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This Week You Need To Know

LaRouche PAC Reports: Bush Sings His Swan-Song

Leading Democrat and statesman Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. issued this statement Nov. 9.

Yesterday, President George W. Bush appeared somewhat humbled, but still wildly insane, in his internationally televised delivery to an East Room press audience. The impressive voter turnout for the election itself, had a great deal to do with causing what was in fact the Bush Presidency's electoral defeat; but the greater part of the credit for that belongs to the combination of an energetic minority fraction among Bush's Democratic and non-partisan opponents, as among youth associated with LPAC. It was also the result, very significantly, of the effects of a revolt from among the patriots within the permanent institutions of the Federal government, as signalled, conspicuously, by outspoken leading figures of the U.S. military.

Bush's already somewhat impressive defeat would have come in the form of a crushing landslide victory for Democrats, but for the sloppy behavior of those opportunistic Democratic Party leaders who, throughout most of 2006, have been more concerned with financial campaign contributions from right-wing financier circles, such as far-right Felix Rohatyn, than the welfare of the nation and its people. In some cases, Democratic candidates earned their victories; in other cases, they won despite their opportunistic lack of response on precisely those issues which remain, now as then, of the most crucial importance to the nation and its people.

Democratic candidates had better learn now, that, in the end, especially under conditions of global economic breakdown-crisis, as today, performance on the real issues of a terrible world crisis will be more important than a pretty face or flashy wardrobe. Such artifacts do not cut a favorable impression among those crucially important, wretchedly poor whom Shakespeare's self-doomed Julius Caesar would regard as presenting "a lean and hungry look."...

[...full article, PDF](#)

Latest From The Worldwide LaRouche Youth Movement

[LYM Report from Los Angeles:](#)

UCI Students Join Fight Against Campus Gestapo

[by Nick Walsh](#)

As part of its nationwide assault on the John Train/Lynne Cheney campus gestapo, LaRouche Youth Movement members from Los Angeles intervened at the University of California at Irvine in the days before the election, culminating in a wild scene with Yaron Brook, executive director of the Ayn Rand Institute, who spoke on campus Nov. 6. The key

characteristic of the LYM interventions was an increased engagement of the student body itself in the political fight against the right-wing gestapo.

On Nov. 3, two LYM organizers briefed an impromptu 20-person Muslim Students Association meeting, concerning Brook's speeches calling for the mass murder of Muslims. Then, just before the Brook event, a LYM organizer spoke to 100 members of the African Student Union, telling them of Brook's views, and asking why there was such a political vacuum on the campus, including this group itself.

Early on Nov. 6, twenty LYM organizers saturated the campus with copies of the "Is Joseph Goebbels on Your Campus" pamphlets. Posters at our table attacked Governor Arnie, Lynne Cheney, and Yaron Brook. One poster featured the head of Brook (who lisps) on the body of Elmer Fudd, saying, "Be vehwy, vehwy quiet, I'm hunting Muslims."

At the noon hour, the LYM chorus sang, as organizers handed out a leaflet entitled, "Join the LaRouche Youth Movement in Ridiculing Nazi Fascist Yaron Brook Off UCI Campus!" As a result, when the event began, there were 150 people there, about two-thirds of them youth, including many Muslims—surely an unprecedented number and demographic for the Rand Society, which has only one student member on this campus! To welcome the audience, this one member began by warning that anyone who "stands up, speaks, or sings" would be immediately dragged out. This strange introduction was backed up by ten police officers, standing ready around the room, with more outside guarding the doors, and four squad cars visible near the entrance. Throughout the event, affiliates of the Rand Society youth video-recorded LYM members, and would walk over to police officers to show them photos of whom to watch....

[...full article, PDF](#)

InDepth Coverage

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National:

[LaRouche PAC Reports: Bush Sings His Swan-Song](#)

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[Cheney Behind Press Campaign Duggan Hoax Rewarmed Again](#)
[by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.](#)

November 8, 2006

London sources tied intimately to both U.S. Vice-President Dick Cheney and his wife, Mrs. Lynne Cheney, have once again launched a press campaign on behalf of a repeatedly discredited hoax concerning the causes and circumstances of the suicide by a young, emotionally troubled British national, Jeremy Duggan, who, as the official forensic evidence showed beyond doubt, threw himself repeatedly against moving automobiles on a highway near Wiesbaden, Germany.

