LaRouchePAC-TV: A Tour of NAWAPA XXI

LaRouche PAC-TV released a new online video, "NAWAPA XXI" on July 27, by Michael Kirsch, Dennis Mason, Spencer Cross, and Diana Wong. The title refers to the proposal for a North American Water and Power Alliance, to bring water that flows from the rivers of Alaska and Canada into the sea, southward to the driest areas of the United States and Mexico. Originally drafted in 1964, NAWAPA was never built, for political reasons. But with the scorching droughts of recent years, it is more urgent than ever, and the LaRouchePAC team has been working intensively to update and upgrade it for modern implementation.

The LaRouchePAC website describes the film as "an executive in-depth 30-minute tour of NAWAPA XXI, produced for water specialists, farmers, policymakers, and others who will be able to put their weight behind this life-like vision of the future."

We publish here the beginning and the end of the video, to give an idea of this vast project, and to encourage you to watch it for yourself.

We live on a continent whose western part has a wide discrepancy of rainfall distribution due to the particularities of the Pacific Ocean weather system. The area stretching from Alaska and Yukon down to Washington State has 40 times the annual river runoff of the Southwest and Northern Mexico. To move some of this runoff to areas where there is little, it appears at first glance that a very long canal or pipeline would be required. Closer inspection shows that such a canal is already built! More specifically, there is a continuous stretch of naturally made canals, in the form of Rocky Mountain trenches and valleys, stretching from southeast Alaska through southern Idaho, roughly 2,000 miles.

All that is required is the construction of 31 dams, and a 2,000-mile route utilizing these topographical features can deliver 11% of the runoff water of Alaska, British Columbia, and Yukon to bring a new source of surface water to the U.S. Southwest and Mexico, that will last as long as the rain continues to fall in the northern mountains of the continent, an amount capable of doubling food production, saving cities, farms, and industries across the Southwest, and securing livelihoods for generations to come. The construction of the northern storage and power system will bring with it the independence and industrialization of Alaska, the rapid development of British Columbia, and the general de-

FIGURE 1
Alaska Rivers

"NAWAPA XXI" video, LPAC-TV

FIGURE 2
British Columbia Rivers

"NAWAPA XXI" video, LPAC-TV

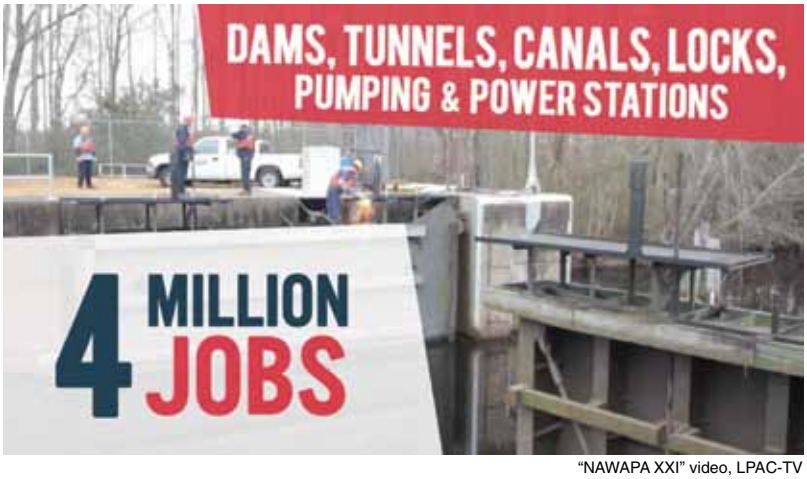
FIGURE 3

"NAWAPA XXI" video, LPAC-TV

FIGURE 4

"NAWAPA XXI" video, LPAC-TV

FIGURE 5



"NAWAPA XXI" video, LPAC-TV

velopment of the continent as a whole. Implementing the project will save and revive vital industries and technological capabilities, and create millions of long-term, productive jobs.

[*The video proceeds to give an overview of the NAWAPA XXI plan, starting with the 2,000-mile storage reservoir system from Alaska through Idaho, and working southward to Mexico. The concluding two sections follow.*]

Transportation Corridors

Returning to Canada, a major addition to the main storage route described integrates with the proposed development of British Columbia and supplies the Canadian prairies with needed water. Peace River runoff and other Mackenzie Basin streams, as well as potential flows from the runoff of the far North, would make possible a barge canal across Canada, connecting existing rivers with a 730-foot-wide canal large enough for barges, stretching from the man-made Williston Lake, created by B.C. Premier W.A.C. Bennett, all the way to Lake Superior. Sufficient water supplies will be drawn from the canal for the needs of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, and a branching barge canal will cross through the Dakotas and link up with the Missouri and Mississippi river systems, designed for flood control as well as for shipping and irrigation.

The seaway will stabilize the levels of the Great Lakes when excess water is available. Branching off from the canal, a seaway between Lake Winnipeg and Hudson Bay, and a canal between Georgian Bay and James Bay would create cheap transport routes for resource development. The extension of waterways into areas where existing access is achieved only by expensive overland transport, will open vast new areas to accelerated settlement and development.

Barge traffic connecting Lake Williston

to a navigable Fraser River, through locks near Prince George, would make British Columbia an inflection point for world trade, and allow for material processing within the province, making use of the extensive 32 GW of surplus hydro-power possible through the system.

For the efficient construction of the NAWAPA XXI reservoirs, canals, pumping and power stations, the completion of the Alaskan-Canadian rail system, studied under former Alaskan Gov. Frank Murkowski, is immediately available for construction during the design, pre-construction, and site preparation phases of NAWAPA XXI. Two routes from Dease Lake to Fairbanks, and Fort Nelson to Fairbanks will neatly service their construction and supply. During the period of construction of NAWAPA XXI, Alaska and British Columbia will break away from the status of raw material exporters and begin processing their own resources, becoming self-sufficient with local industries and new supply lines.

Summary Benefits

The system's dams, tunnels, canals, locks, and pumping and power stations will alone require 27 billion cubic yards of earth moved, 3 billion cubic yards of concrete, and 440 million tons of steel. The estimated machine production and material production for the construction machinery on-site, as well as the system components, will require 4 million jobs. Additional rail supply lines from a revived Midwest manufacturing belt to the West, and those lines running to the North, new power stations, and the new industries required for the task, will increase this by millions more. With modern technologies, the NAWAPA XXI design presented here could be done as fast as labor and plant capacity could be allocated for the task, in as little 15-20 years.

In addition to the benefits stated, numerous other benefits will result. There will be an increase in national income from agriculture, livestock, mining, and manufacturing; an overall increase in land values will result in irrigated land, while related industrial and urban land values will increase in proportion. Recreational activities will increase with the formation of scenic and navigable waterways. The increase in commerce and industry will be tremendous; tax receipts of the three nations will rise; and each country will reap gains in foreign exchange by the yield of increased exports of agricultural, forest, and mineral products. The process set into motion by the project will serve as the basis for a restoration of the public credit system, with a functioning system of bank lending for productive economic activities.

Making the decision to enact NAWAPA XXI will create a new generation of productive citizens, making good on our debt to the World War II generation, on whose productive wealth we have too long relied, and left nothing for the generations to come.

See the documentary "NAWAPA 1964" for the history of the proposal. The LaRouchePAC Special Report "NAWAPA XXI" is availble in PDF form at www.larouchepac.com/NAWAPAXXI, and print copies are available from LaRouchePAC for the suggested contribution of $100. Call 1-800-929-7566 to order.