

DEMAND EMERGENCY ECONOMIC PLAN

Congress Held Accountable By LaRouche PAC Drive

by Marcia Merry-Baker

This year, the annual U.S. Congressional recess for the Fourth of July will be no break from politics, but instead, the occasion for still more pressure on Congress to initiate urgent emergency economic measures—the focus of an organizing drive by the Lyndon LaRouche Political Action Committee (LPAC) and bipartisan collaborators throughout the nation. Leading the charge are activists with the LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM), whose mobilization ranges from street organizing, to phone-call campaigns, to regional tours—for example, to west Texas and the Ohio Valley states, to engage citizens in forcing Federal action. In the course of this activity, the Democratic Party is gaining new life, as are whole ranks of traditional, anti-Cheney Republicans.

In May, LPAC released its “Economic Recovery Act of 2006,” a 26-page mass circulation document, with 500,000 now in print. This pamphlet provides need-to-know information in three critical areas: 1) the scope of the current liquidation process of the auto/machine-tool sector, the heart of what remains of the U.S. industrial base; 2) principles and precedents for the emergency legislation Congress must pass to save manufacturing capacity, and launch an infrastructure building-based recovery, creating millions of new jobs; and 3) the profile of those deliberately destroying the auto and manufacturing capacity, namely networks centered on Felix Rohatyn and Lazard Frères, of international financial interests backing the Democratic Leadership Council (DLC), and in league with George Shultz’s coterie of Republican globalists.

LPAC has just released 50,000 copies of documentation of this last point, titled, *Who Is Bankrupting America? Felix Rohatyn’s ‘al-Qaeda’ Destroyed American Industry* (see last week’s EIR for the full text), on top of 150,000 copies of a previous LPAC White Paper entitled, “Rohatyn: The French Nazi Connection.”

Ask Congress: ‘What Will You Do?’

Dozens of state, local, and labor leaders have signed a public statement demanding Congressional action. At the same time, new announcements of the shutdown of auto plants and the sell-off of machinery occur almost daily.

In this context, most Congressional offices on Capitol Hill and in home districts, cannot deny that there is a crisis. The question becomes: What will you do? The LPAC/LYM activity is focussed on getting Congressional action before the August recess. A LYM centralized “war room” has been established to crossfire home district demands for Congressional action, with what the Capitol Hill offices are or are not doing.

Among the channels of local pressure for action are Congressional Districts whose constituents are represented by state legislatures still in session before June 30, the end of the state fiscal year. Michigan, the world center for auto production capacity, is now ground-zero for auto takedown. Michigan revenues and essential government services are in crisis. In Lansing, state legislative offices were briefed intensively on June 28, by LYM members going in-depth on questions ranging from, “Where will the money come from for retooling auto and infrastructure-building?” to “Why isn’t ethanol a solution to the high price of gas at the pump?”

Ohio River Valley Tour

In the Ohio River Valley, part of the Upper Midwest auto sector, there was special opportunity for organizing for emergency Congressional action in late June, when six “public comment” sessions were held by the Army Corps of Engineers in the six states along the Ohio River, on the new Corps proposals for how to rebuild the aged locks and dams on this system. (See the testimony presented by LPAC, following this

article.) An LPAC tour through Indiana and Ohio mobilized to get the word out among labor, legislative leaders, and local activists, about the June 28 and 29 meetings in Evansville, Indiana and Covington, Kentucky (across the Ohio River from Cincinnati, Ohio). Over 20 Ohio River Congressional Districts were put on notice to take action now, before it is too late.

Whereas, the previous four Corps of Engineers public meetings drew next to no participation (18 in Pennsylvania; 4 in Ohio; 2 in Illinois, and a few in West Virginia), in Evansville, 50 attended. Three LPAC spokesmen testified at the meeting, and also the next night at Covington (15 attending), stressing the importance of going ahead with Corps infrastructure projects as part of the same effort for retooling auto/machine-tool capacity to rebuild the national economy, and in fact, to rebuild the military around Army Corps of Engineers functions.