Election Upheaval Led by Youth Vote

by Anita Gallagher

Democrats rode a nationwide wave of fervid rejection of the Bush-Cheney policies on Iraq, the economy, and the disastrous 'war on terror' to a 29-seat majority in the U.S. House of Representatives, and a 51-49 dominance of the U.S. Senate, as of Nov. 10. The electorate's anger was taken out nationally against Republicans, with nearly 79 million Americans voting—a 40.4% turnout of eligible voters, the largest turnout in a midterm election in 24 years. This turnout was spearheaded by an increase of 2 million voters in the 18-29 age group—a bloc which is now poised to become the most important force in U.S. political life.

UCI Students Join Fight Against Campus Gestapo

by Nick Walsh, LaRouche Youth Movement

As part of its nationwide assault on the John Train/Lynne Cheney campus gestapo, LaRouche Youth Movement members from Los Angeles intervened at the University of California at Irvine in the days before the election, culminating in a wild scene with Yaron Brook, executive director of the Ayn Rand Institute, who spoke on campus Nov. 6. The key characteristic of the LYM interventions was an increased engagement of the student body itself in the political fight against the right-wing gestapo.

Counterrevolution in Military Affairs Ambushes the U.S. Army

by Carl Osgood

When the Bush Administration took office in January 2001, military policy discussions were dominated by the so-called 'revolution in military affairs,' the idea that the information age was changing the way wars of the future would be fought.

Feature:

Anathema of Venice: Lorenzo Da Ponte, Mozart's 'American' Librettist

Susan Bowen reviews *The Librettist of Venice; The Remarkable Life of Lorenzo Da Ponte; Mozart's Poet, Casanova's Friend, and Italian Opera's Impresario in America*, by Rodney Bolt.

In examining what Bolt's book doesn't say, she concludes that 'Any truly authentic biography of this Classical scholar, arch-enemy of sophistry, and indefatigable promoter of creativity in science and art, must needs bring to light that truth which Venice, even today, would wish to suppress: that Lorenzo Da Ponte (1749-1838), like Mozart (1756-91), was a product of, and also a champion of the American Revolution and the Renaissance idea of man that it represented.'

Mozart in Houston

Don Giovanni 'Stays the Course'

by Harley Schlanger

A review of the Houston Grand Opera's presentation of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Oct. 28 to Nov. 11, 2006.

Economics:

Bursting Housing Bubble To Take 1.5 Million Jobs

by Richard Freeman

From 1992 to 2005, former Federal Reserve Board chairman Alan Greenspan built up the U.S. housing bubble to dizzying heights, a prime prop for both the speculative and physical sides of the economy. Especially from the start of 2001— when Greenspan threw this process into high gear—through October 2006, the housing bubble created 1.5 to 1.7 million housing-related jobs, directly and indirectly. *That was half of all the jobs created in the United States in that nearly sixyear period.*

- **Election 'Job-Growth' Fraud Turning To Plunge**

by Paul Gallagher

The post-election, ending months of 2006 are seeing a plunge in the housing bubble, auto and construction industries, and the U.S. economy as a whole; they may also see an end to the jobs-growth frauds which the White House hyped in the preelection period, to claim falling unemployment and 'economic success.'

German Power: Back to Nuclear, or Blackouts

by Rainer Apel

Citizens in about 10 million households in Western Europe were cut off from electrical power on Nov. 4, many for several hours, when the overland power transmission grid collapsed, first in numerous regions throughout Germany, and then also in France, Austria, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and the North African nation of Morocco.

