

## Editorial

### *Rebuild the Democratic Party*

When Franklin Delano Roosevelt first took office, the United States was in the midst of a deep and worsening depression. Bread lines and soup kitchens were a regular part of the life of the poor; many were homeless; and it was typical for men to be forced to leave their families to attempt to find work. Herbert Hoover had promised Americans a chicken in every pot; instead, this is what they got.

The generation that suffered through this are now in their late sixties and over. Nonetheless, fear that history could repeat itself is again a reality for a growing number of Americans who have already lost their jobs, or who are afraid that they will suffer from further industrial down-sizing and the like. Fear easily turns to rage, the kind of rage which can be manipulated by fascists.

When Roosevelt stated, "We have nothing to fear but fear itself," he was giving renewed hope to a nation which had until then been paralyzed in the face of disaster. Essentially, he was saying that no matter how great the problem, men and women of good will could find a solution.

Many of the economic solutions which Roosevelt experimented with, especially in the early days of his administration, converged upon fascist policies. This was especially the case with the National Recovery Act, which imposed corporatist regulations on production. But Roosevelt's America was never in danger of becoming fascist.

The reason for this is simple. Whereas Hitler and Mussolini manipulated populist rage in order to establish a police state which would serve oligarchic interests, Roosevelt spoke on behalf of the economically disenfranchised, with the intention of defending the United States of America as a constitutional republic. For this reason, he was considered a traitor to his class, by the British faction in the United States.

The Democratic Party was reshaped during the period when Roosevelt was President. Through a major realignment of Republicans and Democrats, it came to represent trade unionists, blacks and minorities, farmers, and working people and their families. Because of this, the kind of radical populism which is manipulated

by fascists, did not take hold. It came to represent the party of progress, not populism.

Franklin Roosevelt had many flaws, but he understood that the United States had a national self-interest and a mission diametrically opposed to those of the British Empire, both domestically and in foreign policy. He rejected British balance-of-power politics, and chose instead to represent the interests not only of Americans, but of all people.

After his death, however, the same forces which had brought America to the verge of destruction reasserted their control over the Democratic Party, with the brief exception of the Kennedy Presidency, and, to a limited extent, that of Lyndon Johnson.

The Conservative Revolution takeover of the Republican Party represents a giant step toward an American version of Hitler's Nazi Party. Polls have shown that this is not what the American people want. President Clinton has a clear mandate in his fight against Newt Gingrich and Phil Gramm.

Despite the fact that the President's economic program is not yet adequate to turn around the current economic crisis, he has indicated his rejection of the fascist notion that speculative values take precedence over people. He has taken his stand on the basis of the obligation of the President to defend the Constitution, which means to secure the "blessings of liberty, and to promote the general welfare. . . . To secure these blessings for our posterity."

The problem over the past 20 years has not been *big* government, but *bad* government. The admittedly problematic growth of the budget deficit is testimony to the destruction of the physical economy, to the ongoing speculative binge.

What is needed now, if we are, in President Clinton's words, to "grow the economy," is for Lyndon LaRouche's program to become the basis for a genuine New Deal. An important part of this process will be a realignment of Democrats and Republicans. The Conservative Revolution crowd must be driven from political power. By taking the lead in that process, the Democratic Party will also be transformed.