
In Memoriam

Prof. Taras V. Muranivsky, 1935-2000

Prof. Taras Vasilyevich Muranivsky, President of the Schiller Institute for Science and Culture, the Moscow branch of the international Schiller Institute and the LaRouche movement in Russia, has passed away. He died shortly before midnight on Monday, July 17, 2000, en route to the hospital after suffering a heart attack at his home in Moscow. He was 65 years old.

The title of Schiller Institute President—that position of standard-bearer, for which he volunteered—barely hints at the enormous work, accomplished by Taras Vasilyevich, and the profound impact he has made in Russia, Ukraine, and the entire world during the past decade, and will continue to make. Readers of his many contributions to *EIR*, from 1992 through the present issue, have enjoyed a small taste of the intellectual leadership and organizing initiative, which Professor Muranivsky provided during the tumultuous years since the breakup of the Soviet Union. His extraordinary effectiveness was rooted in his morality—his love of humanity and tenacious truth-seeking, which were expressed in an irrepressible sense of humor and in his patriotism for both the country where he was born, Ukraine, and for Russia, where he lived since his student years.

For almost six-sevenths of Professor Muranivsky's life, both Ukraine and Russia were part of the Soviet Union. The moral and intellectual courage, which his collaborators around the world would cherish in him in later years, were forged on the difficult path he traversed during his childhood in wartime and postwar Ukraine, and as a student in Moscow in the 1950s. He narrowly escaped death as a child, losing an arm, in an explosion of undetonated ordnance left from the war. At Moscow State University, as a person with intellectual integrity and an independent streak, Muranivsky experienced a serious episode of secret-police interrogation and political blacklisting, which precluded smooth sailing to career successes for him in the decades ahead.

At one time, Professor Muranivsky worked at the Institute of the U.S.A. and Canada of the Russian Academy of Sciences. He earned the *Kandidat* degree in economics (1970) and his doctorate in philosophical sciences (1988). In 1991, when the U.S.S.R. broke apart, he was teaching at the newly established Russian State University for the Humanities.

The Schiller Institute

With the demise of Soviet economic practice, many people in the former Soviet Union rushed to exchange one set of

bad axioms for another. Taras Vasilyevich was not among them. His suspicions about the motives behind the wholesale importation from the West of so-called free-market economics, and his characteristic intellectual curiosity, led him to meet the Schiller Institute. At a conference in Ukraine, where a Schiller Institute representative intervened to warn of disaster, if the neo-liberalism of the Harvard Business School and the London School of Economics were adopted, Muranivsky sought out that representative, to establish permanent contact. As a speaker at the Schiller Institute's conference in Berlin in November 1991, a landmark gathering of several hundred economists and political activists from both sides of the just-opened East-West borders in Europe, Muranivsky embraced the Institute's "Productive Triangle" proposal for high-technology infrastructure construction across the continent, as a locomotive for world economic development. "We should spread the LaRouche ideas, all over the world!" he exclaimed.

One year later, at the end of 1992, Professor Muranivsky was the scientific editor of *So, You Wish to Learn All About Economics?*, the first book by Lyndon LaRouche to be issued in Russian translation. In his introduction to the Russian edition, he expounded his insight, so rare among former Soviet economists at that time, that monetarism was not the only available economic policy choice after Marxism. He wrote:

"For LaRouche, Marxist political economy and the theory of 'the free market' are berries from the same field. He traces two incompatible lines in economic theory. The first, which LaRouche considers anti-scientific, originates with Aristotle and runs through the ideas of Descartes, Locke, Quesnay, Hume, Adam Smith, Ricardo, Malthus, Marx, and the Club of Rome, into contemporary notions of a post-industrial society. The second line, which LaRouche sees as scientific, goes from Plato, Nicolaus of Cusa, Leonardo da Vinci, Leibniz, Riemann, Alexander Hamilton, Henry Carey, Friedrich List, through Adenauer, de Gaulle, and the political leaders of post-war Japan. It is crowned by the LaRouche-Riemann conception.

"The difference between them, is that the first sees the meaning of economic science in pure monetarism, in the effort to 'buy cheap and sell dear,' while the latter emphasizes production, based on continuous technological progress and the development of economics as part of the evolution of scientific knowledge as a whole, including the natural and technical sciences. . . .