Senator's Shot at Free Trade Misses Its Core

by Paul Gallagher

Take This Job and Ship It: How Corporate Greed and Brain-Dead Politics Are Selling Out America

by Senator Byron Dorgan

New York: St.Martin's Press, 2006

276 pages with index, hardcover, \$24.95

Attacking 'free trade' with its anti-industrial devastation, and campaigning for fair trade, gained Congressional seats for Democratic candidates on Nov. 7, particularly in Ohio and Indiana, but also in North Carolina, California, and other states. A London Financial Times commentary on Nov. 9 ruefully concluded that 'the real casualty' of the U.S. election 'was free trade.' Shortly before the election, U.S. Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.) brought out *Take This Job and Ship It*, a serious public attack on 'free-trade' policy, which is unique for a sitting Federal elected official in the post-1989 period of unbridled and almost unchallenged globalization, de-industrialization, and financial bubbles.

International:

Why Condi's Anti-Shi'ite Alliance Won't Work

by Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

As wild speculations are making the rounds in world capitals about possible changes in Iraq policy, in the wake of the electoral defeat of the Bush-Cheney regime and the ouster of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, one insane option, known as the anti-Shi'ite coalition, has been sneaked onto the agenda by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. If this project were to be realized, it would not only accelerate the widening civil conflict inside Iraq, but draw neighboring forces into a region-wide war along sectarian lines.

Cheney and Neo-Cons Plotting More Wars

by Jeffrey Steinberg

On March 11, 2003, as final preparations were under way for the neo-cons' greatest triumph—the invasion of Iraq—New Yorker magazine investigative reporter Seymour Hersh exposed an extortion scheme by neo-con Richard Perle, to extract tens of millions of dollars out of the Saudi royal family, in league with the infamous Iran-Contra arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi.

- **Bush-Cheney Policies Proliferate Hotspots**

The wave of irregular warfare, which has been set off by the Bush Administration's pursuit of an Anglo-Dutch global imperial strategy, has put the world on the edge of conflagration. In fact, none of the conflicts shown in this map has been generated by local forces, or causes, but by the financial oligarchy's international strategic drive for the elimination of the nation state. Without immediate action toward impeachment of the Anglo-Dutch puppets Cheney and Bush, one of these hotspots is likely to be chosen as a military target in the very near future.

What Is Really Behind The Crisis in Darfur?

by Lawrence K. Freeman

Lyndon LaRouche, in his Oct. 31 webcast (see box) exposed the current U.S. cause célèbre campaign of 'stopping the genocide' in Darfur as an ignorant fraud, which is being used to cover up what is actually being done to Sudan and the entirety of Sub-Saharan Africa. Is there genocide going on in Africa? Yes, there is; but it is not what is being propagandized by Hollywood actors, nor discussed on college campuses as the politically correct issue of concern, nor by government officials. What has been going in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (D.R.C.), and is still going on today, is the true face of genocide in Africa, where almost 400,000 people have been dying every year for the last decade due to the lack of food, clean water, and basic health care. There is no doubt that there are ugly and unnecessary

- **LaRouche: Bush and Cheney Plan a New Iraq in Darfur**

During his Oct. 31 webcast, leading Democrat and statesman Lyndon LaRouche was asked why he doesn't support military action against Sudan. LaRouche's response, reprinted here, was also issued as a LaRouche PAC leaflet.

Beilin in Washington Pushes for Peace Plan

by Jeffrey Steinberg

Yossi Beilin, the head of Meretz Yachad, the leading propeace opposition party in Israel, spoke at the New America Foundation in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 9, giving an impassioned and very well-reasoned perspective on a peaceful solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict and the larger Middle East crisis.

The Poet and The Slain Statesman

by Dean Andromidas

In ancient Greece, the true statesmen were the poets, because true statecraft could not be left in the hands of mere politicians. Through their immortal tragedies, Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides labored to save Greece, while Pericles and Demosthenes, through their sophistry, labored to destroy it. Commemorating the 11th anniversary of the political assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, at a time of profound moral and political crisis in Israel, demanded a poet, not a mere politician.

Beijing Summit Puts Spotlight on Africa

by William Jones

In the largest diplomatic gathering ever held in Beijing, 48 African leaders, including 26 Presidents and 6 Prime Ministers, gathered Nov. 3-6 at the 2006 Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). The summit is the climax of an intense diplomatic effort by China to establish a close working partnership with the nations of Africa. China is enhancing its traditional role as the largest developing country, in order to assist other developing countries on the path to economic development. This contrasts sharply with the major powers of the developed world, including the United States, who have largely written off Africa as a target for development, and left it to suffer rapacious plundering by the international financial cartels.

