

Axioms Split at FDR Legacy Club Meeting

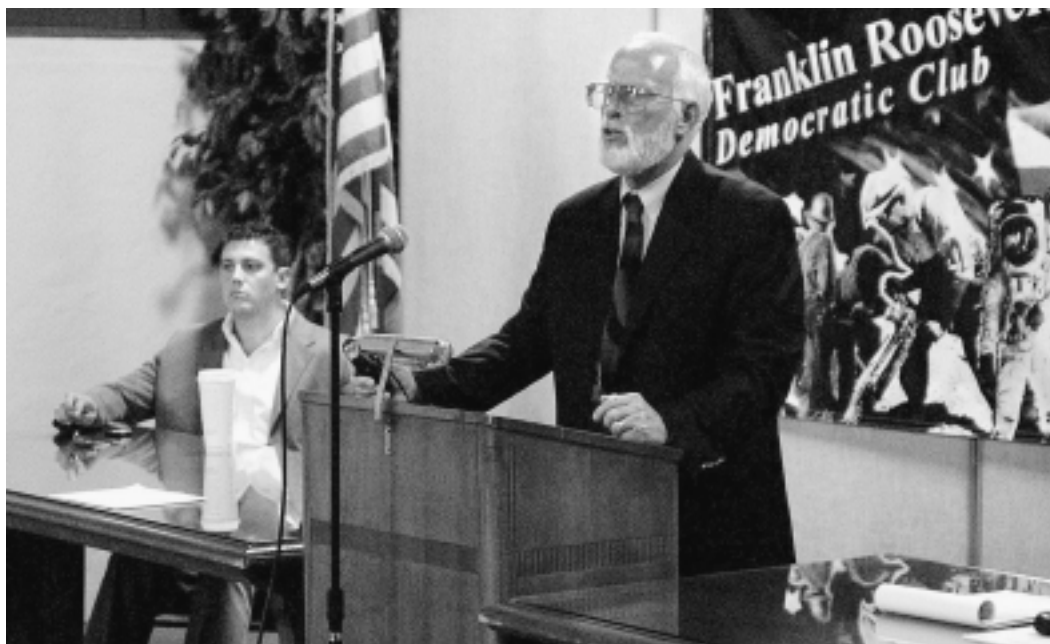
by Nick Walsh,
LaRouche Youth Movement

The third meeting of the Franklin Roosevelt Legacy Democratic Club in Los Angeles was principled and powerful the night of Sept. 14, as a total of 90 people arrived, about 60 of those being full-time members of the LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM), and another 20 being new youth political contacts. The audience listened to Harley Schlanger, Western States spokesman for LaRouche PAC; Sky Shields of the LYM; guest speaker Ken Schultz, Director of Operations for the energy department at General Atomics technology firm; and guest speaker Terrence Montgomery, vice chair of the Los Angeles County Democratic Party Central Committee, speak on their views of today's crisis-wracked world. The audience was feisty and attentive, and upon adjournment of the meeting, dialogue broke out everywhere.

Founded by members of the California LYM, and chartered by the Los Angeles County Democratic Party Central Committee earlier this year, the Franklin Roosevelt Legacy Club is a powerful example of the LYM's methods in reorganizing the Democratic Party around its FDR tradition—and against the idolization of Harry Truman that pervades certain circles of the party nationally. While some Democrats advocate victimized, feeling-state reactions to right-wing Republican policy, and others insist on lining their pockets with worthless money from Felix Rohatyn and his synarchist networks, Lyndon LaRouche and the LYM are reviving FDR's approach of mobilizing the lower 80% of family income-brackets, spearheaded by an ongoing recruitment of 18-25 year-olds. The Legacy Club is a "shot across the bow" of the capsized Democratic Party ship, that this is how a real political machine, which can create landslide election victories, is built. As will be apparent from what follows, this strategy is having success.

Science vs. Insane Environmentalism

Harley Schlanger opened the meeting with a sharp political focus and attack on the modern world's anti-science, perversely "Green" outlook. He identified the danger of nuclear war (such as the one Vice President Dick Cheney and company are gunning for against Iran), globalization, and the Luddite culture of today as having originated by means of conspiracies by people such as Bertrand Russell and H.G. Wells. He



General Atomics nuclear engineer Ken Schultz addresses the Franklin Roosevelt Legacy Democratic Club on Sept. 14. He emphasized that nuclear energy is the power source of the future, and refuted Greenie arguments about its alleged safety hazard.

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poked at the outsourcing of engineering jobs, and the aging of the scientific community, by asking, “What if we need a nuclear power plant built sometime in the future, will we have to ask Iran to do it for us?”

Sky Shields followed with a brief but thorough discussion of the type of process a real science-driver infrastructure program entails, including the crucial cultural upgrades required to introduce any fundamentally new technology in a nation. This highlighted the type of re-education of laborers to upgrade their skill levels, and retooling of machines which members of firms such as General Atomics, based in San Diego, would play a role in.

The featured guest speaker, Ken Schultz of General Atomics, then gave a power-point presentation on the uses, efficiency, environmental benefits, and need for a transfer of the U.S. economy to a nuclear fission-based system. The key points he emphasized were 1) the ability to use fission to most easily create hydrogen fuels; 2) that uranium resources, if fast-breeder reactors were used nationally, could last mankind thousands of years, thereby replacing oil and coal; and 3) that weapons-grade plutonium, abundant in the United States and Russia, could be used as reactor fuel at the General Atomics-designed fission plant, in its high-temperature gas-cooled reactor (HTGR).

The second portion of his presentation was a refutation of every myth known to man concerning nuclear energy. One example was a chart showing that, contrary to the widely held beliefs about the danger to workers at nuclear plants, the historical rate of injury, not only at manufacturing jobs, but also at white-collar paper-shuffling jobs, has been much higher than at nuclear plants!

Schultz’s presentation provoked nearly 30 questions,

such as whether global warming really exists, and how General Atomics will play a role in retooling the U.S. auto sector.

Can Democrats Do Something Potent?

The next and final panel was a raucous question-and-answer discussion with Terrence Montgomery, vice chair of the Los Angeles County Democratic Party Central Committee. Questions included:

“Why don’t you make the Democrats fight to impeach Cheney now, as a campaign for November?”

“What good is money if you can’t win elections?”

“The only way to get people to the polls is to lead now, not wait until after November!”

Also discussed was the need to revolutionize the form of the Central Committee meetings, away from the sterile bureaucratic structure, and toward the open, idea content-driven form of the FDR Legacy meetings.

And, “Can’t we get the L.A. Central Committee to, as a unified group, kick gubernatorial candidate Phil Angelides in the ass to say something potent?”

Montgomery did his best to field all of these questions, and surely was given a ton to think about politically.

Political dialogues continued as the meeting closed. It was clear, in reflecting on the process as a whole, that the direction of LaRouche’s Youth Movement is to use its growing numbers, and revolutionary epistemological insight, to revive the American System of political-economy as policy in the United States. If the Democrats are to win in November, they would be wise to sacrifice their love of Rohatyn-funded TV ads, and, instead, hit the streets with the LYM, mobilizing the lower 80% of voters—what FDR called “the forgotten man.”