's there, and what's not been developed, you have the possibility. It's important to preserve some of these areas, important for the future of mankind. You have a development in the trans-Pacific region now: China and Russia in particular, but other nations as well; Japan is coming on. And so forth. So we have a tremendous growth potential, in which NAWAPA is a crucial element.

We've also indicated that we have a need for restoring industrial production in the areas of the United States where this was traditional. My immediate estimate, is we could start with 4 million jobs in the United States, on NAWAPA. We could get automatically, 2 million jobs in short order, to restore the kinds of high-skill production which we used to have, and which have been in decline recently. That does not mean that we're going to be rich, and happy, and fat, all at once. It *does* mean that we're going onto a growth program, in which we will be able to *pay* for the credit we use, to develop these programs.

And that's the optimistic view. It has to be a realistic one. It's going to be a tough haul, but we can win.

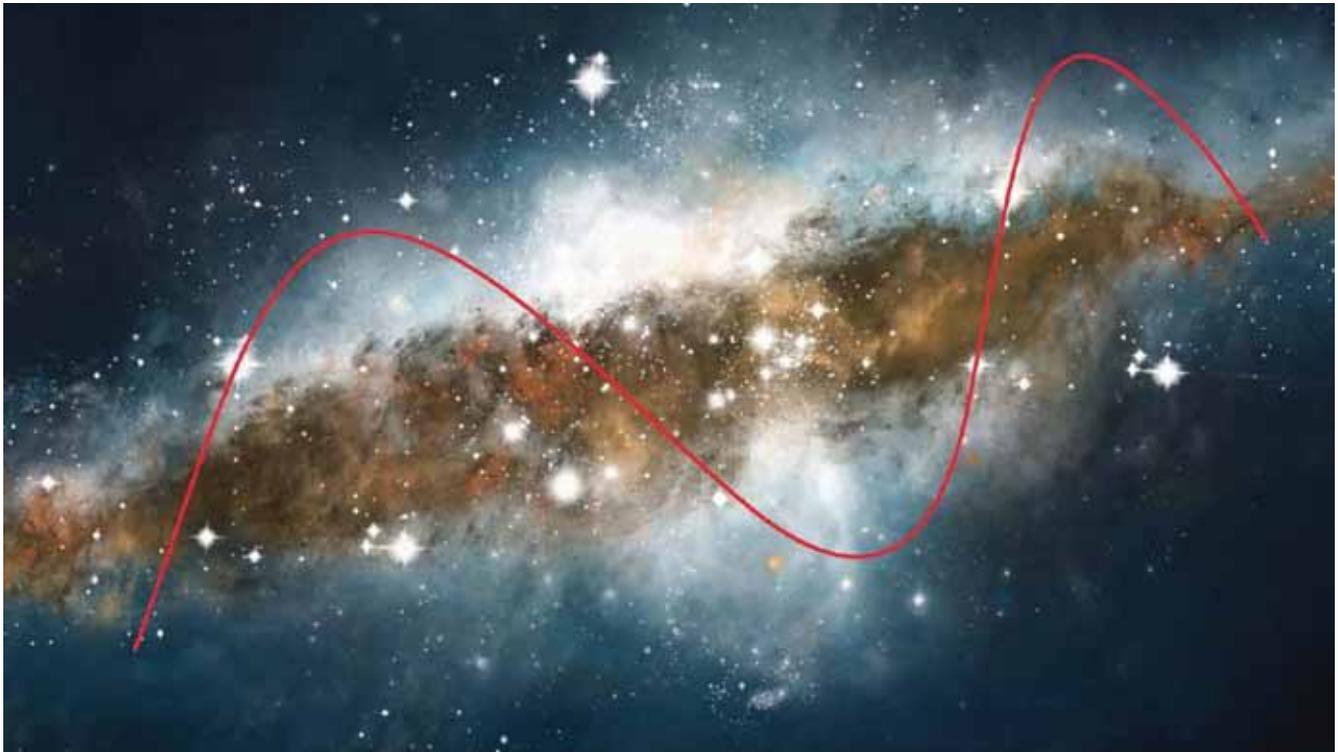
And I think what happened in the United Kingdom on Glass-Steagall, and the announcement that was made from there [Britain], by those figures, is extremely important. Because that increases the feasibility of the kind of recovery program, which the world needs now.

