

# The Change that America Requires Now

*The following edited transcript is composed of excerpts from the Monday, [July 17 LaRouche PAC webcast](#), which featured Policy Committee members Diane Sare and Kesha Rogers, with host Matt Ogden. The discussion addressed the urgent need for the United States to implement Lyndon LaRouche's Four Laws, and to do so now, before the impending blow-out of the trans-Atlantic financial system. Helga Zepp-LaRouche, founder of the international Schiller Institute, had made the point that President Trump's decision to meet with President Putin, and his ongoing work with President Xi, have created a great potential for the progress of mankind, but that the United States' economic collapse remains the Achilles heel of his administration, and it is up to the LaRouche Movement to address it.*

**Matthew Ogden:** If we use Glass-Steagall to shut down Wall Street and to dismantle this power center which has been so concentrated in Wall Street and in the City of London, then we will restore political power back to the Constitutional American System, and by so doing, we will free up the Presidency to act on these necessary policies, just as Franklin Roosevelt did. I think we'll get into it more, but it's a very nefarious role that's being played right now by Treasury Secretary

Steve Mnuchin, one that the American people should be very angry about, and should be something that should be strongly denounced, as Lyndon LaRouche did when Mnuchin was originally appointed.

But there is nowhere where the immediate necessity for this kind of national mobilization for an emergency recovery program is more apparent than it is right now in the heart of New York City. So, I'd like to ask Diane to say a little bit about the situation there right now, and help to fill out this picture a little bit.

**Diane Sare:** I made a point a few weeks ago, as we were going into the Sylvia Olden Lee tribute that the Schiller Institute Chorus was involved in, that I had become very acutely aware of the crisis in the transportation system, because of the number of people showing up late for rehearsals. Then a couple of my colleagues blew out three tires in a pothole while driving from Staten Island, and I realized—just to take a step back and actually think about this—forget the individual incidents—what does this kind of incident indicate?

It demonstrates that the transportation infrastructure is old and has not been maintained. The rail tunnels crossing under the Hudson River were built in 1907, so they're one hundred ten years old. Some tunnels on the



EIRNS/Diane Sare

*Crowded 168th Street New York subway station, after a fire on the track blocked train traffic.*

East Side were built at that time or later—one in 1924. Therefore, you have infrastructure that's close to a century old, or even more than a century old. You have switches in the subways that were built in the 1920s and 1930s. You have a road system which is not being repaired in the way it should be, because of budget cuts: When you repave a road, you're supposed to start from the bottom, not just pick a particular pothole and fill it. So what we are looking at is a breakdown.

Moreover, the infrastructure we're using was not built for the population density that we have today. The traffic flow at Penn Station is almost triple—even before the so-called Summer of Hell began, where three out of twenty-one tracks are now closed for repairs. It was built for a capacity of about 250,000 commuters a day. Today, it is being used by 650,000. And every corridor in and out of Manhattan is similarly overloaded. You have something like 1.6 million people coming into Manhattan every day to work. It's only slightly less than that in the Summer.

I raised the question, as to what are the implications of this, and when I spoke with Mr. LaRouche about it, he said, "You need a committee," and one of the first things he outlined is that you need a forecast, you need a perspective on what will happen if this is not done. . . . I made the sort of obvious hypothesis: If you are trying to move 20% of the population on one overloaded corridor, into another corridor that's already over capacity, you are creating the conditions for a cascading series of breakdowns. And frankly, I probably underestimated, or wasn't even considering, the aging and crumbling of the entire grid—not just for transportation, but electricity and water also.

My [video](#) the other day, was not just about the subways, but the fact that people were late to chorus on Thursday night because there was a fire underground at 71st and Broadway—which was not connected to the subway system directly. But because it was a very hot day, the ground was hot; people were using a lot more electricity and whatever they coated the electrical wires with actually *meltd*, so you had a fire which blew out electrical power in that area.

There was no electricity there for 24 hours. And then they were telling people, "we're turning it back on, but don't use the elevator, don't use things that really use a lot of electricity." This is *New York City* in the United States! Not a country that's been under so-called Third World conditions. In fact, rail expert Hal Cooper had made the point at a Manhattan meeting a few weeks

earlier, that one must remember that Manhattan is the economic center of the United States in many ways. A disruption of New York City would not only be devastating to New Yorkers, but would have a major destructive impact on the U.S. economy as a whole.

Now, what happened *just today*? There was a fire at 145th Street in the subway, which affected the A, B, C, and D Lines. This was supposedly a trash fire. People were stuck in a subway car for one and a half hours, twelve people were injured—people having panic attacks in the cars. I can imagine that: People being stuck in a subway tunnel with smoke billowing past them, and God knows whether they had air conditioning.

When I was in the subway the other day, there was no air conditioning, the car was massively overpacked, and the temperatures—people's glasses were steaming up, and there wasn't room to stretch your arms or move or do anything. So it's easy to see the panic that would set in if a car like that gets stuck in a dark tunnel, and the power goes out.