Mexico Calderón Has That Old Sinking Feeling

by Dennis Small

This week's 'Impeccably Bad Timing Award' was won, hands down, by Mexico's official President-elect Felipe Calderón, who arrived in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 8 for a highprofile, two-day visit with U.S. President George Bush—one day after the Bush-Cheney Administration's spectacular drubbing at the polls in the U.S. midterm elections. One is reminded of the glassy-eyed matron on the Titanic, who steps onto the ballroom floor and insists on dancing with the ship's captain—at exactly the point that the Titanic is going under. You have to wonder which of the two is crazier.

Editorial:

It's the Economy, Stupid!

There was no more telling indication that President George W. Bush is not in the real world, than his comment at his Nov. 8 press conference, that he didn't understand why the 'great economy' did not result in a Republican electoral victory. It's no wonder that our loopy President doesn't get it. The question is: Do the Democrats? Do they realize that we stand on the edge of financial disintegration that will take the entire world into hell on Earth, or do they believe in the fairy godmother called the stock market?

U.S. Economic/Financial News

Financial Insanity—Bank of Canada Praises Hedge Funds

The same week that the British Financial Services Authority issued its 103-page "discussion" document about the blowout risk of over-leveraged hedge-fund borrowings, bettings, and takeovers, a Nov. 10 conference in Toronto became the occasion for testimonials on the joys of hedge funds. David Longworth, deputy governor of the Bank of Canada, said they promote market liquidity. "It's useful to note that the largely positive influence of hedge funds stems from their sophistication, their size, the diversity of their objectives and strategies, and the instruments they use." Canada has at least a \$30 billion hedge-fund pool, with a series of well-publicized scandals and losses. A parliamentary committee is investigating hedge funds.

Hertz To Go Public With \$1 Billion IPO

Hertz Rent-a-Car will go public this month, in a rip-off IPO of \$1 billion, according to schemes of the equity fund firms involved, ranking as one of the richest heists this year. In summer 2005, Clayton Dubillier & Rice Inc., Carlyle Group, and Merrill Lynch Global Private Equity bought up Hertz Global Holdings Corp. from Ford Motors, for a low-ball price. Then, within only eight months, in July, Hertz filed for a \$1 billion initial public offering (IPO) of stock sale this fall. Out of this new debt, the equity funds expect to cream off a special dividend of \$427 million to its private equity shareholders. The underwriters of the public auction, set for the week of Nov. 13, include Lehman Bros.—now home to Felix-the-Fixer Rohatyn—and Goldman Sachs. The Justice Department is conducting an informal inquiry into the Hertz equity fund raiders, according to the *Wall Street Journal*. In recent weeks, DOJ letters have gone out to the three Hertz equity fund scavengers, and to Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, and Silver Lake Partners.

Fraud of Pre-Election Employment Reports Exposed

A New York-based analyst of Federal economic statistics told *EIR* Nov. 6 that the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), over the past ten months, has been repeatedly altering the "seasonal adjustment factors" (SAF) it uses on the payroll jobs survey, enabling it to "publish just about any apparent result desired" in the monthly jobs and unemployment-rate report. "The political needs of the administration are great," the analyst said. "Republicans have had both the motive and the opportunity to manipulate the reports in their favor."

The obvious giveaway to the fraud, is the evident consideration that over a full year, from any month to the same month one year later, the growth or decline in jobs before seasonal adjustments, and after them, should be approximately the same. And historically, they always have been. But no longer. In 2006, the BLS, by constantly changing the SAFs, has added some 16% to the figures for new jobs over the year October 2005-October 2006—about 300,000 "extra jobs"—and has loaded more than half of these faked jobs into the final three jobs reports before the election. (It has also added additional fakery via the corporate death/birth or "virtual jobs" adjustment factor. In the October report, 73,000 of the 92,000 reported new payroll jobs were "virtual"—i.e., assumed, not counted—whereas in October 2005, only 57,000 out of 163,000 jobs were "virtual.")