“The greatest obstacle to economic change in Russia and the other newly independent states, is the Bolshevik way of thinking, which penetrates society from top to bottom. People are distressed at the catastrophic price explosion, but nobody cares that production has collapsed, or that the wrong things are being produced. The authorities are certain, that on such-and-such a date, they can introduce the market or ban nuclear power plants. . . .

“The life of society depends, to significant degree, upon the development of economic science. Many sciences suffered grave damage during the years of totalitarianism in our country. While cybernetics and genetics have begun to regain ground, nothing of the kind has taken place in economics. For decades, its commanders, and their teams, busied themselves with cloaking Party slogans and resolutions in scientific garb. As a result, economic science lost those most important qualities and methodological principles, which any science needs, if it seeks the truth. If the book, here offered for your consideration, helps to restore to economic science that quality, its translation into Russian will have been justified.”

Truth-Seeker

Professor Muranivsky’s readers, listeners, and collaborators could not fail to be inspired by the humor and ebullience, with which he took up the challenge of a new idea—especially one that challenged strongly held assumptions. He had been a Professor of Informatics, when he encountered the Schiller Institute. In November 1992, speaking to the Institute’s first-ever public conference in Moscow, he cited LaRouche’s attack, in *So, You Wish to Learn All About Economics?*, on the principles of econometrics, operations research, and systems analysis as “consistent failures,” and said, “I am not prepared to accept this conclusion ‘on faith.’” He wanted to fight new ideas through, making them his own. He derived the greatest joy, from thinking. In September 1997, writing for the *Festschrift*, prepared for LaRouche’s 75th birthday, Taras Vasilyevich let us know what was the most important for him:

“My sincere respect for you, dear Lyn, is rooted in at

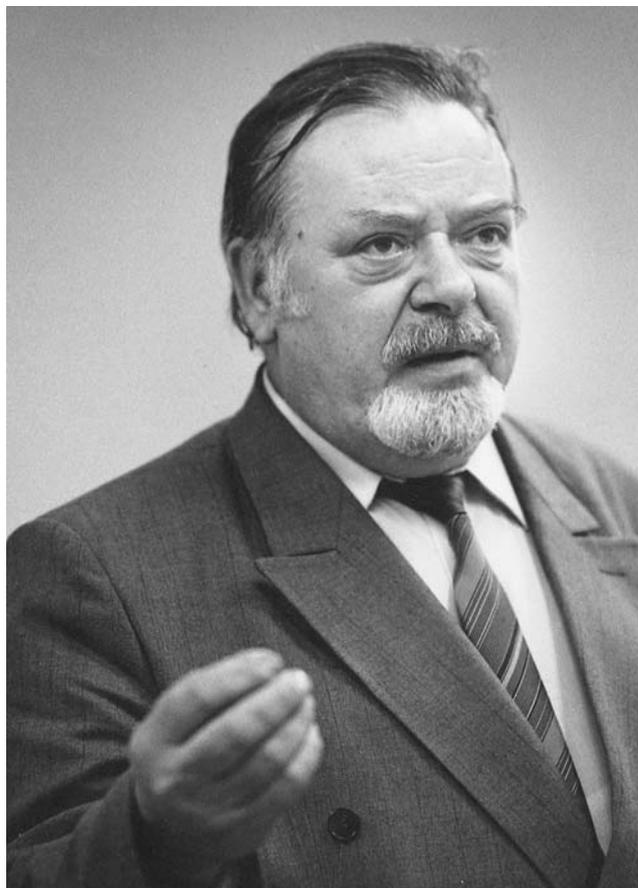
least two things: First, that in your scientific findings I have encountered a full affirmation of many of my own aspirations and researches, which differ in a cardinal way from generally accepted views; second, that you have inspired me to think through, and in a number of instances to rethink and revise, some of my previous scientific concepts and judgments. That is, most likely, the main reason for my extremely high estimation of your virtues as a major scientist and thinker. In that regard, dear Lyn, I consider you to be my Teacher, despite the fact that at the time I met you, I was already ‘wreathed’ with scholarly degrees and scientific titles. I am also con-

vinced that certain of today’s well-known authorities, whether in the U.S.A. or in Russia, would do well to acknowledge their own errors honestly, in the light of your theoretical concepts in science, and to accept those truths for which you, esteemed Lyn, have provided the scientific grounding. If we professors and academicians, above all, learn to shed our cocoon of false ‘psychological snobbery,’ science will only gain.”

