

Editorial

Do What Henry Hopkins Did!

In early May of 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed his old New York collaborator Harry Hopkins as the head of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. Within less than one hour, Hopkins had set up shop, and begun pouring out \$5 million in relief to desperate families all over the country. But that was nothing compared to what Hopkins did in November of that year, when starvation was threatening over 10 million people in a brutal Winter. Authorized by FDR to set up the Civil Works Administration, Hopkins put 800,000 people to work in ten days, 2 million on the job in a month, and ultimately 4.2 million people into jobs building schools, roads, bridges, sewers, and other infrastructure—much of which is still in use in the United States today! Under FDR's leadership, he saved millions of lives, and the nation. And we built the capability to save the world from fascism in World War II.

In putting forward his Emergency Legislation plan for saving the machine-tool capacity of the U.S. auto industry, Lyndon LaRouche has identified the task as being a clear parallel with what Hopkins did in 1933. In other words, LaRouche emphasized, we cannot afford to dither around: We have to “cut the crap,” and get the job done now.

There is one clear difficulty with this plan, of course. *We don't have a President of the United States who is competent to take such decision action.* In fact, George W. Bush is completely non-functional. But we cannot afford to wait until he is removed from office—which clearly has to occur after the Vice President is pushed out of the way. Action must be taken in Congress *now* in order to build momentum behind the emergency legislation required to save both the manpower and physical capability which is required to rebuild our economy, and eventually, the rest of the world as well.

The image of the Harry Hopkins program, which pushes all bureaucratic obstacles to the side, and addresses the direct needs for both productive employment, and for reconstructing collapsing national infrastructure, has immediately struck a chord with trade unionists, in particular, all around the country. While a pamphlet is still under preparation which will present

the LaRouche Emergency Legislation, and the necessary backup, the LaRouche Youth Movement is already carrying out an aggressive outreach campaign in Congress, state capitols, and labor union halls, initiating the discussion on what needs to be done. Interestingly, the group which is most receptive to this plan of action is the layer typified by the county chairmen of the Democratic Party, which has been totally frustrated by the lack of action by Congress on the economic crisis, and which is the least reluctant to recognize the dimensions of the economic collapse.

Ultimately, in facing the need to carry out an emergency program to save the core productive capacity of the United States workforce and industry, we face the same problem which Roosevelt did: fear. Congressmen, trade unionists, and others are all terrified about recognizing the actual extent of the social and economic crisis we face. They don't want to admit the reality of the bankruptcy of the world financial system. They don't want to take on the mantra that “globalization is inevitable,” which has taken over every major institution in U.S. politics.

But the fight to ram through LaRouche's Emergency Legislation to save and retool the auto plant capacity, in producing for the vital infrastructure needs of the nation, cannot be postponed any further. LaRouche has insisted that the drive for this legislation be undertaken not as propaganda, or education, but as a serious mobilization to *win*. If we sit back and wait for the crisis to get worse, and try to mobilize forces for action after that time, much of this capability will already have been dismantled! And the forces who must be brought into the fight will very likely have been crushed.

Keep in mind the image of Harry Hopkins and FDR. Here were two very unorthodox people, aware of their constitutional powers, but otherwise simply determined to find the means to prevent the United States and its population from being destroyed. They knew it depended upon *them* to ram through the solution. As LaRouche describes it in his discussion with his youth movement in this issue, it is that sense of responsibility which we have to mobilize, and impart, today.