

Wieczorek: 'Free trade is the enemy'

In an interview on KSOO radio in Sioux Falls, South Dakota on May 20, LaRouche Democrat Ron Wieczorek, who is running for Congress, told the audience of host Rick Knobe that he had just returned from a week-long tour of western South Dakota. What he saw of the poverty and lack of development there proves that he and Lyndon LaRouche are right about economics—that a new international monetary system is needed, now. Wieczorek said, "I toured the Pine Ridge Reservation with Dick Hagen, a State Legislator there. A 55-mile-by-140-mile area of land, with no bank, no nursing home. Where life expectancy is 56 years for a man. These are my *friends*. This is a *damned* intolerable situation. I would call it a national emergency. Here, we have a Third World country, in the middle of the heartland of the United States of America."

Wieczorek also told Knobe, the former mayor of Sioux Falls, why Democrats should choose him in the June 2 primary, over Jeff Moser, to challenge incumbent Republican John Thune: "My hero is Abraham Lincoln and he was one of the greatest, actually the greatest, Republican ever elected to office. . . . So here's Abraham Lincoln, the Republican, and you've got FDR, the Democrat. And if you studied their policies and speeches like I have, both of these men know what the American System was all about, and this is what makes great statesmen. . . ."

"From '79 to '83 in my farm business—I was a Massey Ferguson dealer—I saw one-third of my farm customers either retire, most of them just went broke, some of them committed suicide. To me, it was a terrible crisis. And 10 years prior to that, these guys had been the miracle producers of the world. They were feeding the whole world. And all of a sudden, at once, they had turned into sorry managers. . . . Then, I saw the company that I represented, the largest manufacturer of farm equipment in the world, the third largest manufacturer of equipment in North America, file bankruptcy in 1985.

"So I had to start looking at things, and that's when I began my sincere studies into economics and politics. And I think I've run across what we need: . . . my whole program and my campaign are based on the need for a New Bretton Woods system."

Knobe asked the candidate to explain this "Bretton Woods monetary system . . . in simplistic English." After detailing the history of Franklin Roosevelt's convening the postwar powers in rural New Hampshire, to create international credit

institutions, especially to rebuild Europe's war-ravaged industrial base, he explained how the International Monetary Fund and World Bank—born of Bretton Woods—devolved into predatory enforcers of free trade on hapless Third World and former communist countries. "Well, today, after the free-trade attacks—like on Russia, when the Wall came down in '89—today we're looking at almost ten years, after this free-trade invasion of Russia, and what do we have? We have Russia at 25% of the productivity that it had in 1989.

"Free trade is worse than communism. They keep telling us to wait. How long do you have to wait? Russia has lost 1 million people per year, for seven years—"

"You talk to the people who have been over to Russia," interjected Knobe, "and they say, Russian folks don't know how to work! . . . Communism falls apart and now they've got to compete worldwide, and they don't know how to do it. . . . That's what I'm hearing."

"That may be what you're hearing, Rick, but I was in east Germany in '93, three years after the Wall came down, and I met with the people who had worked on the commune farms, over there. And, I had pictures of how we operate over here, and my brothers and myself operating large, custom-harvesting operations, major investments in agriculture equipment. They have the same thing over there. But they have commune farms: And, one of their farm managers—somebody had made some comment about 'they don't know how to work.' He said, 'My people work from sunup to sundown.' And, I believe him, because that's where my heritage comes from, and I know how hard everybody in the Wieczorek family works. . . ."

"These people are very industrious. Today, we look at what free trade has done for Germany. In '93, I spent three weeks over there . . . and I told them what it would do to them: Today, Germany has 15, 16% unemployment. This is the worst since 1932."

Get back to the American System

Wieczorek explained: "We have to end free trade. We have to get back to the policies of the American System. Along with the destruction of Russia, we've lost a trading partner. You know, free trade was supposed to create trade: But we lost Russia! We've lost all the former Soviet Union countries as trading partners.

"In the past year, due to the deregulation of the banking system, the floating currency system, you can see what happened in the Southeast Asian sector: Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, South Korea—those areas of the world. They had 30-90% of the value of the currencies destroyed, taken away from them in a matter of three to four months. Taking away from the people, what they had worked 30 and 40 years for. . . . And look what's happened—we've lost that market. Free trade is just as destructive as the bombs that were dropped in World War II. . . . This is the system that has always been the enemy of the American System."