

## Editorial

# *Now, Are You Ready To Learn Economics?*

There is no more appropriate New Year's resolution that American citizens could make, than that they will finally settle down to learn economics. This issue of *Executive Intelligence Review* is a good place to start.

The first step, is to forget about money. The amount of money available in an economy tells you nothing about whether it is prosperous or not. Indeed, the vast amount of money floating around in the current U.S. economy, which is officially declared to be prospering, is nothing but *debt*. The insanity of the situation is underscored by the fact that the Gross Domestic Product, which is what is rising, has nothing to do with what this country *produces*, but is itself a product of the speed and amount of purchases, a large part of which are speculation.

It is an encouraging sign that some modern economists understand the insanity of this situation. In his Dec. 29 broadcast on National Public Radio, economist and former Secretary of Labor Robert Reich took apart the idea that GDP reflects the reality of the living situation of the U.S. population: "We've had four straight years of declining MDP [Median Domestic Prosperity]," Reich said, "which puts us deep in an MDP recession. . . . Let's be honest. Unless you happen to be in the top 20% of income, this economy is nothing to cheer about."

In reality, the situation is much worse than Reich says, as our Baltimore feature in this issue shows. What we are conveying in this study is the *dynamic* of a depression collapse into a New Dark Age, a process of devolution whereby the interaction of deindustrialization, denial of health care, destruction of education, and deliberate destruction of infrastructure creates what can only be understood as a "black hole," or "death zone." And while we are talking about Baltimore in specific, the message should be clear. To the extent that the very same process which created the "death zones" of Baltimore dominates in the United States economy as a whole, the closer the entire nation will move toward a similar terrifying spiral of decay.

An understanding of the dynamics of a devolving

economy, will prepare you to understand the opposite dynamic process, that of creating a region of economic recovery. Thus, we will be following up the Baltimore study with LaRouche's design for reindustrializing the Upper Midwest, which will involve defining a total environment appropriate to jumpstarting into prosperity. We will look at the required interaction between industry at the point of production, local agriculture able to satisfy most nutritional needs, infrastructure, neighborhoods with their various inhabitants by principal occupation, and age and demographic structure, in order to create modern agro-industrial civilization. You can't drop a factory, or a road, or, worse yet, just money, into the middle of a desolated area, and expect to get prosperity.

We are aware that it will be very difficult for most Americans to grasp this concept, in the wake of the last 40-60 years of brainwashing into the post-war monetarist system. To most people, economics means "making money," not producing products or prosperity, much less scientific breakthroughs. To get the concept through, *EIR* will be rapidly expanding its program of *animations* (see [www.larouchepub.com/animations](http://www.larouchepub.com/animations)), which permit us to convey a closer approximation to the economic process which has brought us to the point where we are today.

This education program is not just a "good thing." The mismanagement of our world economy by monetarist financiers, and their Baby Boomer business dupes, has brought our planet to a point of crisis which could, in fact, create the conditions for the decimation of the human race. If we don't replace the current system, with an American System approach based on sovereign nation-states, we are going to find ourselves ruled by the likes of fascist bankers such as Felix Rohatyn, and fascist goons such as Dick Cheney.

As LaRouche points out in his year-end cadre school presentation in Europe (see *International*), there is no assurance of victory at this late hour in history. But the ideas for getting out of this crisis are at hand, for those willing to act. Now, are you ready to learn economics?