LPAC representative John Morris, who led off the session's comments, briefed the gathering on the contents of the LaRouche Economic Recovery Act. He said, "We can talk about technology all day; it's useful, but, without the political fight, the answer will always be, 'No money.' We are obliged to broaden the discussion here into what's happening in the national economy as a whole."

Steve Jeffrey, part of the LaRouche Youth Movement, received appreciative laughs for noting that it's good of the Corps to take a long-term perspective (2010 to 2070) for keeping the Ohio navigation channel going, because "a lot of people in my generation are wondering whether or not we're going to have a future. Usually this long-term planning doesn't go on!" LYM member Bill Roberts testified on how long-term capital budgeting can pay for infrastructure projects.

Building trades leaders pointed out later, the importance of the LPAC Economic Recovery perspective, for rebuilding "production" capacity, not just to build public works. They said that it's been seven years since they worked on any new production project.

Ohio State Rep. Catherine L. Barrett (D-32, Cincinnati) attended the Kentucky meeting. In her state alone, six auto plants are in line for shutdown. Thousands of jobs are being eliminated at Delphi, the bankrupt parts-supplier to General Motors. In August 2005, Barrett sponsored a resolution in the Ohio legislature, calling on Congress to save the auto sector, and to redeploy it into infrastructure building.

At a hearing Oct. 19, 2005, in Columbus, Barrett testified, "At the same time that we have an auto crisis, we also have a collapse of our infrastructure throughout the country. Here in Ohio, bridges and sewage systems need repair, roads are in need of help, our hospitals and schools need assistance. We also have a crisis with our inland water system, with the locks and dams on the Ohio River in poor repair. . . ." Barrett has held public hearings in Columbus and Cincinnati on the auto crisis.

Congress: 'Pay Attention!'

In West Texas, the last week of June, LPAC activists likewise toured, meeting with area students, farm leaders, and local activists on the need for bipartisan action to force Congressional action before the August recess. LYM leaders Natalie Lovegren and Stephanie Nelson stirred things up among Lubbock-based ranchers—traditionally Republican—and with students at Texas Tech, some of whom had the same first reaction, "Thank God you're here!"

This area is severely hit by water shortages from aquifer depletion and drought, low farm commodity prices, and the general economic depression. At one meeting, a farm-radio show host reported in depth on the crisis-condition of agriculture, and the disastrous impact of the cartel globalization policies.

Whether in Texas, or the Ohio Valley, or anywhere else across the United States, all this motion and demand for action, is being played back into Congress. Speaking on a June 24 radio broadcast, LYM member Scott Mooney described the war-room function set up by the youth.

"We have a whole base of contacts with the LaRouche movement, seeing that this movement's been organizing since the late 1960s in the United States. . . . So, we're making calls out to our entire contact base, on a massive level, and having them contact their Congressperson, arrange for meetings with the LaRouche Youth Movement, arrange for their Congressman or a representative to attend a webcast that Mr. LaRouche is holding July 20, maybe a week and a half before Congress goes out of session.

"And so, the main idea is to get this legislation pushed through, to get Dick Cheney impeached. And of course a big part of that is restructuring the Democratic Party. . . ."

Revive the FDR Legacy

Mooney noted that the influence of Felix Rohatyn and other financiers must be broken, and the legacy of Franklin Roosevelt revived. In some parts of the country, the process required to make this happen is increasingly evident.

In Los Angeles on June 25, LYM member and L.A. County Democratic Party Central Committee member Creighton Jones was among the honorees at the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt 2006 Democrat of the Year Awards ceremony. "Cody" Jones, recipient for the 43rd Assembly District, was described in the official program of the event, "Creighton Jones is inspired by Lyndon LaRouche's idea of reviving Franklin Roosevelt's commitment to the General Welfare through the optimistic policy of global development and poverty eradication." Jones is "a co-founder of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Legacy Democratic Club—which continues to recruit young activists into the Democratic Party."

The issue of FDR shaped the proceedings of this awards night, from which activists are now mapping out plans to get a sponsor for LaRouche's Emergency Act from among the large number of Democratic Congressmen who represent constituents in southern California.