If something is not done to address this, there will be loss of life. And we are facing this all over the country! This is completely unacceptable. When these things get to that point, you risk having major upheavals, major chaos, but the population could bear hardship—not insanity, but hardship—if they knew there were a plan to address this.

Now, Lyndon LaRouche for the last 50 years has been doing *nothing but* producing such programs: He had programs *in the 1970s* for what should be done for Manhattan. Obviously, 40 years later, various things would be different, now, but the point is, these programs exist. So how do you get the funding?

We have engineers, we have talented people who could solve this. In Manhattan now, I think we may have to take drastic measures, like saying maybe people really should not come into the city, people should figure out how to work elsewhere. Maybe business owners should be compensated for not coming into their shops—I don't know. But I'm sure there are people who have expertise in these areas who could figure it out—maybe a plan already exists.

But the question is, *what is the future*? And I appreciate very much, Matt, that you began with talking about the Apollo mission, because *our nation used to think big*. China is thinking big; Russia is thinking big. The nations that have joined the Belt and Road are thinking fifty, one hundred, two hundred years into the future. Americans, with a bit of inspiration, would sim-

ilarly think that way, and I would say, as Mrs. LaRouche said, Trump has done a brilliant job thus far with Russia and with China: We are on a pathway hopefully to being able to put the threat of thermonuclear war behind us—I wouldn't say it's completely behind us yet, and especially with the potential blowout of the financial system, it's definitely not behind us!

But, we have to get a program now, in the United States, based on what Lyndon LaRouche said, shaped by the knowledge that human beings are not beasts, that we are creative, that our contribution to society is through creative discovery, and the economic model for best reflecting that is what Alexander Hamilton did here in Manhattan and as Secretary of the Treasury, based on his conception of our Constitution, what he wrote in the *Federalist Papers*. Today there are certain very concrete measures that have to be taken. The first step is Glass-Steagall. But my concern is that the American people actually begin to think about this from the top down, and not from the bottom up.

### Relevance of the Space Program

**Kesha Rogers:** Some people may not realize it, but this Thursday [July 20] is the forty-eighth anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon landing. This should really give us an inspiration to emulate the mission and the potential that is now being unleashed by the new policy direction that China is taking internationally, including the cooperation that's now under way between China with President Xi Jinping and the United States with President Trump. Despite the hysteria and diversions to pre-



Neil Armstrong/NASA  
*Buzz Aldrin on the Moon during the Apollo 11 flight.*



NASA  
*Mission Operations Control Room on July 24, 1969, celebrating the successful conclusion of the Apollo 11 lunar landing mission.*



NASA  
*Apollo 11 mission—the first U.S. lunar landing—being launched by this Saturn V rocket on July 16, 1969.*

vent cooperation between Trump and President Putin, we're finding that they are determined to make sure that this collaboration between Russia and America also moves forward, and as was indicated before, this *is* the way that we're going to prevent nuclear war, by having these missions work together.

I want to emphasize the importance of Mrs. LaRouche's remarks to associates yesterday. It's very important that this organization, the LaRouche movement, is living up to its historical mission. I think that challenge also has to be put to the United States government and to the American people directly. Because we do

have an historic mission, and that historic mission was beautifully captured in the optimism of President Kennedy's space program. That wasn't something that was just a project in and of itself, but it came about because John F. Kennedy was a visionary.

We're talking about a matter of life and death for the people of this nation and for mankind. The progress of mankind is going to depend returning the United States to an American System, which is exemplified in Lyndon LaRouche's [Four Laws](#).

As LaRouche understands from the standpoint of economics—we’ve been emphasizing this in recent discussions—the center and basis of that return to the American System has to be the creative human mind. That will enable us to rebuild our industrial capabilities and our transportation sector, and to re-establish our space program. It’s not just a matter—as Diane explained—of saying, “we have to put the tracks back together on existing railways.” We have to have a policy driver for saving the lives of the American people, making sure that we build up



Xinhua/Xing Guangli

*China’s new bullet train “Fuxing,” pulling out from Beijing South Railway Station, June 26, 2017. The new-generation train has a top speed of 400 kilometers an hour, and a consistent speed of 350 km an hour.*

our industrial and transportation sectors, and increasing the energy-flux density of our economy. To increase energy-flux density we must have a fusion power crash program—as stated in LaRouche’s Fourth Law—along with our space program. Railways and high-speed rail systems can be built within this policy framework. China has accelerated its rail building program since 2007, when it had 78,000 km of rails. I believe there are now more than 124,000 kilometers of rail just within China. We can do this. We can absolutely do this.

I want to make this point: As I reflect on Mr. LaRouche’s initiatives over decades, I see that he always emphasized the spiritual imperative in a Moon-Mars colonization program, and in space exploration and colonization more broadly. And that is what we are fighting for in a physical economic shift. This gets to the question of humankind’s capability for creative reasoning, which allows us to conquer, to explore, to solve any problems put in front of us. We’re facing right now the product of bad political decisions, bad economic decisions—going with the system of monetarism over what Alexander Hamilton set as a true system.

