

Editorial

Pursuing Evil-Doers, Or Doing Good?

Recent wretched political posturing in the Commonwealth of Virginia has a certain national significance, as the economic crisis worsens and citizens are looking for a serious effort by political leaders to face this crisis and solve it. Such citizens' honest expectations are simply too much for most American elected officials to bear. Witness James Gilmore, now former Republican Governor of Virginia; and Mark Warner, the Democrat just elected to succeed Gilmore.

In Gilmore, Virginia voters made their common error of mistaking a career prosecutor for a public servant—even more common than Americans' other fatal error, of mistaking professional sports stars for public servants. During 2001, Gilmore flunked and was booted out as Republican national party chairman, because in that position he had been doing a good imitation of Treasury Secretary Paul “recovery's just around the corner” O'Neill. Then, in January 2001, Gilmore found himself leaving the Virginia Governor's office under the cloud of a huge budget deficit and rapidly rising unemployment in this “full employment” state; his own crazy tax policies, which had gotten him so many votes in 1997, had helped the worldwide economic crisis put Virginia into this hole.

So Gilmore decided to “recoup”—by blaming the State Parole Board and the state's prison inmates. The evil-doers! On Jan. 4, the outgoing Governor demanded that his successor fire the entire Parole Board at once, immediately, saying he was “outraged” that parole had been granted to two inmates serving life terms for murder, each of whom had been in prison for decades. And sure enough, two days later, incoming Democrat Warner—perhaps with a wink and a nod to Gilmore—became equally “outraged” and sacked the offending Board. Its five members went from being the nation's toughest parole board, to their new status as evil-doers, in less time than it took thousands of the area's textile workers to lose their jobs in the Burlington plant closings. Warner has refused to say anything specific about his plans to face Virginia's fiscal blowout and economic shrinkage; but he suddenly found he knew exactly what

to do in this case—to distract popular attention from his cluelessness about the economic crisis.

A final note of pathetic comedy was added by one of the fired Board members. He revealed, in the *Washington Post*, that pressure to parole one of the convicted murderers, “in time to be home for Christmas,” had come from a Leesburg, Virginia state delegate, who is a conservative Republican, and a political ally of Governor Gilmore!

It is easy to see in these sad Virginia events, the local shadow of the behavior of national Congressional and party leaders in the exploding “Enron scandal.” No one of these leaders, either in the White House or the Congress, dares call it economic depression; no one of them will get anywhere near uttering the truth about the economic collapse under way, nor suggest anything serious to do about it. While waiting for the “recovery which must be coming,” they have all seized on the Enron scandal—to try to win votes on the economy, without mentioning the economy or economic policy!

The corrupt spectacle should infuriate Americans: One day scores of politicians, “experts,” judges, prospective Presidential candidates like Joe Lieberman, all shouting “I accuse” at Enron, now that it is bankrupt; next day they, or others, turn around and say, “I recuse,” as it becomes known that Enron paid them or their campaigns. One year ago, when Enron was driving California's economy toward destruction, hyperinflating energy prices, acting to trigger industrial collapse and mass layoffs, no one of these elected leaders or officials considered it deplorable, let alone criminal.

At that time, one year ago, it was only Lyndon LaRouche, and his Presidential campaign, who declared war on Enron Corp. for its actual crimes—the policies of deregulation and deindustrialization which it was executing. He attacked the real economic and strategic evils other political leaders are *still* hiding from. Compare LaRouche's webcasts, campaign pamphlets, and campaign actions of November 2000-January 2001 on these issues, to what is now clear. He looks pretty good.