

## Editorial

### *Confessing, In Order To Sin Again*

What a season of confessions from the chief economic analysts of the IMF and its orbit, that their forecasts for the last 12-15 months have been completely wrong! If any of them were honest enough to accompany the confessions with an urgently needed public acknowledgment that Lyndon LaRouche's forecast for the same period was completely right—as one notable American Congresswoman did—then economic recovery from the ongoing global collapse could be a step closer. But no: These IMF officials and experts—like many U.S. corporations with their financial statements—confess with the firm intention of going out and committing much worse forecasting sins tomorrow. They believe, “We're with those who run the world; therefore, you have to base yourselves on our forecasts, even if you know we're lying.”

First it was Anne Krueger, number-two official of the IMF, and in charge of its regular operations, who, on Nov. 26, acknowledged that such national financial meltdowns as Argentina's, meant Third World debts could not continue being paid: the opposite of the IMF's hard-line position stated as recently as June 2001 in Washington. Krueger would not use the word, “bankruptcy,” but all those who covered her Washington press conference did. Note that since Summer 1997, Lyndon LaRouche has repeatedly forecast that further attempts to collect the system's unpayable debts would lead to one, or a combination of three ends: international hyperinflation; a deflationary global collapse of economic activity; or war.

On Dec. 18, the IMF, in another Washington confession, admitted that its global economic forecast, issued in October 2000, was 100% wrong. Presenting the so-called “Interim World Economic Outlook,” IMF chief economist Kenneth Rogoff apologized for, at that time, describing the global economic outlook as “the rosiest in a decade.” Now the IMF speaks of the most severe worldwide economic downturn in 20 years, with “all major regions already slowing” before the Sept. 11 attacks, which then represented a “shock with global reach.” The report states: “A particular disturbing feature of the current slowdown is its synchronicity across

nearly all regions,” with “almost all economic indicators” weakening in the United States, an “increasingly worrying” situation in Japan, and the threat of a “prolonged downturn” in Europe.

Recall that LaRouche, campaigning for the Presidency in 2000, forecast just before “Super Tuesday” that the myth of the “U.S. New Economy boom” might be kept going to Election Day 2000, at which time the collapse would be on.

The IMF, in the new global forecast for 2002 released by Rogoff, arrogantly notes that the possibility that its economic predictions could be completely wrong again, “remains a source of downside risk.”

Also on Dec. 18, one of Europe's senior and most influential economic analysts, the London *Times*' Anatole Kaletsky, emphasized that his forecast of last year showed him to be a senior and influential fool. “To put it bluntly,” Kaletsky confessed, “I got all the most important things wrong in 2001. Not only did I fail to predict the U.S. recession, the headline of my article of Jan. 9 [2001] was, ‘Why a recession in 2001 is almost out of the question.’”

But to make it worse, Kaletsky insists the reason he misforecast so badly, was his belief that American private-household consumption would hold up. In fact, for the most part, it has—the U.S. consumer-spending bubble is only now starting its overdue implosion. So, clearly, Kaletsky still has no idea that it is the unstoppable collapse of the monstrous global bubble of debt—not any declines in spending or rises in energy prices, etc.—which is blowing out the world economy. For a certainly, Kaletsky's new influential annual forecast, to be issued Jan. 8, will forecast economic recovery during 2002, and will be disastrously wrong.

If you still, suicidally, follow such forecasts, LaRouche, on Oct. 24 of this year, had advice for you: “Let it be said, on my behalf, out of compassion for the many precariously balanced minds wandering at large in the U.S.A. and other nations: Stop worrying! There is no recession in progress! Be at peace. What is in progress, is merely a world-wide economic depression. . . .”