If the same SAFs had been used in recent months as one year ago, the job growth figures would have been 106,000 in August; 126,000 in September; and 60,000 in October; instead, they've been published as 231,000 for August; 148,000 for September; and 92,000 for October. This is 170,000 "extra" jobs in three months, created at will by SAF manipulation, not to mention the virtual jobs. "It's not against the law," he noted. "After the election, expect a dramatic swing back in the other direction, so the Fed doesn't have to raise interest rates." He noted these jobs reports are completely at odds with many other economic indications at the same time, all pointing straight down.

Pozen Says Forget Pensions Under New Law

Robert Pozen, last year's celebrity of President Bush's infamous Commission To Strengthen Social Security, and current chair of MFS Investment Management, now forecasts that defined-benefit pension plans are finished—*the new pension law*, as well as new accounting regulations mandated by the Financial Accounting Standards Board, will finish them off. In 25 years, Pozen says, the average retiree will be able to receive only 25% of his or her retirement income from Social Security and pensions combined. Most will need "work in retirement," as well as private savings and 401(k)s, to live. Pozen spoke Nov. 6 at a financial event in Florida.

S.F. Fed Chief Notes 'Rising Inequality' Under Globalization

San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank president Janet Yellen told an audience at the University of California at Irvine Nov. 6, that more and more Americans are dissatisfied with the direction of the economy and are worried about the future for their children. Over the last 30 years, wage increases of 30% or more have all gone to the upper 10% of the population, and most of that was concentrated in the top 1%. In contrast, at the 50th percentile, real wages have increased by only 5 or 10%. Yellen calls this economic inequality and attributes the major cause to the increasing globalization of the industrial and labor markets. Besides wage decreases, there is the related instability of jobs, and the loss of health and pension benefits spreading to more highly educated people. "There are signs that rising inequality is intensifying resistance to globalization, impairing social cohesion, and could, ultimately, undermine American democracy.... Inequality has risen to the point that it seems to me worthwhile for the U.S. to seriously consider taking the risk of making our economy more rewarding for more of the people."

Yellen, though she blames globalization for these ills, does not side with a shift in policy toward protectionism or fair trade, and certainly not toward anything approaching the reorganization of the global financial-monetary system.

World Economic News

Berlin 'Red-Red' Coalition To Sell Off Public Housing

The Berlin city-state's Social Democratic-Left Party (SPD-Linkspartei) coalition government was sealed on Nov. 6, with five departments going to the SPD, three to the Linkspartei. The crucial finance department will be headed, as before, by Thilo Sarrazin, whose prime target is to privatize as much as possible in order to reduce Berlin's public debt from 62 billion euros, to EU58-57 billion.

The sell-off of the 270,000 apartments still owned by the Berlin's public-housing authority is already being prepared by a 19-page memo on "facts and legends" that Sarrazin wrote against his critics: He claims that public housing is neither less expensive for tenants, nor more efficient, than privately owned apartments, and he insists that everything that the German Tenants Association and the German Municipalities Association have compiled as evidence against privatization, is "just wrong."

But the "Degeneracy of the Day Award" does not even go to Sarrazin; it goes to Gregor Gysi, chairman of the Linkspartei group in the Bundestag, who came out in defense of the Berlin city policy without even mentioning Sarrazin. Investments in industry to create new jobs, as the BueSo (Civil Rights Solidarity party, headed by Helga Zepp-LaRouche) has called for? Not so for Gysi: "We will enhance consumption powers, this will be an incentive to the economy, and an incentive to the economy will bring in taxes, so Berlin will improve." The consumption power of the locust funds is already waiting to buy, indeed: namely, Berlin's 270,000 apartments.

Former CEO of Korea Exchange Bank Arrested

Lee Kang Won, the former chief executive officer of Korea Exchange Bank, Korea's fifth-largest, was arrested Nov. 6 in connection with the sale of the bank to Lone Star Funds, the Texas-based hedge fund which bought the bank in 2003 at distress sale prices. Now, Lone Star is selling the bank for a profit of \$4.4 billion, and, through subterfuge, paying no taxes. The case has caused outrage across South Korea. The prosecutors are also renewing their efforts (turned down the first time by the courts) to arrest the vice chairman of Lone Star, Ellis Short, and two other officers.

