

Editorial

A Very Powerful Weapon

In the wake of the circulation of approximately 1 million pamphlets outlining Lyndon LaRouche's plan to "recreate our economy," a movement is emerging throughout the Midwestern United States to "save the automotive and machine-tool industries," upon which our nation's survival depends. Citizens are beginning to demand that their local political leaders, especially in city councils, take action, and demand that Congress adopt emergency measures to prevent an otherwise visibly emerging disaster.

So far, resolutions to this effect have been passed in six city councils, two of them in Michigan, plus in the Wayne County Commission, which is the governing body that covers 2 million people, including the City of Detroit. The cities include Cleveland and Columbus, Ohio; Detroit and Pontiac, Michigan; and Buffalo, New York.

Crucial to the passage of most of the resolutions, was the intervention of the LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM), which has been holding discussions with political leaders, and the population, throughout the region. The youth represent a factor of *optimism* injected into an environment where people have become virtually inured to their declining conditions of life. The youth have replaced the attitude that "you can't fight City Hall," with the attitude that you can *take over* not only City Hall, but the Federal government, and get your representatives to act on behalf of the general welfare.

Exemplary of the process was what happened in Columbus, the capital of Ohio. The Council meeting was first addressed by United Autoworkers local president Mark Sweazy, who outlined what was at stake with the shutdown of the auto industry, and highlighted the role of Lyndon LaRouche in sparking the fight to save the industry. It is only this 82-year-old man who is fighting, Sweazy said, as if to put shame into the younger people present. Sweazy was followed by City Councilwoman Charleta Tavares, who introduced the resolution, and underscored the importance of saving the skilled workforce which is threatened. Then a LYM member spoke on behalf of his generation, arguing that the economy must be saved in order to create a *future* for both the youth and the country. The Council then passed the resolution.

The Columbus resolution, like all the others, is being forwarded to the state's Congressmen, and to President George W. Bush. Bush may not get the message, but Congress will.

Asked during his recent webcast about the importance of the resolutions, Lyndon LaRouche encouraged his audience to spread the movement as fast as possible. He put it this way:

"What we want to do is build up a landslide of such resolutions—because they're right: Because, people out there *know* they're facing this situation. They know they need help. And getting their city council, or some relevant institution, or trade-union organization, to make such a resolution—just pile it on! This has always worked in American politics, to great advantage. Pile it on! Just don't try to assume that that's going to work by itself. It's going to work *indirectly* by—this is a way of mobilizing an assertion of the sense of self-interest of the American people, case by case, to say, 'Boy! There are a lot of us out here, who have this same concern. And we're willing to fight for this concern quite seriously.' To a politician, that's like throwing meat to sharks. They grab for that stuff.

"So, it's a very powerful weapon. One should not expect direct results necessarily from it, though you would hope for that. But we can expect effective *indirect* results.

"Above all other things: What we have to worry about is not only a demoralization of our politicians, but a demoralization of our people. Our people, generally, in the United States, are feeling that they're about at the limit of what they can take, in terms of worsening conditions. The main thing we have to be concerned about, in that respect, is, we must not allow our people to be demoralized. Because, if they become demoralized, our situation as a nation is hopeless. Therefore, we have to encourage them to express their interest, and find themselves in solidarity with many other citizens, sometimes the neighbor they didn't like before, on these kinds of issues.

"So mobilizing people around such things, is, among other things, building up their morale, and defending their morale, by means which are very effective politically."