

The Courage Deficit

You don't have to be some kind of financial or political "expert" to understand that the deficit and debt ceiling debate which is being played out in Washington, D.C. is a cynical charade. Most of the American people know in their bones that neither of the political parties, nor their own Members of Congress, are telling the truth, or acting in the people's interests. The population's experience over the past 10 years has driven that point home.

The reality is, there is no "deficit" problem, nor an existential problem based on the (probably unconstitutional) setting of a debt ceiling for the U.S. government, which will allegedly expire on Aug. 2. This discussion is all a ruse, manufactured in order to drum up a crisis atmosphere, in which the murderous austerity program which the London-Wall Street bankers insist upon in order to maintain their political control—a de facto dictatorship—can be rammed through. The real deficit is the courage deficit.

Remember The Fall of 2008? There's a true parallel here: While the Bush Administration was already pouring hundreds of billions into bankrupt private banks behind the scenes, it went to Congress for the public bailout, called TARP. At that point, Congress listened to the people! Despite massive pressure from the bankers and the Congressional leadership, the House of Representatives *rejected* TARP on Sept. 29.

And the sky did *not* fall—although the popular mythology today would lead you to believe it did. Instead, the level of threats and intimidation dramatically escalated, including some Congressmen being told that the "markets" would collapse so much that there would be an outbreak of social unrest that would lead to "blood in the streets." By Oct. 3, a sufficient number of Congressmen

had knuckled under, and the massive scam known as the Bailout got under way with official sanction—and, despite non-stop lies, it has not ended since.

It is precisely this kind of pressure campaign which the Obama Administration, hand in hand with the Wall Street-backed Republicans, are applying, claiming the sky is about to fall, to ram through their so-called deficit-debt ceiling package. Now, as then, there is *no* need to ram through legislation which amounts to an accelerated bailout for the bankers, and slashing of living standards for the population. The Obama-Republican "solution" is just more of the disease, and it goes a new giant step toward imposing an outright dictatorship to impose its austerity measures against the elderly and the poor.

The real problem is the bankruptcy of the entire world financial system, and the consequent looting of the physical economy, through the attempt to bailout of the bad gambling debts. Once you understand the problem, you can cut through the fog, and fight for the real solution: Glass-Steagall.

That's where the courage deficit comes in. The LaRouche movement has carried out an aggressive campaign for nearly three years now, and has now been joined by more than 35 courageous Congressmen, who have co-sponsored H.R. 1489 and H.R. 2451, bills to reinstate Glass-Steagall. These bills, not some murderous anti-deficit legislation, are what must be rushed through Congress—coupled with the removal of Obama from the White House.

Ultimately, the nature of our national leaders reflects who *we* are, because *we* are the ones who elect them, and either hold them accountable, or not. We know *they* have a courage deficit. The question is, do *we*?