Taras Vasilyevich not only became the most inspired and effective teacher of LaRouche’s economic discoveries in Russia—ideas he had worked through, made his own, and presented from his own personal patriotic standpoint as a Ukrainian-born Russian citizen—but he in turn made invaluable contributions to identifying and reviving the most advanced current of economic thought in Russia and

Ukraine. Most notable is a series of articles and presentations in 1993, in which he compared LaRouche’s discoveries on the lawful relationship of technological progress to the increase in the productive powers of labor, with the ideas of an entire school of Russian and Ukrainian scientific thinkers, who had struggled with many of the same fundamental issues and paradoxes, and arrived at conclusions coherent with those of LaRouche. These included the 19th-century pioneer of physical economy, S.A. Podolinsky, and at the beginning of the 20th century, scientists such as N.A. Umov, K.A. Timirayzev, and V.I. Vernadsky.

These scientists are not merely to be seen as precursors



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Prof. Taras Muranivsky
with his friend Lyndon
H. LaRouche, Jr., 1996.

of LaRouche; rather, their contributions also illuminate and enrich the scope of his discoveries, linking them to a great body of knowledge and investigation in Russia and Ukraine, ranging from biology and geology to the principles of technological development. Muranivsky's efforts on this account are thus of crucial importance, not merely for historical reasons, but because he thereby helped lay the basis for the kind of cooperation among nations—a community of interest—upon which the survival of mankind in the immediate future absolutely depends. Taras Vasilyevich was a passionate advocate, and a living example, of the principle that nations must relate to each other on the basis of, and by calling forth in each nation, the very best scientific, cultural, and political traditions. In that way, each nation benefits from the creative contributions of every other nation.

Taras Vasilyevich worked to restore the positive identity and universal importance of Russia and Ukraine, as nations second to none in their production of creative genius, and in their contributions to practically every domain of human knowledge. It was lawful, that the historic encounter in Moscow in 1994, between Lyndon LaRouche and the present heirs of Russia's tradition of physical economy—including especially the renowned chemist, industrial production organizer, and former political prisoner Pobisk Kuznetsov—would emerge as an early fruit of Muranivsky's efforts. For the first time since the beginning of the Cold War, the Eastern and Western currents of physical economy came together again, in a lively and fruitful debate on the axiomatics of scientific thought.

Patriot and World Citizen

Before those pivotal Moscow conversations, Taras Vasi-

lyevich had travelled from Moscow to Rochester, Minnesota, to visit LaRouche in prison, in May 1993. He later recalled his "genuine creative and intellectual satisfaction from our multifaceted, extremely productive conversation, which lasted almost seven hours, but seemed to go by in one minute," and which Professor Muranivsky published in full in Russian, as the first *Bulletin of the Moscow Schiller Institute* (No. 3) to be issued under his editorship. He became President of the Schiller Institute for Science and Culture, at that time.

During his travels, Taras Vasilyevich patiently tried to teach blockheaded congressmen, parliamentarians, and officials in the West, the deadly folly of their forcing neo-liberal economics on Russia and eastern Europe. He spoke at *EIR* seminars in Washington and Bonn, and at Schiller Institute conferences in the United States, Germany, and several countries in eastern Europe, including Ukraine. In Russia, dozens of his articles on economic principles, on LaRouche's political campaigns and fights for justice, and on the need for a New Bretton Woods conference, appeared between 1993 and 2000, in *Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta*, *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*, *Pravda-Pyat*, and *Profsoyuzy i Ekonomika*, to mention just some of the periodicals which published him. He made "physical economy" a household word among Russian economists and parliamentarians, bringing out LaRouche's second Russian book, *Physical Economy*, as a Schiller Institute edition in 1997.

Professor Muranivsky's writings and publishing activity created a unique bridge among various countries, where there were factions fighting for national sovereignty and real economic growth. In 1997, he caused the historic speech by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad, rejecting

the International Monetary Fund's policies and practices at its own conference, to be published in Russian and to become known to the Russian political elites. His incisive critiques of the Argentine currency board and Chilean deregulation models, helped to head off their imposition in Russia in 1998.