Raise the Energy-Flux Density

Robinson: And of course, looking at NAWAPA—there are similar projects, the PLHINO [North West Hydraulic Plan] in Mexico, and various similar projects; and I see Russia's in a very similar situation, with regard to drought, as the United States, so they must have plenty of opportunity there for developing similar projects.

And so, what you're saying is, we use these types of projects to drive real productive growth in the economy, rather than this monetarist growth nonsense that the news normally discusses?

LaRouche: And, this all involves the space program! We actually have to concern ourselves, because



NASA/LPAC-TV

The red dot shows a representation of our Solar System moving through the galaxy, in an approximately 62-million-year cycle. We're heading for an area, said LaRouche, where the cosmic rays are going to become "a little more ferocious than in ordinary times"—something mankind has to prepare for.

we're going through an area in the galaxy, that is, the Solar System is going through a part of the galaxy which is becoming a little more ferocious than it was in ordinary times. One of those bumps that go around as the Solar System bounces around the circuit out there.

We also have major problems, like how far we will go at putting human beings on Mars. It's questionable. We will probably go there anyway, but the point is that we have to actually develop defenses, and also things which are just positive, which will be operating from the range of the Mars orbit. And these things are necessary for defense of mankind, against the danger of large rocks and similar kinds of things coming in on us in dangerous ways, and also other kinds of problems.

So mankind will actually be using, over the coming generation, much more thermonuclear fusion as a power source, for defense and for other purposes, and beyond that, who knows? But I think mankind has a destiny in managing our Solar System—at least, the inner parts right now, and who knows what, beyond?

Robinson: You've mentioned thermonuclear power a number of times. If you would, explain why nuclear

power and thermonuclear power, and particularly moving toward fusion energy, is something you consider so important. And why we should drop this notion of windmills, for example?

LaRouche: Well, it doesn't work! If you use windmills, you will actually sink the population of the world.

What you need, essentially, is what we call energy-flux density: increase of energy-flux density. You see, mankind is not an animal. To meet mankind's needs, we have to increase the energy-flux density of the power used. We have now just reached the threshold, with nuclear power, which is the transitional phase, going into thermonuclear power. This changes the potential of mankind in dealing with both the Earth and the Solar System, increases the potential by great orders of magnitude.

Mankind, you know, is different from the animals: The animals don't use fire. What makes the difference, is mankind uses fire. *No animal does that*, just mankind. And we increase our power; the history of mankind is that we've increased our power from fireplaces by cavemen, and things of that sort; we've increased the power, and we find that we can change the character

of land-area, we can restore destroyed land-areas, all these things. But they all require a greater intensity of power.

We've come to the time where, for military purposes, we have gone into thermonuclear fusion as a *weapon*, and that kind of thing: *Mankind can not survive*. What we have to use that for, is for these kinds of needs, and to protect man, against big rocks coming toward the North Pole, which might just eliminate mankind altogether. We have to be able to do that, and we *can* do that. That is, it's on the list of possibilities, very credible possibilities. We just have to think about it.

Youth Need Reason for Optimism

And the other thing which really is a problem: our youth. We see it in the United Kingdom; we see it more directly in the United States: The degeneration, the cultural and moral degeneration of successive generations of young people in the United States, since, say 1964, has been a process of decay of the moral and intellectual capabilities of the human species, and the morality of it. We have a situation, as we know—the United

Kingdom has it, continental Europe has it, we have it—we have a population which is *degenerating morally*. And of all the other things that might threaten us, in the end, the greatest threat is the immorality which is gripping these younger generations of youth, in successive generations.

We've got to restore optimism, *real optimism*, productive optimism, in our populations. Otherwise, mankind is in danger.

Robinson: I was going to come to that, because in the U.K. over the last 40 years, we've seen education standards systematically destroyed. And if you say that we've reached this point over a period of 30, 40 years, then the question is, how long does it take to reverse that? And if it is the same length of time that it takes to reverse that, how do we deal with the fact that, obviously, a lot of the skills that older generations have, will be dying out over that period?

