

Editorial

Credibility, not plausibility

When Abraham Lincoln made his famous comment, "You can fool some of the people all of the time; and all of the people some of the time; but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time," he could well have had Phil Gramm and Newt Gingrich in mind. Their so-called Contract with America is a confidence trick which is simply playing on the gullibility of an American public, which has been trained to accept sound-bites as reasoned political discourse.

Abraham Lincoln's aphorism was humorous but nonetheless profound. LaRouche's earliest forecasts did not receive wide acceptance, but there are fewer and fewer people who will be able to deny his credibility, and the enormity of the present crisis unfolds, and the plausible solutions of a Gingrich are exposed as frauds.

We are in the midst of an out-of-control economic crisis typified by the Orange County debacle on the one hand and the slide of the Mexican peso on the other. The logic of the Conservative Revolution comes down to killing off the old people and sending the children out to work—in the tradition of the unlamented British Empire of the 19th century. For most decent people such a solution to our economic woes is not morally tolerable; but even the morally debased who are willing to tolerate such nostrums—elevated to a political system in this century under the name of fascism—will find out soon enough that they simply will not work.

There is no way that a balanced budget amendment can staunch the present financial hemorrhage. Selling off our pensions, schools, and public services at bargain basement prices will enrich a few speculators and cheat the rest of us, but it will not rescue public finances. And it will not be long before this will become all too obvious to those deluded Americans who voted the budget-cutters into office.

In 1956, Lyndon LaRouche did a forecasting study, in which he said that the U.S. economy was about to plunge into deep recession. This went against the accepted wisdom. He was ridiculed by those business associates to whom it was addressed at the time, but eight months later his forecast was borne out. It was in

the aftermath of this recession that Richard Nixon lost the election to John F. Kennedy.

Unfortunately, the pro-growth policies of the Kennedy administration typified by the Apollo program, proved to be an episode in an otherwise disastrous trend-line toward the economic stagnation later to be dignified by the title of a post-industrial society.

By 1971, with Richard Nixon now in office, a full-blown monetary crisis had emerged. On Aug. 15, Nixon declared that the dollar would no longer be convertible to gold. This was the beginning of the end of the Bretton Woods System, and the world economic system has been shredding ever since.

These forecasts by LaRouche were made first in the course of his professional life as an economic consultant, and then as part of the broader political responsibilities which he assumed during the 1970s and thereafter, but they stemmed from a discovery which he had made when still quite a young man—in the period from 1948 to 1952.

That discovery was of the provable relationship between demographic growth and the principle of creative discovery. This relates the individual subjective act of making a fundamental scientific hypothesis, to the application of that discovery in the emergence of new technologies. These technologies allow man to harness greater amounts of energy per capita, and to direct the energy in more concentrated form to a work area. From this follows the capability of a society to support the growth of the population, both numerically and culturally.

LaRouche's discovery was a restatement of the fundamental Christian precept, which identifies that which is both uniquely human and at the same time God-like in man, as his ability to model himself upon the Creator.

Being plausible in the manner of the proverbial used-car salesman—in the manner of a Newt Gingrich—is not to be credible. It is not a matter of who can garner the most votes or win on the opinion polls. To be credible is to be worthy of being believed; in other words, to be truthful.