In May of this year, Professor Muranivsky took part in the historic Bad Schwalbach international conference of the Schiller Institute. His exchange with LaRouche during its plenary session on science, may be read in the June 23, 2000 issue of *EIR*. Upon his return to Moscow, he took the message of the conference, on the New Bretton Woods, to 100 leading Russian academicians and other economists, at a June 5 seminar at the Academy of Sciences (see *EIR*, June 16). Taras Vasilyevich then worked tirelessly, to improve and edit the

translation of LaRouche's Bad Schwalbach keynote, "On the Subject of Strategic Method" (*EIR*, June 2, 2000), and to shepherd it through publication in Russian as the main contents of *Moscow Schiller Institute Bulletin* No. 9. The new bulletin came off the printing press on July 11.

Taras Muranivsky is survived by his wife, Lionella S. Vladimirova, his son, three daughters, and their families, and mourned by countless friends in many countries, who had the privilege of sharing ideas, work, and laughter with this unusual man. The Schiller Institute internationally was represented at his funeral by Karl-Michael Vitt of Germany and Taras Vasilyevich's lifelong friend Anatoli Voznytsa of Ukraine. He was buried in Moscow on July 20, 2000.

—Rachel Douglas and Jonathan Tennenbaum

LaRouche and Russia

Editor's note: Bulletin No. 9 of the Schiller Institute for Science and Culture (Moscow) came off the press on July 11. It features the Russian translation of "On the Subject of Strategic Method," the keynote address, delivered by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. on May 26 to the Bad Schwalbach, Germany, international conference of the Schiller Institute. The other contents of the Russian Bulletin are a reprint of Stanislav Menshikov's October 1999 article, "Plato Among the Bulls in the China Shop," which came out in the Russian paper Slovo after Professor Menshikov's participation in one of LaRouche's first international webcasts of his campaign for the U.S. Presidency, and the initiating statement of the Ad Hoc Committee for a New Bretton Woods, together with a page of representative signatures on that appeal, from around the world.

Prof. Taras Muranivsky, President of the Moscow Schiller Institute, edited the Bulletin. This is a translation of his brief introduction to the publication, which was Professor Muranivsky's last published writing before his death on July 17.

Lyndon LaRouche is of interest to us, not only as a candidate for the U.S. Presidency from the most rational and constructive political platform, that of the Franklin Roosevelt wing, in the Democratic Party. He is a brilliant and experienced politician, whose ideas and principles are essential today, not only for America, but for the peoples and nations of the whole world, including Russia.

One reason for the regrettable results and sorry prospects of the reforms, carried out in Russia, is that they were based—with the claim that there were no alternative—

upon concepts and principles, which are widespread in the West, although not always applied there, like the liberal theory of "free trade," "post-industrial society" utopias, neo-colonialist notions of the "open society" and "consumer society," as well as various ecological and neo-Malthusian theories, directed against production, against scientific and technological progress, and—most importantly—against man and humanity as a whole. The theory of monetarism and the ideology of globalism, which the Russian reformers unconditionally adopted, have inflicted undeniable harm upon Russia's economy.

As is well known, this ideology is forced on us by carefully recruited foreign advisers and consultants, who, even in the midst of the ongoing world financial crisis, continue to promote the myth of economic prosperity and general well-being of the population in the Western countries, and the myth of flourishing democracy.

LaRouche exposes this lie. The report published here (like his other mass-distributed presentations), shows that the U.S. and western European economies are in a state of collapse, due to errors in state economic and financial policy. Moreover, the world financial and economic system is on the verge of collapse. As an alternative, he proposes a new economic policy, based on the principles of physical economy, which he has developed. Why shouldn't Russian economic program-developers take an interest in these constructive alternatives? All the more so, in that they are well known and widely accessible in Russia, including in the Russian language.

Some are of the opinion, that generally mediocre individuals are chosen as President of the U.S.A. (as is the case with the leaders of other nations, as well). In times of crisis, however, voters prefer a talented leader, like Franklin Roosevelt. Today, Lyndon LaRouche is quite worthy to be elected as such a President of the United States.

—Taras V. Muranivsky