

# Ashcroft Nomination Called by LaRouche An Insult To Congress

*The following press release was issued on Jan. 4 by the political action committee, FDR-PAC:*

Speaking today before an audience that included diplomats and journalists from six continents, Lyndon LaRouche called on the United States Congress to hold up President-elect Bush's certification, currently scheduled for Jan. 6, until he pulls back his nomination of Missouri Senator John Ashcroft as Attorney General of the United States.

LaRouche was responding to a question from a representative of the Congressional Black Caucus, who questioned Ashcroft's ability to uphold the principles of the U.S. Constitution, given his ardent support of Jefferson Davis and the Confederacy. The questioner asked what could be done from the House of Representatives, given that no member of the Senate Judiciary Committee has so far indicated a willingness to mount a serious challenge to Ashcroft's certification.

LaRouche responded, "The Ashcroft nomination was an insult to the Congress. If the Democrats in Congress, capitulate to the Ashcroft nomination, the Congress is finished."

LaRouche compared the situation to that which existed in Germany on Feb. 28, 1933, when the famous *Notverordnung* (emergency rule) was established. Operating on the basis of rulings by Carl Schmitt, a famous pro-Nazi German jurist, the emergency act gave the state power to designate which part of its own population were "enemies," and to imprison and/or execute them, freely. "This," LaRouche said, "was the dictatorship."

Calling the Ashcroft nomination a deliberate provocation, LaRouche said, "If the Democratic Party and decent Republicans do not combine to throw that nomination back in the face of the nominator, this Congress isn't worth anything. That is, because it will have surrendered its dignity.

"If you give those kinds of powers, of a Justice Department, to that Ashcroft, and what he represents, under that [Confederate] flag, you don't have any justice left in the United States. And, any Senator who disagrees with me, shouldn't be a Senator. It's going to be up to the people to make sure. . . .

"Members of the House of Representatives, do have some powers. They may not be the formal powers of the Senate Judiciary Committee, but they have some powers. And if the Congress makes it clear, and gets some of the Senators, the Democratic Senators, also to make it clear, that we are not

going to put up with this Ashcroft provocation, we can stop it. But little protest movements are not going to do. You are going to have to jam the works up on this one. You're going to have to make it impossible for Bush to get his nominations through, as long as that Ashcroft nomination is not eliminated. He'll pull back. You get the determination to make him pull it back; he'll pull it back. You've got the strength to do it."

LaRouche went on to remind the questioner, "Remember, the Congress has not yet certified the President-Elect! I think that the question of certifying the President-Elect is also a question, this Ashcroft question, to be thrown on the table, on the question of certifying President-Elect Bush, so-called, as President. It's an act that has to be done by the Congress. I would pull every string in the book that's serious, as a legislative string, to make sure that Ashcroft is not made the Attorney General. And, I think that members of the Congress, members of the Democratic Party, should act on that point, as if their life might depend upon it. Because the lives of many of them might just depend upon that."

On Dec. 28, LaRouche had declared, "Unless John Ashcroft can lead the U.S. Senate to evidence proving that the purported interview with him in the *Southern Partisan* magazine was a hoax, the United States Senate must reject the nomination of John Ashcroft for Attorney General of the United States."

LaRouche explained that the Confederate Constitution of 1861, on which the Confederacy was grounded, was an explicit repudiation of the Constitution of the United States, and its commitment to promote the General Welfare. "An Attorney General of the United States must be sworn to uphold and defend the U.S. Constitution," LaRouche said, adding that "it would be folly for the incoming administration to insist upon a person with such a glaring moral defect as the *Southern Partisan* expresses."

In an 1998 interview with the pro-Confederate *Southern Partisan* magazine, Senator Ashcroft is quoted as praising the magazine for "setting the record straight" by defending leaders of the Confederacy who fought against the United States of America.

The interview was entitled, "Senator Ashcroft: Missouri's Champion of States' Rights and Traditional Southern Values." The lead-in to the interview stated: "In his short time in Washington, Senator Ashcroft has already become known as a champion of states' rights and traditional values." It is beyond dispute, that what the *Southern Partisan* means by "traditional values," is the pro-slavery culture and policies of the Confederacy.

During the interview, Ashcroft lauded the magazine for "defending Southern Patriots like Lee, Jackson, and Davis." He went on: "Traditionalists must do more. I've got to do more. We've all got to stand up and speak in this respect, or else we'll be taught that these people were giving their lives, subscribing their sacred fortunes and their honor to some perverted agenda."