

One way to think about what this would mean is the following. If the government's projection of the future were a serious one, then we ought to be providing for the construction and provision of the equivalent of one new city, about the size of the present Washington, D.C., every year. A growth rate that would result in actual growth, would require provision for the equivalent of two new cities equivalent in size to Washington, D.C., or one new Philadelphia. The area of Philadelphia is about 470 square miles.

Agriculture and irrigation

Agriculture is the area of economic activity where the decision to stop capital improvements in infrastructure has already gone past a point of no return. Over the century, arid, or even desert areas of the country, like California and Arizona or even the High Plains states, have been turned into productive sources of food and other agriculture products through improvements including irrigation. Once desert and arid zones have been so upgraded, the improvements have

to be continued, otherwise disaster ensues, as is happening in California. Lack of investment jeopardizes the ability to maintain the accumulated generations' worth of man-made alterations to relatively inhospitable nature through capital improvements, which have permitted the existence of some of the most productive agriculture in the world on some of its most unproductive land, and threaten catastrophic short-term effects on the food supply of the country.

Irrigated agriculture ought to be increased by about 12% to provide for the national short-fall in fresh fruits, vegetables, and potatoes, defined relative to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's family-promoting nutritional standards of the 1950s. This is based on a per capita annual requirement of 532 pounds of fruit and vegetables per person per year, as against 1988 apparent consumption of 346 pounds per person per year; it envisions expanding domestic production to account for the replacable imports of fruit and vegetables, which are included in the consumption figures. Then, productivity ought to be organized to continue to increase to

LaRouche's campaign for water technology

"Won't You Please Let Your Grandchildren Have a Drink of Fresh Water?" This was the title of a report commissioned by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. in 1982, and given mass circulation by the National Democratic Policy Committee, the political action committee of the LaRouche wing of the Democratic Party. The document called for using "plain common sense" to advance nuclear desalination technologies and the North American Water and Power Alliance program (Nawapa).

In the preface to the pamphlet, LaRouche wrote:

"Next to a general thermonuclear war, the greatest single environmental danger to the American people over the coming two decades is the danger that whole regions of our nation will simply run out of usable fresh-water supplies. . . .

"This problem has been seen coming, at least by more far-sighted people, for most of the postwar period. Unfortunately, the general public has been kept in ignorance of this policy issue, and certain among influential political circles have sabotaged sound policies and programs, for a variety of reasons.

"Now, unless we act quickly, the Great American West is going to die, suffocated by a swirl of dust and sewage. Already much of our agriculture is in danger, as the drought of 1980 ought to warn us. A few more years

ahead, the water shortage will grow to become the most acute environmental danger to many facets of our life, as well as our nation's supplies of food and fiber."

Then in his 1984 presidential campaign platform, LaRouche wrote: "During the indicated twenty- to twenty-five-year period [1985-2010,] the United States must create an additional ten or more new cities. If we are sensible, some of the new cities will spring up in what has been called 'The Great American Desert,' the broad band of arid and desert land reaching from the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains to the mountain ranges of our western coastal states. The possibility of developing new urban centers in this region is indicated by the established feasibility of transporting water from Alaska and Canada down through the arid and desert regions of the United States, the project known as Nawapa. . . .

"By increasing greatly the density of chlorophyll of growing plant-life in these arid regions of our nation, we moderate the climate. If we accomplish this on a large scale, we foster the development of rainfall systems within the region. As we develop the conditions for expanded agriculture in such regions, we create the opportunity and need for establishment of new urban centers.

"If we are sensible, we shall integrate the implementation of the Nawapa water-management system with other elements of our national water-management system. Fresh water and energy are the cornerstones of terrestrial life; an abundant and secure supply of both predetermines the degree to which life can be supported. These are the preconditions for developing high potential relative population-densities."