LaRouche: I think that what we have to use is this: From a European standpoint, we had a dark age, and that was succeeded in the 15th Century by a Renaissance of progress. And then, that broke down from 1492 on, into this religious warfare nonsense, which went on from that point up into 1648, with the Peace of Westphalia. Then, we went back into more war.

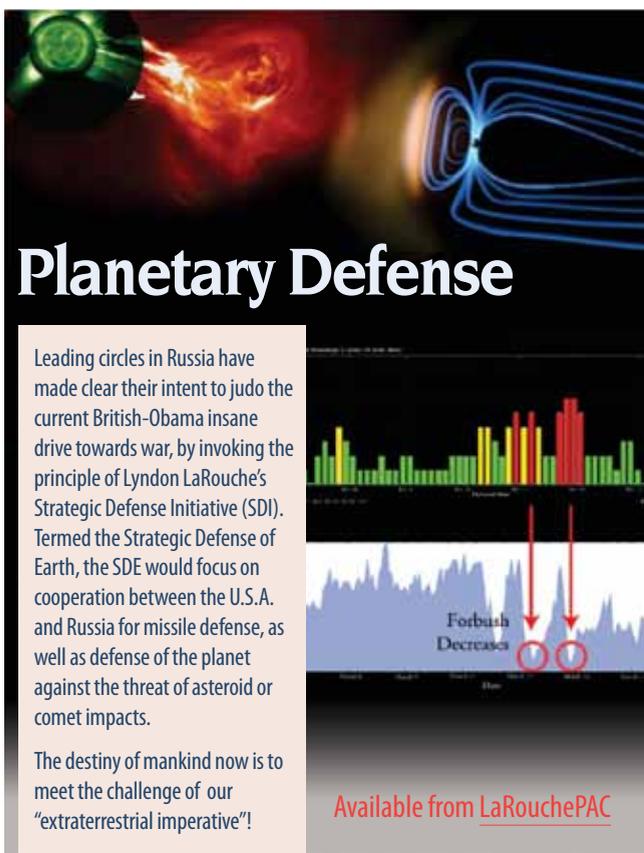
As a matter of fact, we have had, in reality, contrary to the usual explanations, we've had a system of world war, since the time that Bismarck was kicked out of office. We actually went into the war against Indo-China and so forth, and all these other wars, with the pauses in between great wars. What we've been going through is one great war, since the time that Bismarck was kicked out of office, until the present time.

And what we're in now, we're still in, is a world war. This time, we're at the point of thermonuclear war, and this direction in warfare, since that time, can not be tolerated any more.

War Threat over Syria

Robinson: Let's discuss Syria for a second, because the Syrian conflict needs to be looked at in a broader sense, because of the encirclement of Russia: That is the case, is it not? And there seems to be an influx of funding and training for al-Qaeda-related activity in the whole region to the south of Russia. And I just wanted to see if you have any comment on that.

LaRouche: Yes. This actually came from certain people in Saudi Arabia, who were involved in what



Planetary Defense

Leading circles in Russia have made clear their intent to judo the current British-Obama insane drive towards war, by invoking the principle of Lyndon LaRouche's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). Termed the Strategic Defense of Earth, the SDE would focus on cooperation between the U.S.A. and Russia for missile defense, as well as defense of the planet against the threat of asteroid or comet impacts.

The destiny of mankind now is to meet the challenge of our "extraterrestrial imperative"!

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The graphic features a top section with a green planet and a blue ringed planet against a fiery background. Below this is a bar chart with green and red bars, and a line graph with a blue area and two red arrows pointing to a dip labeled 'Forbush Decreases'.

became known as 9/11, this tragic event in New York City. And, also, I was involved with the United Kingdom in some degree, in discussions, with the BBC and so forth, in trying to avoid the second Iraq War, which many of us considered absolutely wrong. And the second Iraq War unleashed a series of developments, one after the other, the spread of a permanent process of warfare, of *needless, worthless warfare*, which accomplished nothing, and spread *destruction* in that whole region! . . .

And some people still want to have an imperial system of nuclear warfare, or thermonuclear warfare; and it just can not be done. And all of our people, like our Joint Chiefs of Staff in the United States, and other people in other parts of the world, *understand that we can no longer go to this kind of warfare!* That we have to understand that there are issues to be dealt with, but there are other means, and better means, to deal with them.

