

Failure of Leadership Caused Hurricane Harvey Disaster

by Evelyn Lantz

Sept. 6—The disaster which all of us in Houston and in large parts of Texas and Louisiana lived through, and are still living through, was not the result of a natural disaster. It was because the quality of leadership which Lyndon and Helga LaRouche and the LaRouche movement represent, was not heeded.

The headline on the *Hamiltonian* which we are distributing in New York and Houston—“Wall Street Created Hurricane Harvey Castastrophe”—is right.

My husband, Brian Lantz, pointed out an article in the *Dallas Morning News* which quoted Harris County’s former flood control director, Arthur Storey. Although this man probably saved my house and the houses of many of the members of the LaRouche movement in this area of Houston because of his flood control work in the 1990’s, he courageously admitted in the [article](#) that he had failed to do what was necessary.

The story reports on a proposal from the 1990’s to build a channel under the freeway to carry off floodwater which was too much to be handled by the Buffalo Bayou alone—a channel which was never built! Many of the homes in west Houston which are now being flooded, would not have been flooded if this project had been built twenty years ago.

The article quoted Arthur Storey saying, “My embarrassment was that I knew this was going to happen. And I was not smart enough, or bold enough, to fight the system, to fight the politics and stop it.”

If we are to change our policies so that this kind of catastrophe does not continue to happen, we require the leadership which is smart enough and bold enough. This kind of thing is on people’s minds now: that this was not just a “natural catastrophe”—that it didn’t have to happen.

Addendum: The truth of Arthur Storey’s words was underlined in two ways just this evening. First, the *Houston Chronicle* online edition carried almost the exact story which was carried in the *Dallas Morning News*, *except* that Mr. Storey’s quote was eliminated, and the story ends with another quote which had preceded his in the original article, about how difficult it would have been to build the project.

And, as I was putting these words on paper, a story came over the local ABC news channel featuring Arthur Storey, who was being interviewed as he was working on his own home which has been flooded! He angrily told the interviewer that this is a man-made catastrophe!



Air National Guard/staff Sgt. Daniel J. Martinez

An aerial view of extensive flooding in southeast Texas, Aug. 31, 2017.

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