

National News

Sen. Lautenberg Slams 'Chicken-hawk' Cheney

Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.), an octogenarian World War II veteran, created pandemonium on the floor of the U.S. Senate on April 27, when he called Vice President Dick Cheney "the lead chicken-hawk" in the country. "We know who the chicken-hawks are," he said. "They talk tough on national defense and military issues and cast aspersions on others, but when it was their turn to serve, they were AWOL from courage."

Lautenberg defined a chicken-hawk as "having the shriek of a hawk, but the backbone of a chicken, and now the chicken-hawks are squawking about Senator Kerry. The lead chicken-hawk against Senator Kerry is the Vice President." He went on to report how Cheney claimed he had "other priorities" during the Vietnam War, so that he could not go to war.

To drive the point home, Lautenberg pulled out a large cartoon of a chicken in a military uniform. (It is now posted on the Senator's website, www.lautenberg.senate.gov/chickenhawk.html, along with a video clip of his speech.)

According to radio reports, all hell broke out in response to the intervention, with Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) jumping to Cheney's rescue.

Next to the chicken-hawk on Lautenberg's site, is the definition: *Chicken-hawk*—n.—A person enthusiastic about war, provided someone else fights it; particularly when that enthusiasm is undimmed by personal experience with war; most emphatically when that lack of experience came in spite of ample opportunity in that person's youth."

Lyndon LaRouche began his attack on Cheney and the chicken-hawks in the pages of *EIR* in August 2002.

Village Voice: Dems Need New Candidate

Village Voice columnist James Ridgeway's April 27 column was titled, "John Kerry

Must Go—Note to Democrats: it's not too late to draft someone, anyone, else."

"With the air gushing out of John Kerry's balloon," he wrote, "it may be only a matter of time until political insiders in Washington face the dread reality that the junior senator from Massachusetts doesn't have what it takes to win and has got to go. As arrogant and out of it as the Democratic political establishment is, even these pols know the party's got to have someone to run against George Bush. They can't exactly expect the president to self-destruct into thin air."

Noting the "issues" over Kerry's wealth, his medals and ribbons, "his uninspiring record in the Senate (yes war, no war), and wishy-washy efforts to mimic Bill Clinton's triangulation gimmickry," Ridgeway said that Kerry is sinking day by day. "The pros all know that the candidate who starts each morning by having to explain himself is a goner.

"What to do? Look for the Dem biggies, whoever they are these days, to sit down with the rich and arrogant presumptive nominee and try to persuade him to take a hike. Then they can return to business as usual resurrecting John Edwards, who is still hanging around, or staging an open convention in Boston, or both.

"If things proceed as they are, the dim-bulb Dem leaders are going to be very sorry they screwed Howard Dean."

The leftist Ridgeway apparently cannot bring himself to mention the LaRouche option.

Columnist Kristof Wants Turnaround in Iraq

Nicholas Kristof, writing in the *New York Times* on April 28, called for emergency changes in U.S. policy toward Southwest Asia. Kristof is reportedly a friend of former President George H.W. Bush.

"I've been quiet on Iraq lately because it's so tempting—but rather unhelpful—to rant one more time about President Bush's folly in launching this war. It's far harder to figure out what to do now that he's gotten us chest-deep in the mire. I'm not certain that we can make a success out of Iraq, and the

question John Kerry posed in 1971 is still a fair one: 'How do you ask a man to be the last man to die for a mistake?' . . . Yet rushing out would be a mistake. If we give up on Iraq, it will collapse into civil war."

His proposals include:

- Temporarily increase troop strength by 25,000.
- Stick to the June 30 transition and give Iraqis full sovereignty. Limited sovereignty risks inflaming Iraqi nationalism.
- Don't rush in to attack Fallujah or Najaf. We made Shi'ite extremist Moqtadar al-Sadr a hero by closing his newspaper; "our best hope for destroying him is to leave him alone."
- "Dump Ahmad Chalabi and other carpetbaggers. They are American stooges who undermine the legitimacy of any government they are in. . . . Dawa and SCIRI [Shi'ite parties] want a stable Iraq even more than we do."
- "Disentangle ourselves from Ariel Sharon, that bloodstained figure embraced by President Bush as 'a man of peace.' . . . Mr. Bush squandered our legitimacy in Iraq when he and Mr. Sharon chummily gave away Palestinian rights this month."
- Bring back the most professional and least political Baathist generals.

Senator Levin Says, Dump Ahmed Chalabi

Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich) delivered a speech on the Senate floor on April 29, in which he stated that with the upsurge of violence in Iraq, the President has offered only two options: to stay the course, or to cut and run. The Senator sees a third option: to correct the course we are on in Iraq.

Levin pointed out that the Administration has decided to retain more troops in Iraq—although the same Administration had disparaged Gen. Eric Shinseki, then Army Chief of Staff, when he foretold the need for more troops for occupation period.

Levin strongly supported the reversal of the de-Baathification policy. "I hope that this revision will include the removal of Ahmed Chalabi as head of the de-Baathification program as well," he said. "He is the wrong person for the job for a lot of reasons."