We can settle things, we can *avoid* going to thermonuclear war. And the case right now, is that once the President of the United States had launched this crazy war in Libya, and then intended to go directly into Syria and into Iran, that was when the sane people of the nation, of the world, said, “Cut it out! Stop it! We can not go into this area. We have better means of agreement which we can negotiate.”

And if we use our heads and have the right politicians, we can deal with these problems. It doesn't mean all the conflict is going to go away, but we can manage the conflict in such a way, that it does not become destructive.

We've got to get to that point. The Russians have done an excellent job. What they've done, in terms of dealing with the approach to this question of Syria, was an excellent job. What they and our Joint Chiefs of Staff in the United States have done, is, that for about 10 months, they have prevented World War III, *nuclear World War III*.

And any sane person on this planet, who is not just blind to all reality, *does not want to have that conflict*. We have people in the United States, and in the United Nations, who are willing to put the world into this kind of panic, this homicide, which the human species might not survive. *We don't need it*.

As we demonstrated in the case of these folk in the United Kingdom who have gone to Glass-Steagall, and who have shown *what thinking people can do* to solve what seem to be insoluble problems, and the coopera-

tion between the United States and those in the United Kingdom who agree with this, they are *absolutely precious*. Because they set the pace, among rational people, for trying to find real solutions, which are not thermo-nuclear extermination.

Robinson: So you have a very positive view of Putin's role in preventing this escalating further?

LaRouche: Yes. There's no need for it. If we look at the continent, and look at the economic needs—. For example, Russia is in a crisis, in a sense, for known reasons. Well, Russia also has a great potential, despite this crisis. China has a great potential, *but*, the potential largely involves exports into Europe and other places. So therefore, if this part of the world, the trans-Atlantic region, goes under, the trans-Pacific region goes under, too. For related reasons.

So, we've come to a point that we've got to manage the peace of the planet, and realize that there are issues. These issues can be addressed without going to thermonuclear confrontation. And we just have to sit down and say, “That's it! You politicians, get that out of your system! We're not going to do it! Come to your problems with other suggestions, use your heads, use your mind, don't be wild and try to prove what an ape you can be.”

Youth and the Future of Science

Robinson: Okay, good. Would you be able to tell us something about the activities of the Basement Team and the youth movement, and give us some idea of the scientific work that they're doing, and what the purpose of that is?

LaRouche: Well, the human species has always been characterized by using fire, which is the distinction of the human species from everything else—beginning maybe 2 million years ago, or something of that sort. And so, progress is a necessity; progress involves things like increase in energy-flux density, which has been the course of mankind's successes, going to higher orders of energy-flux density.

Mankind is the only species that does that, that could do it. Animal species absolutely can not. Other forms of life can not. And therefore, we have to recognize that that's the case, and that is what I'm involved in largely, just this sort of thing: What are the measures, what are the technologies we must develop, what are the systems we must install, to meet the rising requirements of mankind? And the fact is, you know, 2 billion



This LaRouchePAC video in 2011 shows a Basement Team discussion of the need for Glass-Steagall—and moving beyond it to scientific breakthroughs in the universe.

years from now, the Sun will no longer be here! At least on present forecasts.

And even now, even though mankind has only been around for about 2 million years, nonetheless, we have to think as human beings, about the human species, its long-term future, and we realize that we have to constantly improve our power to deal with these various kinds of problems, step by step.

We need a progressive view of what mankind potentially is. And I would say, within the next generation, we should actually be using thermonuclear fusion power for a one-week trip from the Moon to Mars. As to how many human beings will be there, that's another question. But we shall put instruments there; we should do things in that vicinity which are very essential for the protection of mankind *on Earth*, and dealing with some of the problems which Earth faces. Not just us, but Earth itself faces in this period. And those kind of directions. And the kind of scientific, and related, and social education for our young people, is indispensable, for this purpose to be fulfilled.

Robinson: And so, what is the scope of the scientific work that they are doing at the moment, then?

LaRouche: I think it goes pretty far. Not in detail, you know, but you go back to the 1890s and the beginning of the 20th Century, and you look at people like Einstein, and people like Planck and so forth, and you realize that it's a few great minds, usually, who take the leadership in generating the stimulation for science.