United States News Digest

Will Gates Bring His Iran Policy to the Pentagon?

Several years ago, Secretary of Defense-nominee Robert Gates co-chaired a Council on Foreign Relations panel on Iran policy with Zbigniew Brzezinski. The panel concluded that the U.S. should enter into direct diplomatic talks with Iran as a way of dealing with regional problems. Upon hearing of the nomination of Gates to replace Donald Rumsfeld as Secretary of Defense, Lyndon LaRouche asked: "Will Gates bring that Iran policy with him to the Pentagon job?" "That," LaRouche said, "is going to be the key question to determine the significance of the Gates appointment."

A number of Washington sources who have worked with Gates over the years offered some instructive background on the ex-CIA Director (under Bush 41) and the circumstances surrounding his nomination by George W. Bush the day after the Nov. 7 midterm elections. First, a number of sources linked Gates closely with former President Bush and former Secretary of State James Baker III. In fact, one Pentagon-linked source reported that Baker had been the first person asked by President Bush to take Rumsfeld's job, but he declined, and instead, recommended Gates. This report has not been otherwise confirmed, although several other well-placed Washington establishment figures did say that Bush Sr. heavily intervened with G.W. and Karl Rove in the days just before the Nov. 7 electoral massacre, to insist that the White House was totally out of touch with reality, and that some changes would have to be made to salvage what is left of the Bush Presidency. This time, according to the sources, unlike previous "fatherly" interventions, Jr. and Rove seem to have listened.

Apart from Gates' close ties to Bush Sr. and Baker, Gates received mixed reviews on his tenure in the intelligence community, including his brief term as DCI. Recall that a number of senior intelligence analysts had testified against his nomination by Bush 41, charging that he had politicized the intelligence analysis process. Other sources said that Gates was a bureaucrat who always knew how to "please the boss," hardly an optimal quality for the nation's top civilian military official.

Ultimately, LaRouche warned, the issue is not Gates. Yes, one could call the appointment of Bush 41 loyalist Gates to replace Bush 41 arch-rival Rumsfeld "the father's revenge," but none of this will necessarily mean a thing, so long as G.W. and Cheney remain in charge, and the President shows ever-more rapid signs of mental breakdown.

White House Still Pushing Bolton Nomination

The Bush-Cheney White House is demanding that the lame-duck Congress approve John Bolton as U.S. Ambassador to the UN. The White House resubmitted Bolton's nomination to the Senate Nov. 9; when the Administration couldn't get Bolton confirmed in 2005, Bush gave him a recess appointment that will expire when the Congress adjourns, no later than January. Joe Biden, the senior Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said that Bolton's nomination is "going nowhere," explaining: "I never saw any real enthusiasm on the Republican side to begin with. There's none on our

side."

Outgoing Sen. Lincoln Chafee (R-RI), a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, also said that he won't support Bolton, which means that the nomination cannot even get out of committee—since Chafee's vote would give a majority to the Democrats opposing the nomination. "The American people have spoken out against the President's agenda on a number of fronts, and presumably one of those is on foreign policy," Chafee said. "And at this late stage in my term, I'm not going to endorse something the American people have spoke out against."

Pentagon To Request Largest-Ever War Supplemental

Industry and defense experts have told *Congressional Quarterly* (Nov. 7) that the military services will submit a \$160 billion supplemental request to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, to cover the costs of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. The request would likely be sent to Congress in February along with the annual budget request. When added to the \$70 billion Congress already appropriated as part of the fiscal 2007 defense appropriations bill, the total supplemental funding for 2007 would add up to \$230 billion. Steve Kosiak, the director of budget studies for the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, said that a \$160 billion request would top anything asked for during the Vietnam War, when far more troops were deployed.