LaRouche captures it very beautifully—and this is the spark of optimism that we should have in our economic program, and in our space program—when he says, “The divine spark of reason. This spark enables each of us to develop the power of creative reasoning; the quality of reasoning typified by the work of the best

scientific discoverers. Such persons are potentially of great benefit to both contemporary society and future generations.” He says, “One new useful idea discovered by such an individual mind is of benefit to all mankind.”

So, this is what we need right now—the creation and promotion of new discoveries, new ideas; an increase of energy-flux density through a fusion economy platform. We can’t go piecemeal in building up the economy. We have to have an approach from the Solar System down.

This is the challenge right now, as we’ve said to President Trump. As Mrs. LaRouche has made clear—and we understand—this challenge is absolutely imperative and critical in the fight against the British Empire to enable strategic collaboration among nations, which is absolutely necessary. The key thing right now is that we have to break with the monetary system now; we have to restore to the country its mission.

President Trump has announced a very optimistic vision for the space program and has now named Scott Pace to head the National Space Council. I don’t have much to say about that right now. What I do want to say is that we’re going to restore our commitment to our space program as a national mission. It has to be based on the idea of bringing fully into effect Lyndon LaRouche’s *Four Laws*, with the restoration of the Glass-Steagall Act being the first step, and a national credit

policy that will enable us to fully fund a space program going in the direction that it should be going.

People should be absolutely optimistic, but also have the fighting spirit that this is the future that we want to create.

**Sare:** We had a discussion here this morning that I think was really useful, because people do have to think about where we are, actually. We were discussing with some of our Baby Boomer-aged organizers the conditions of life when they were young, compared to the conditions of life when a young person is working today. One person said that when she first started working, minimum wage was \$2.50 an hour, and she worked a 40-hour week, and the rent for a two-bedroom apartment with living room, dining room, etc., was \$97 a month. So, basically, with one week's pay at minimum wage, she could afford to pay the rent for that apartment, which she shared with her husband and maybe one other person.

Today, the minimum wage maybe is \$10, in some places it might be \$15, but the rent for that same apartment would be about \$2,000. So you're talking about an increase in the minimum wage which might be four- or five-fold, but the rent is actually 20 times more than it was before. I think you'll find similar conditions even,—I was thinking about when I was a kid when, on a hot summer day in the mid-1970s, you would go down to the corner to buy an ice cream cone that was 30 cents. Today that same ice cream cone is \$5; so it's a spectacular increase. Every single member of the population is going through this.

A tiny handful, probably a tiny fraction of the upper one percent, have gotten fabulously rich—through criminal activities, laundering of drug money, or simply ripping people off and looting them like the CEOs of our major insurance companies, or through activities like those of George Soros—and probably couldn't care less about what has happened to the people.

Every single person that we're talking to is feeling—apart from the panic of potentially being stuck in the New York City subways—the panic that if the next paycheck doesn't come, they're going to be foreclosed on. Even if the next paycheck does come, they're choosing between their blood pressure medication and paying the utility bill. This is a very real situation.

That also has a totally demoralizing and devastating effect on Americans. It's been a standard that you're

supposed to be able to support a family. Nowadays, really, you can't. So, does that mean you're a bad person, a criminal person, a foolish person, an incompetent person? Well, since there's no discussion of the actual magnitude of the economic collapse we are currently experiencing, many people have concluded, indeed, that they are hopeless. So they turn to alcohol, they turn to drugs; they get a painful injury and they're prescribed opioids which make them feel better and make the pain go away; then they find themselves addicted. There's an enormous amount of stress which people are under, which translates into very short tempers, so there is an increase in road rage. You see the whole society affected by this.

President Trump has expressed that he wants to rebuild America, but you have very problematic characters like Treasury Secretary Mnuchin, who is totally opposed to this. That's the urgency behind our mobilization.

I've used this image before, but I think it's very important now: When Franklin Roosevelt gave his first inaugural address, Labor Secretary Frances Perkins vividly describes looking out over the Mall in Washington—everyone was in tears. Why? Because Herbert Hoover had had his “chicken in every pot” polemic; things were terrible. We were in a depression, but the leadership of the country had been denying the reality. So Roosevelt's first step was to say “No! We are in a severely difficult time, but this problem is not a natural disaster that we cannot solve. The cause of this catastrophe is the money-changers; it's an economic policy which I, your President of the United States, am going to address. It's not going to be easy; we're not going to solve it instantaneously; but we can solve this together now.”

The people were greatly relieved and began to develop such trust in the President, that the nation was able to move forward in a largely unified fashion. There were fights; there were agent operations, as we know. There was an attempt to assassinate FDR before he was inaugurated. But the point is that leadership inspired people, elevated them, elevated their thinking. That is the kind of thinking we urgently need today.

**Ogden:** That's the kind of intellectual ferment among the population which the activity of the LaRouche movement is catalyzing, and it is our responsibility to provide that leadership. That is what is required to secure a full victory in the very near term.

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