

LaRouche addresses U.S. on food crisis

by Ronald Kokinda

Independent presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche returned to the television airwaves the first week of October with a broadcast on "The Great Food Crisis of 1988-1990," which outlined the worldwide nature of current food shortages, how the shortages are the result of man-made policies, the strategic dangers arising from too little food, and a program to dramatically increase food production. The broadcast aired twice on network TV, Oct. 1 on ABC and Oct. 3 on CBS, and provided the first opportunity that the electorate has had to gain a comprehensive view of some of the most serious crises facing the next President.

According to the LaRouche campaign, viewers have responded to this program with a qualitatively higher degree of commitment to involve themselves in the organizing necessary to reverse the food crisis, than they have to any previous broadcast. As one of the 143 people who contacted the campaign within the first four days following the broadcast wrote, "I have been looking for a way to make a contribution to my fellow humans and our descendents, and up until now have been very discouraged. . . . I want to help. I want to share what few skills I have. Please contact me as soon as possible."

LaRouche told viewers not to throw their vote away. "My advice to you is, that it is better to vote for a man qualified to be President, knowing he will lose, than to vote for a bad candidate and suffer the shame and misery of seeing him elected," LaRouche said. Among many voters, such advice is finding a receptive audience.

"The present forecast is that this year, our planet will produce less than 2 billion tons of grain," LaRouche told viewers. "Given Moscow's and Washington's present policies, a level of less than 2 billion tons means that hundreds of millions of people will die of starvation and related causes," he said, as film clips showed how starvation is already widespread in the Third World.

Domestically, in the aftermath of the drought, the U.S. is being affected as well, LaRouche said. "Already, most people in the United States are feeling hard times," he charged. "It will become much worse during the months of October and November. During the summer, certain categories of food began to disappear from supermarket shelves. This was partly the result of hoarding by the international grain cartel."

LaRouche traced the global food shortages to two man-made causes: the drought, and the lunatic "surplus-reduc-

tion" policies of the U.S. and Europe. Normal droughts occur about every 22 years as a result of sunspot activity, but the current drought was caused largely by the deliberate destruction of huge tracts of the Amazon rain forests, causing the Amazon high pressure zone to shift, with resultant "chain-reaction" effects on the weather of Earth as a whole.

But while the drought is exacerbating the food crisis, LaRouche charged that the severe shortages have resulted from the deliberate destruction of food production carried out on the pretext that huge surpluses existed. "During the past 10 years the United States and Western Europe have been on a binge, vowing to eliminate world food surpluses," LaRouche said. "Massive food shipments to Moscow, with heavy subsidies by U.S. and European governments, and cutbacks in food production in the West, were the methods used. . . . The Brussels-based European Commission has been putting Western European farmers out of business at faster rates than occurred in the United States, and food reserves, although not yet as low as ours, are near that level." Other formerly food surplus nations have now become food importers as well, he said, pointing to Argentina, whose beef and grain surplus has been wiped out under the International Monetary Fund's "conditionalities" policy, and to New Zealand, which became a net wheat importer this year for the first time.

LaRouche warned that the strategic implications of the West being unable to meet Soviet food demands could be severe. "Moscow now has strategic military superiority over the West as a whole," he said. "Given what the Soviet regime is, and given the fact that the food crisis is the one thing which could lead to a bloody breakup of the Soviet empire, how must we expect Moscow to react during the coming two years?" he asked. "If we refuse to starve the people of the United States and Western Europe, to provide Moscow the food it demands, Moscow will be strongly inclined to make a lightning military strike into Western Europe to grab what it needs by force."

But "we are not helpless," LaRouche said. "There are realistic measures we can take to build up world food supplies to levels at which the crisis is manageable." Such measures can be taken, unless Michael Dukakis were elected President. Earlier in the broadcast, LaRouche condemned in no uncertain terms Dukakis and "the savage austerity policies his advisers are promising."

The measures LaRouche outlined, called for halting the man-made causes of the drought and the food-crisis. The measures included stopping the liquidation of high-technology farms and ranches; steps to "generate adequate amounts of low-interest production credit for U.S. agriculture, reorganize and reschedule farmers' indebtedness, and reestablish parity paid-to-farmer prices for agricultural products"; checking the "excesses by the international food cartel monopolies"; and shifting unemployed and ghetto youth into building water-management systems throughout the Americas.