More Cheney-Linked Halliburton Fraud in Iraq

The UN Agency called the International Advisory and Monitoring Board of the Development Fund for Iraq, questioned \$1.4 billion out of a \$2.4 billion no-bid sweetheart contract that KBR got for delivering fuel to Iraq, the *New York Times* reported Nov. 7. For example, the report done for the agency showed that in one work order for \$871 million, only \$112 million went for fuel; the rest went to a Kuwaiti subcontractor "for transportation" of the fuel. But each month, between 200 and 1,500 trucks—hired from the Kuwaiti company, Altanmia—stood idle inside of Kuwait because of security dangers—at a cost of \$25,575 per truck.

Carter Calls U.S. Election Process Discriminatory

Speaking from Nicaragua Nov. 6, where the Carter Center was observing the elections there, former President Jimmy Carter gave high marks to the Nicaraguan election process, but when asked by NPR radio about the U.S. elections, said: "As you may know, after the 2000 election, which was a total debacle, President Gerald Ford and I headed a major blue-ribbon commission and recommended changes in the voting procedures that largely were passed by the Congress. And then, after the 2004 election, which still showed some major problems, former Secretary of State James Baker and I headed a similar commission and made some recommendations, very few of which have yet been implemented.

"But there's no doubt in my mind that the United States electoral system is severely troubled and has many faults in it. It would not qualify at all for instance for participation by the Carter Center in observing. We require for instance that there be uniform voting procedures throughout an entire nation. In the United States you've got not only fragmented procedures from one state to another but also from one county to another. There is no central election commission in the United States that can make a final judgment. It's a cacophony of voices that come in after the election is over with, thousands or hundreds of lawyers contending with each other. There's no uniformity in the nation at all. There's no doubt that there's severe discrimination against poor people because of the quality of voting procedures presented to them.

"Another thing in the United States that we wouldn't permit in a country other than the United States, is that we require that every candidate in a country in which we monitor the elections have equal access to the major news media, regardless of how much money they have. In the United States, as you know, it's how much advertising you can buy on television and

radio. And so the richest candidates prevail, and unless a candidate can raise sometimes hundreds of thousands or millions of dollars, they can't even hope to mount a campaign, so the United States has a very inadequate election procedure. I would say that neither the Democratic nor the Republican Party would consider seriously a candidate to be President who couldn't prove in advance that he or she could raise \$100 million. That's a gross travesty of what democracy ought to be, and I hope that someday our nation will change those rules."

FBI Tells Lawmakers: Get in Line, or Else

The new chief of the FBI's Criminal Division, which is swamped with public corruption cases, says the Bureau is ramping up its ability to go after politicians, and is considering running undercover stings against members of Congress, á la Abscam/Brilab of the late 1970s. State legislators also are in the FBI's sights. According to McClatchy Newspapers Nov. 6, Assistant FBI Director James Burrus called the Bureau's public corruption program "a sleeping giant that we've awoken," and predicted the nation will see continued emphasis in that area "for many, many, many years to come." Burrus recently announced that he is adding a fourth 15- to 20-member public corruption squad to the FBI's Washington office.

Army Recruiters Caught Lying to Enlistees About Iraq War

U.S. Army recruiters in three Northeastern states have been caught on undercover news videotape lying to potential enlistees that the war in Iraq is over. WABC-TV, New York, sent students wearing hidden video cameras into recruiting stations in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, and then showed the evidence to Col. Robert Manning, who is in charge of U.S. Army recruiting for the entire Northeast. He watched one videotape, in which a recruiter told a student: "We're not at war. The war ended a long time ago." Another recruiter told a student that no one was being sent to Iraq, and that the Army was actually starting to bring people back. Yet another helped a student, who posed as a drug addict, to cheat in signing up, the report said.

Ibero-American News Digest

Visiting Fascists Confronted by LYM in Ibero-America

The LaRouche Youth Movement busted up prominent events by two key assets of the new Fascist International this week: first in Bogota, Colombia, against the Cheney-like former Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar on Nov. 8, and then in Mexico City the next day, against California's shame, Gov. Arnie Schwarzenegger. The LYM message to both—that Lyndon LaRouche led the Nov. 7 defeat of their fascist kin in the United States at the polls, and they will soon go down, too, as Bush and Cheney are driven out—pleased many, and both interventions were widely covered by the Ibero-American press (see next two items).

