

President, Franklin Roosevelt. Look at the investigations that were conducted against Wall Street and others at that time. Look at the laws that were passed to prevent this foolishness from continuing. Those laws helped us. They carried us through most of the years up to recent decades. In recent decades, especially since the Carter Administration, we have been destroying those very laws, which the Roosevelt era put into place to protect us from the insanity that led us into the Great Depression of the 1930s. Today, the same kind of insanity prevails. It is supported by popular opinion. It's supported by leaders of the Democratic Party and their leading candidates. It's wrong. It was wrong then, and it's wrong now. You don't go along to get along. You go along with this, and you go down.

So, to sum up, first of all, we have the worst financial crisis in modern history. We shan't survive it, unless we come to our senses. If we come to our senses, we can. We need programs to deal with it, programs which do have precedents, and we need leadership, leadership typified in the past by people like Abraham Lincoln and President Franklin Roosevelt. With that combination, we can survive. With that combination of leadership, we will fix up our infrastructure, go back to high levels of productive employment, restore our health-care systems, restore our power systems, restore our transportation systems, restore our education system, and get some good old-fashioned clean morality into our nation.

Under those conditions, we can survive. That, I think, is the gut of the platform which the Democratic Party must shape during this coming period.

## Look at LaRouche's Policies for Solutions

by Rep. Thomas Jackson

*Mr. Jackson, from Thomasville, Alabama, is the chairman of the Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resources Committee for the House of Representatives in the Alabama State Legislature. He is also the vice-chair of the Agriculture Committee for the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL).*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a couple things I'd like to say. I won't prolong the time this morning.

But we, in Alabama, we talked about the policies that the Congress should address; we need to get behind the candidate that will be more lenient to these policies. But there are problems that we're having in Alabama, and in southwest Georgia, southeast Alabama—the drought. And I brought one paper, with several headlines from last week. We were over in the

southeast, wild-grass area last week, . . . where the drought area is severe. The state newspaper said, the worst in 40 years, one headline said. And, it's not getting any better. We visited those cotton farmers, corn farmers, and peanut farmers over in that area, and they've lost every bit of their crop, to drought. And they're crying because the crop insurance policy that the Federal government has, is not helping them at all. Even the hay fields are in such deplorable conditions, that Alabama has to buy hay from Mississippi, to feed the cattle.



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—Thomas Jackson

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We're in a bad situation as relates to farm and farm products.

Now, what effect is this going to have on families, consumers, when they go to the market, to buy produce? Prices are going to be sky-high, because the products never got out of the field, and that means that we're going to have to get those products from some other source, at a higher price.

Now, what we've got to do, and what we need to do, is, look at Lyndon LaRouche, running for President, and his policies, to address the issues that we are talking about here today. We've gone to Congress through the NCSL. We've lobbied Capitol Hill. We got a farm bill, but that farm bill is not anything like what we lobbied for. And when you think about what even the President has signed into law last week—it helped peanut farmers, but overall they didn't get anything that they really needed, as it relates to disaster relief.

We're in a crisis situation, and a lot of people don't realize that. In Alabama alone, agriculture is a \$5.5 billion industry. And, I think that we need to treat agriculture like we treat any other industry—give them incentives. You know, we give million-dollar incentives to bring an industry in, but we don't want to give the incentives to those industries already produc-

ing, like farmers, to help them make it through their crops.

This testimony might not be exactly what you want, but I must give you some of the things that we've lived with, and are living with now in the state of Alabama, as relates to disaster relief we do not get. And when it comes, it's going to be so late, that the farmers are not going to even be helped, when the monies are released. And we petitioned our Congressional delegation, and we asked them for at least \$2.5 million for farm relief in those drought-stricken areas. The government of Alabama has committed several hundred thousand dollars to the purchase of hay, and when you have the situation as we have, and it's not going to get any better, as we look at the forecasts from the weather service, that this drought condition is going to worsen. The *Niño*, they give as the reason for these things happening.

But over the long haul, if we had policies in place, as far as giving parity to our farmers, then they wouldn't be crying as loud as they're crying. They wouldn't have to go and buy hay from another state, and bring it in to feed their cattle. Because even if they do that, or sell their cattle at a low cost—and then they lose even on that end. So, what we're hearing today, and I passed in the legislature last year, through the House—we had a joint resolution, and we're calling for a New Bretton Woods conference for the international monetary system. And it passed the House, and it got bogged down in the Senate, because it didn't pass until the 4th day of May.

Let me read this, Mr. Chairman, to the panel:

Whereas the 1944 agreement of the Bretton Woods mechanism contributed to the realization of monetary stability, and to postwar economic reconstruction, and

**“Whereas**, there is a divergence between the real economy and the financial economy, since the decoupling of the dollar from the gold reserve system, and

**“Whereas**, financial crises have exploded in different parts of the world, especially since 1997, and

**“Whereas**, the international monetary and financial institutions in carrying out their tasks, are malfunctioning, and

**“Whereas**, it has been asserted that the speculative bubble has had devastating effects for the economies of developing countries, completely transforming the structure of the world economy, and reaching the level of at least \$300 trillion [that's with a “t,” \$330 trillion!] compared to the world GDP of about \$40 trillion,

**“Now, therefore**, be it resolved by the legislature of Alabama, that we call for a convention of a new conference, similar to the one at Bretton Woods, with the following goals:

“1. Creating a new international monetary system, to gradually eliminate the mechanisms which have led to the speculative bubble;

“2. Evaluating the possibilities of anchoring currency values to the elements of the real reference, and to better and more completely control the movement of currency rates;

“3. Proposing the creation of new credit lines, originating

to develop investment in the sector of real economy; and

“4. Defining infrastructure projects of a continental dimension.”

Now, what we are asking for is that we look at the New Bretton Woods conference, and we pull the issues and policies from that conference, and re-invent them, and reestablish them, give them new life, and new meaning, in this 21st century. Building the infrastructure in this country, the water irrigation. In northwest Alabama alone, last year, the drought took place, and we're right in the midst of the Tennessee River. Ask the question: Why can't we irrigate these crops? Why are these crops burning up in the field, and all this water here? There's a policy, saying that we cannot get water from the Tennessee River. TVA controls that water flow.

So, we need to look at, how can we help our farmers produce, and meet the needs and challenges of the food production in this country, and the countries that we're going to be exporting to, without taking such a great loss. So, I think we have to realize the situation that we're in. And it's not going to get better until we make it better, and we're in a position now, taking this platform to a higher level, and taking the message to the Democratic Party, that, no more business as usual, but now, we're in the process of unusual business, that we may meet the needs of the people that we represent, and the people of this great country.

Thank you very much.

## The 'Free Market' Is Destroying Agriculture

by George 'Bill' Burrows

*Mr. Burrows is a member of the State Committee of the Farm Service Agency in Adams, Nebraska, and a former State Senator. (Affiliation is for identification purposes only.)*

In Nebraska, we have a group of well over 100 large, progressive farmers in a cooperative record-keeping of their incomes with the University of Nebraska. These, for the most part, have over half a million dollars in annual gross sales. In 1999, these farms received an average net income of less than \$5,000 per farm, while receiving over \$40,000 each in government payments. In many of these cases, the entire family is working on the farm and there is no supplemental income from other sources to carry the finances. For more than five years, over 80% of the net farm income in the United States has come from non-farm sources.

In Nebraska this last year, \$2.30 corn was used in projecting cash flows for the FmHA [Farmers Home Administra-