

# Neo-Confederates love 'southern strategy'

by Edward Spannaus

In a June 28 memorandum, presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche warned that the "southern strategy" being pursued by both the Democratic and Republican parties is the key to the "trend toward self-destruction of the United States" (see *EIR*, July 17, p. 64). Shortly after LaRouche's warnings were published, a confirmation of them appeared, when the *Washington Times Sunday Insight* magazine of July 19 gave prominent coverage to the "neo-Confederates" who are still fighting for "the principles of 1860."

The summary of the *Washington Times* article, entitled "Still Fighting the Civil War," reads: "For conservatives of the old right, the Civil War goes on—that is, the battle continues against federal enforcement of equality and for the expansion of states' rights."

The paper comments: "In a year of widespread voter anger, intellectual partisans of the Confederacy think they detect a wider audience for their views.

"Despite their gloom about the future," the article continues, "the neo-Confederates detect some light on the political horizon." The reason, it reveals, is that three candidates live within a few hundred miles of Texarkana. "That indicates a shift in power and leadership."

The article is riddled with vitriolic attacks on Abraham Lincoln and the idea of equality. While not all "old-right" adherents, or "paleo-conservatives," are partisans of the South, the *Times* says, "all of them share the view that Lincoln's belief in equality is incompatible with true conservatism. University of Dallas professor M.E. Bradford sees the Civil War "as the point where darkness began to descend on America's experiment in limited government. Lincoln, Bradford believes, unleashed the ongoing growth of federal power that killed the old American republic," writes the *Times*.

Ludwig von Mises Institute president Llewellyn Rockwell blames Lincoln for implementing the idea of equality. Writes the *Times*: "Lincoln philosophically incorporated the Declaration of Independence, with its statement that all men are created equal, into the Constitution, which made equality 'the idea of the state,' says Llewellyn Rockwell. . . . After idealizing equality, 'Stalin is the next stop down the line.' "

## The Confederate Constitution

The article also lauds the von Mises Institute's promotion of the Confederate Constitution of 1861, which was pub-

lished in the Capitol Hill newspaper *Roll Call*, and also in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* in the Virginia capital of the old Confederacy.

The column by Rockwell praising the Confederate States of America (C.S.A.) Constitution was called "The Southern Solution," and called for bring the U.S. Constitution "up to Confederate standards." The particular features of the 1861 C.S.A. Constitution which author Rockwell praised were:

- the elimination of the "general welfare" clause, which he called an open door for government intervention;
- the prohibition of protective tariffs;
- the prohibition of government-financed internal improvements;
- the line-item veto and other provisions restricting the power of Congress with respect to revenue.

Simply put, the C.S.A. Constitution gutted the federal Constitution of 1787 of its best and noblest features. Most indicative is the fact that whereas the U.S. Constitution begins by declaring, "We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union," the C.S.A. Constitution takes a fundamentally opposite approach: "We the people of the Confederate States, each state acting in its sovereign and independent character, in order to form a permanent federal government. . . ."

Encapsulated here is the essence of the battles over the "American system" and the conflicts over so-called "states' rights" which wracked American politics and law in the early 19th century. The "neo-Confederates" clearly line up on the side of those who would have destroyed the Union and prevented the rise of the United States as an industrial power, and as a "beacon of hope" for the world.

## 'Rioting in the streets'

The neo-Confederates still look forward to the destruction of the Union. "I think there is a cultural war coming up. We're in a race war right now," said Rockwell in the July 19 *Washington Times* feature. Rockwell's statement came in the context of a discussion of the neo-Confederates' praise for the 19th century states' rights advocate John Calhoun.

Thomas Fleming, editor of *Chronicles* magazine, is quoted saying that among Europeans he talks to, Calhoun is the only American thinker they take seriously. The *Times* comments that Fleming "professes empathy for groups such as Northern Italy's Lombard League, which wants regional autonomy." "What Calhoun offers is some very original thought on how you can reconcile some of these ethnic and religious conflicts," says Fleming.

What Fleming really has in mind is laid out at the conclusion of the *Times* article. "The things I like about the South," he states, are the same things he likes about the Middle Ages, which were "gritty and dirty with people fighting for what they believed in on a day-to-day level. The thing I love about medieval politics was that it was people in the street rioting day-to-day."