

Overdue Bill of Impeachment Against Cheney May Be Coming

by Nancy Spannaus

“The only thing to do with that Administration is to get rid of it. Nothing else will be of any use whatsoever. And therefore, a bill of impeachment against Cheney, being drafted in the House of Representatives, for presentation to the joint body of Congress, for impeachment trial, should be done right now. And I would like to know why it’s not being done. *Lying* to get the United States into a war, and *lying* in the way that Cheney has done, and *bullying* in the way Cheney has done, is specific grounds, in fact, for impeachment. They should be impeached.”

Democratic leader Lyndon LaRouche couldn’t have been more emphatic, as he answered questions during his March 7 webcast, about the requirement to get rid of Cheney and Bush. LaRouche has been stressing this point since the Fall of 2002, but now, in the wake of the conviction of Cheney’s former Chief of Staff Scooter Libby, there is a promising groundswell in that direction. It’s the responsibility of American patriots to ensure that this promise is fulfilled.

Congress Starts To Move

On March 8, Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.), chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, announced that his committee will hold a hearing on March 16 on what the White House did or did not do, with respect to protecting the identity of CIA covert operative Valerie Plame Wilson. Mrs. Wilson and other experts will testify at the hearing.

Waxman also sent a letter to Special Counsel Patrick Fitzgerald March 8, asking Fitzgerald to meet with Waxman and Rep. Tom Davis (Va.), the ranking Republican on the committee, “to discuss the possibility of your testifying before the Committee and other means by which you can inform the Committee about your views and the insights you obtained during the course of your investigation.” Waxman notes in the letter, that Fitzgerald’s investigation, by necessity, had

a narrow legal focus, but that the committee has a broader oversight function, and has the responsibility to answer the broader questions raised by Fitzgerald’s investigation, including whether the ultimate responsibility for the Plame disclosure rests with more senior officials in the White House.

As of this writing, it is not clear whether Fitzgerald will comply. At his press conference March 6, immediately after Libby was convicted of four counts of obstruction of justice, perjury, and making a false statement to FBI agents, Fitzgerald said that he did not expect to bring any further charges in the case, but added that this could change if he receives new information. Asked by *EIR* if he will cooperate and provide evidence to a Congressional investigation, however, Fitzgerald said that “We will do what’s appropriate.”

Upping the Pressure

While Waxman has initiated action against Cheney, political figures in and out of government, as well as the media, have renewed their focus on the Vice President and his crimes.

Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-N.Y.) released his statement immediately after the verdict. He said, in part:

“Justice was served today when Scooter Libby was found guilty and now other administration officials, starting with Vice President Cheney, must be held accountable for their role in this case. The truth behind why Scooter Libby lied must now be revealed. This is the first judicial evidence that the Bush administration was engaged in a plot to falsify information and cover-up those lies to justify its illegal invasion of Iraq. . . .

“This case doesn’t end with Mr. Libby’s conviction. Testimony in the Libby trial made it even more clear that Vice President Cheney played a major role in the outing of Mrs. Wilson’s identity. It is time to remove the cloud hanging over Vice President Cheney and the White House that Special Counsel Fitzgerald so aptly described in his closing remarks,

and expose all of the lies that led to the outing of Mrs. Wilson's identity. . . .

"This administration is the most corrupt and incompetent administration in U.S. history. The security of the American people has been jeopardized by the falsification of intelligence that led to the invasion of Iraq as well as the outing of a CIA agent's identity. Justice must be served to all those who put our country at risk. Either Special Counsel Fitzgerald or another prosecutor must continue to pursue the truth. The American people deserve to have the cloud hanging over Vice President Cheney and other administration officials lifted once and for all, so we can find out the truth."

Former Sen. George McGovern, as reported in a Wisconsin publication, issued his statement on March 7, saying that in his view, the Bush-Cheney Administration is far worse than that of Richard Nixon, and that after what has been learned about Dick Cheney in the course of the Libby trial, it's time for him to go.

"What we have learned about how he conducted himself leaves no doubt that he should be out of office," McGovern said. "If he had any respect for the Constitution or the country, he would resign."

"There is no question in my mind that he has committed impeachable offenses. So has George Bush."

Media coverage indicating that Cheney should be out of office came from many sources, including the *Newark Star Ledger* and the *Washington Post*. The *Star Ledger*, the largest-circulating New Jersey newspaper, ran an opinion column March 8, entitled "Time to Give Cheney a Shove." The *Washington Post*'s James Hoagland published an op-ed the same day entitled "What Has Happened to Dick Cheney?" in which he cites "the volatile state of the vice president's physical, emotional and political health," and indicates that he should be replaced—although he will not resign voluntarily.

The Population Is Way Ahead

As the LaRouche movement has frequently noted, and, in fact, influenced, the U.S. population is way ahead of most of its "leaders" on the question of getting rid of Cheney and Bush. This reality is reflected in the actions currently being taken in state jurisdictions around the United States.

The state actions are proceeding, in part, under rubric of House Rules that permit impeachment to be set in motion by charges transmitted from the legislature of a state, rather than through the House Judiciary Committee.

The furthest advanced of this state activity in 2007 is in New Mexico, where Democratic State Sens. Gerald Ortiz y Pino, and John Grubescic are moving forward with Joint Resolution 5, that, if passed, would declare that Bush and Cheney warrant impeachment, and that the Congress of the United States should be instructed to begin proceedings to carry out impeachment. Resolution 5 has passed three committees of the Senate, the most recent being the Judiciary Committee on March 7. It is expected to move onto the floor of the state Senate soon, and to pass.



White House/David Bohrer

In the wake of the conviction of Scooter Libby, there is a growing clamor for removal of the Vice President.

Joint Memorial 8016, calling for impeachment of both Bush and Cheney, has also been introduced in the Washington State Senate, by Sen. Eric Oering. While this resolution has received a lot of attention, and a hearing on the issue in the state capital drew 800 people, its progress appears to have been stymied by heavy back pressure from the state's Congressional delegation, the majority of whom are Democrats.

In addition, activists in the state of Vermont are carrying out a systematic campaign at town meetings around the state, to pass resolutions of impeachment, in hopes of pressuring the state legislature to take similar action. So far, voters in 36 Vermont towns have passed resolutions calling on Congress to begin an impeachment probe of both Bush and Cheney. In addition, 20 towns have approved a measure calling for troops to be withdrawn from Iraq.

One supporter of the impeachment resolution campaign argued that the issue was not the war, but the Constitution. "We have to stand up and respect the Constitution that our [representatives] stand for. Our troops will not come home during their time in office, and as far as impeachment goes, it only means they are investigated and whatever happens with it will happen," said Sue Rand of Dover, where the resolution lost. The proponents of the town meeting campaign hope to use the passage to focus Vermont's Congressional delegation on ending the war, and investigating Bush and Cheney for what they believe were deliberate lies to get the nation into the war.

The grounds for impeachment stated in both the New Mexico and Washington State resolutions are very similar, and to the point. They are four: 1) conspiracy by Bush and Cheney to defraud the United States of America by intentionally misleading the public and Congress, in order to justify the war in Iraq; 2) Bush's violation of the law on electronic surveillance of American civilians; 3) conspiracy by Cheney and Bush to commit torture of prisoners, against the express laws of the United States; and 4) actions by Bush and Cheney to strip American citizens of their Constitutional rights, through the designation and treatment of "enemy combatants."