

# Clement: 'Gephardt is a Bush Democrat'

by Susan P. Johnson

Two months ago, St. Louis Democratic candidate Nick Clement stood outside the shut-down Chrysler plant and challenged his opponent in the 3rd Congressional District, incumbent Richard Gephardt, to a debate. On July 31, one week before the Aug. 7 primary, Clement's persistence paid off. As the city reeled from thousands of defense-aerospace layoffs—including from the leading employer, McDonnell Douglas—radio station KXOK pulled the Democratic House Majority Leader out of the bipartisan men's room for a half-hour round of radio hosts' questions to the two candidates on the national economic crisis. "There is no bottom to the collapse unless we make a fundamental change in policy and start producing," said Clement. He outlined the looting of the physical economy by "a credit system based on junk bonds and speculation," blasting Gephardt for his intimate collaboration with Bush to continue that looting.

Gephardt tried to portray himself as having battled Bush and Reagan. His proposals, punctuated with the word "competitiveness," were to 1) tax the rich, 2) cut defense, and 3) retrain workers for unspecified jobs.

The first question was the deficit. Clement responded, "Gephardt says, 'Balance the budget no matter what, everything is on the table. Bush, you want to cut defense—I'm your man.' He's a Bush Democrat. Cutting the budget and raising taxes will only make things worse. What we have to do is issue \$2 trillion in Treasury credits into the productive sector, right now, on an emergency basis, and in the longer term get back to national banking on the Alexander Hamilton model." Gephardt agreed that the deficit can't be overcome in one year; the Republicans hadn't even proposed a budget, so he can't be blamed for agreeing with theirs; and the reason for the present deficit summit is that the problem is much worse than Bush had claimed.

## European revolution will revitalize U.S.

The second question discussed was whether the United States can compete with a unified Europe. Gephardt called for a new onslaught against Western European "unfair trade," and private investment in Eastern Europe.

Clement said, "The reunification of Germany has to be the greatest single event of my lifetime—with the wonderful republican revolutions that are taking place in Eastern Europe. What they are beginning to do is what LaRouche laid out, it's called the Triangle program," referring to economist

Lyndon LaRouche's program for a "European economic miracle" centered on a high-speed rail triangle encompassing Paris-Vienna-Berlin. Clement continued, "This will totally revitalize Europe's industry and begin to help pull ours back up. There is nothing we can do without a recovery here!"

He slammed Majority Leader Gephardt for the 1986 Gephardt-Bradley tax bill, which killed all remnants of President Kennedy's investment tax credit approach, and declared that if the United States had followed LaRouche's championing of the Strategic Defense Initiative, the space program, and fusion power, the present economic disaster would never have occurred. Gephardt whined in reply: the final version of the tax bill wasn't his alone.

The final round of questions addressed the "environment." Clement insisted that, instead of wiping out 750,000 jobs and wasting trillions more dollars as the Clean Air Bill will do (which Gephardt and his friends pushed), the funds must go into scientific and technological progress. Gephardt said, "If we destroy the environment, there will be no economy at all. We must strike a sensible balance." Clement pointed out that it is not question of a tradeoff; as the Japanese have shown, he elaborated, investment in the highest technologies is the environmentally soundest approach.

The hosts thanked the candidates "for a very provocative debate—especially from Mr. Clement." Off the air, the business-show moderator told Clement, "LaRouche is right on target when it comes to macroeconomics," and invited the candidate back on the station by himself, for an hour, to elaborate LaRouche's approach.

The local ABC affiliate evening broadcast carried a segment on the Gephardt-Bush deficit soap opera, followed by closeups of Clement campaigning at an intersection, along with a short clip of Clement on the LaRouche economic recovery program. While not mentioning Gephardt's opposition, ABC's national broadcast lambasted Gephardt for his persistent whining about the "great difficulty" in producing an agreement in the bipartisan budget summit.

On its Sunday morning broadcast on July 29, the ABC affiliate had carried a debate among Missouri 2nd Congressional District candidate Leif Johnson and his two Democratic opponents. The moderator asked Johnson, a longtime friend of LaRouche's (who is himself on the ballot as an independent Democrat in Virginia's 10th C.D.), "Why would the voters have confidence in LaRouche, when he is a felon in federal prison?" Johnson shot back, "Why would they have confidence in George Bush, who put him there? Bush, along with Ollie North and the Project Democracy crowd, the secret government who ran the Iran-Contra crimes." Johnson completed his response by describing how LaRouche's attorney, former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, had addressed attendees at the Copenhagen session of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe last month, on the judicial fascism that made LaRouche America's foremost political prisoner today.