

Editorial

LaRouche: Man of the Century

On May 23, Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. testified at the Richard Welsh selective and vindictive prosecution hearing in Roanoke, Virginia. The purpose of his testimony was encapsulated in an interchange which occurred between him and prosecutor John Russell. LaRouche had been explaining the nature of Anti-Defamation League's operations against him with great detail.

While the high point of LaRouche's testimony was no doubt the moment when he directly indicted prosecutor John Russell for his role as a member of the illegal "Get LaRouche" strike force, the six-hour testimony as a whole is a stunning documentation of LaRouche's life's work. In the context of the present level of moral degeneracy which threatens the future existence of our Western civilization, LaRouche is a towering figure. When we look at the scope of his work over the span of his life so far, he is best compared to America's Benjamin Franklin.

LaRouche's comparison of the National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC) to Franklin's American Philosophical Association, was well taken: Both Franklin and LaRouche combine active political life with profound scientific contributions. However, on the most profound level of philosophy, LaRouche can be best compared with a man revered by both him and Franklin, the 18th-century universal thinker Gottfried Leibniz. The scope of LaRouche's own philosophical, economic, and scientific contributions to our culture over the past two decades, shows that he is indeed the Leibniz of the 20th century.

LaRouche has reintroduced the science of physical economy as it was first established by Leibniz, as the only basis for competent policy decisions on any aspect of finance or political economy. Most recently, he has applied this method to pointing to the crucial significance of German reunification for its potential, through major infrastructure development, of providing a basis for global economic recovery from what otherwise is a spreading global economic collapse. The key to this Leibnizian economics is investment in increasing the creative-productive capabilities of men and women by

accelerated investment in capital-intense technologies and infrastructure. In our time, the development of nuclear energy, fusion power, and their application in creating, among other things, an infrastructure for space travel and colonization, are crucial elements in a global development package.

Perhaps LaRouche is most revered today in the developing sector, for his vigorous opposition to the resurgence of neo-colonialism. In opposition to the malthusian argument that the world is overpopulated, and hence that the populations of Africa, Ibero-America, and Asia should be sharply reduced by any and all means, LaRouche has fought for the introduction into these regions of investment programs which would raise the standard of living of their present and future citizens. LaRouche has argued that the world needs more, not fewer people—particularly if we are to accomplish the task before our generation of mankind: the move into space.

LaRouche, like Leibniz and Franklin before him, has been in the center of world politics. A little known incident, which he described in his testimony, is typical of the role which he has consistently played. In 1975, LaRouche traveled to Baghdad, Iraq, where he met the leadership of the Iraqi government, with a proposal for Middle East peace through economic development, which the Iraqi Ba'ath Party national command said that they believed could work, and in which they could cooperate with the Israelis. They were not, however, prepared to launch such an initiative, unless the Israelis sent a positive signal, in which case they would be interested. After Iraq, LaRouche went to Bonn, West Germany, where in April he held a press conference, announcing his proposal for an International Development Bank.

LaRouche set into motion immediate contacts to Israeli and Arab diplomats for large-scale Middle East development projects through common interest, meeting with Palestinians, former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban, and other influential Israelis. This was paradigmatic of later interventions by LaRouche on behalf of Ibero-American development.