Then you have a lot of other people who are inspired by that, hopefully, with the help of educational institutions of the relevant type.

And mankind will enjoy seeing that we're not just individual persons; we are a species of a very special kind, unique as far as we know, in the universe. And our problem is, that we live and die, but we don't just die: The purpose of our living is to extend the future, the development of mankind in the future, from our own lives. So, instead of thinking that we're just born, live, and

then get dumped in the grave, and then that starts all over again, the point is, that mankind's progress, from generation to generation, *must* be progress. It must be from step to step. And we should rejoice, in particular, in finding ourselves occupied in doing just that!

So far, in the record as I know it, we have a great ebb in science. There's much less science, real science, than there ever was before, in a long time. We have to revive that! And we have to take these young fellas, who we are ruining in the streets of the United States—and I presume in the United Kingdom too—take these younger people, and give them a sense that they're going to do something *better* than was done by the generation before.

Once they can be brought to catch onto that idea—they should respect their parents and grandparents, yes—but the parents and grandparents should be looking forward to another generation which is going to carry things further. It's the optimism about the succession of the progress of the human condition, which I think is the necessary motive. And the few people who actually do that, or take the lead in this sort of thing, as Einstein, for example, and Planck did, they are precious.

Dope, Inc. and HSBC

Robinson: To just bring things full circle in a sense, I wanted to just mention HSBC and the recent news regarding money-laundering at HSBC. And of course, you've been talking about that—I think it was 1996, you began the *Dope, Inc.* research? Is that right?

LaRouche: Well, actually in the latter part of the 1970s, was when we really got into that.¹ Of course, that's always been my attitude.

Robinson: You must feel fairly vindicated for all the criticism that there has been over that publication [Dope, Inc.], that finally, at last, "the truth is out"?

LaRouche: Yeah, it is out. But we've always had it out. You know, I'm from the Second World War generation; that was when I first got involved in those kinds of things. And since that time, it's been a horror-show, especially since, I would say, the 1960s. But in the 1970s, it became really established.

And I've seen the cases. I've seen whole nations being destroyed by this drug problem. I've seen what happens in, for example, Indo-China, what happened there. What happened in China earlier. What happened in this whole war area in the Near East, going down into South Asia and so forth. This is a nightmare.

When I see our own children on the streets, I see our own children, just living, and see the degeneration, the despair. You look at the lack of employment, of meaningful employment among young people, and you look at our streets, and what's happening there. You say, "We're being destroyed." And that's a problem.

And you look at, for example, Southwest Asia. Look, we went in there to start a drug panic! This happened with the second Iraq War, it started to spread that; and we've destroyed whole sections of Asia, and other parts of the world with this practice. And we just have to discipline ourselves: We can't tolerate it any more! We don't need it, it doesn't do any good for anybody. Get rid of it!

Robinson: We know that in Afghanistan, more or less, as soon as the British and U.S. troops moved into Afghanistan, the opium production that had been, effectively, shut down, started right up again, with a vengeance. But it gives a very good indication of what is really going on in Afghanistan. I don't know if you know this, but in the U.K., we are now growing opium poppies on U.K. farms, because we can not find enough opium on the planet for our health service. So you do have to ask the question, when we've got record amounts of drug production in Afghanistan, it's pretty obvious what the intention was, whenever we went in there.

LaRouche: I was in a crucial part of that. When the

second Iraq War was being proposed by the former Prime Minister [Tony Blair], I was one who, together with some people in Britain, were strongly opposed to this nonsense. I think we correctly foresaw what would happen if we went into that kind of war in Asia again.

I look at the troops of various countries, particularly my own United States, and see what the process is, the grinding up of these troops, these American citizens. Again, and again, and again, in a meaningless, brutish war, with no purpose. And all it does, is it takes and grinds up more and more of the people in Asia and other parts of the world.

The time has come; we *do* have, as nations, and if you take United Kingdom forces, the United States and other nations, if they decide they're going to stop that, it can be stopped. And we can recover our economies again, and our nations again.

Robinson: Okay, Lyn. That's all we have time for at the moment. Thank you very much for your time, and we hope to do this again soon.

LaRouche: Good to be with you.

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1. The first edition of *Dope, Inc.* was published in 1978.