Synarchist Aznar Unmasked

First, on Nov. 8, came the move against the former Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, who had a rough time of it when members of the Colombian LYM interrupted the last of his presentations in that nation, an event jointly organized by his own Foundation for Analysis and Social Studies (FAES), the foundation of French Synarchist Jean Francois Revel, and the Good Government Foundation of Colombian Defense Minister and Mont Pelerite Juan Manuel Santos. Present were Colombian President Alvaro Uribe and an audience of 800 former ministers, government officials, bankers, and other elites, as well as the accredited diplomatic corps in Colombia.

Aznar began his standard rant about the blessings of the neoliberal model, only to be interrupted by a LYM member shouting, "Lies. Aznar is a liar. The British neoliberal model has caused starvation, misery, and unemployment to nations.

The proof is in the streets and not in statistical sophistry. Look at how Argentina, Mexico, our country have been impoverished."

Aznar, somewhat taken aback, continued his speech, only to be met by another shout: "You ordered the invasion of Iraq and committed genocide," and then, as he attempted to resume, was interrupted yet again by another LYM member: "Jobs are generated with infrastructure. The usurious debt is growing faster than the productive capacity of nations." Aznar finished his speech looking like a frightened rat, the LYM reported.

The discussion period opened with an exchange between a LYM member and President Uribe on how to develop the nation: He must break with the "fascist policies of British liberals like Mr. Aznar," he was told, and instead turn to American System economic policies as Colombia's late 19th-Century President Rafael Nunez had courageously done. The event was closed by a five-minute briefing to the entire gathering from yet another LaRouche youth, on how LaRouche, leading the FDR faction in the Democratic Party in the U.S., intends to overthrow the fascists in the U.S. who have invaded Iraq and who are committing genocide. We are going to get them out of power and into jail, said the LYM organizer. The mandate in the U.S. elections is clear: Bring the troops home and begin the impeachment of Bush and Cheney for genocide.

Schwarzenegger Meets 'Mini-Arnie'

The next day, Arnie "The Deregulator" Schwarzenegger had hoped to be the star of a Nov. 9 event sponsored by the American Chamber of Commerce in Mexico City, and attended by the governors of Zacatecas, Baja California, Tamaulipas, and the state of Mexico, as well as the director of UCLA and other prominents. The event room at the swank hotel stank of the oligarchism of the business sector that was present, the LYM reports. But scarcely had the Governor entered the room, when a short, male LYM member, put on a dress and Terminator mask, and began parodying the Governor and distributing an invitation to LaRouche's Nov. 16 webcast. Another LYM member began shouting, "Here, look here. Arnie's Mini-me," explaining why Arnie, Cheney, and Bush are crazy fascists.

With the press stunned and security disconcerted, the persecution began. As mini-Arnie was dragged out, big Arnie was told by another LYM member: "You are a fascist and now as weak as President Bush.... Talk about the bankruptcy of the auto sector, of the collapse of real estate," and so forth. When she, too, was kicked out of the room, another group of LYM'ers began distributing leaflets, as another quickly ascended the podium and opened up a 2.5 x 1.5 meter banner right next to the Governor, who by this time had forgotten what he was going to say. Before security was able to drag these organizers out (they left singing, to the tune of "London Bridge": "Bush and Dick are falling down, falling down, falling down, Bush and Dick are falling down, Arnie too"), a LYM member told Arnie: "LaRouche was the reason the Republicans lost; Remember, it's LaRouche!"

Outside, the press were taking statements, copies of the invitations, and lots of photos of mini-Arnie. Coverage of the intervention ranged from Peruvian TV, to Chilean radio, and print media from Mexico to India. The coverage was typified by an ANSA wire, out in Spanish and Portuguese, and headlined "Mexicans shout 'Fascist' and 'Nazi Assassin' at Schwarzenegger," which identified the protesters as the LaRouche Youth, whose message was: "You are a fascist, and you are already as weak as President Bush."

Aznar Had Planned a Far Different Agenda

Former Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar had planned a triumphal tour to Colombia and Guatemala, to offer his nostrums on "economic freedom" and to boast of the "successes" of his 1996-2004 Popular Party (PP) regime in Spain. Just prior to Aznar's departure for Colombia, three PP representatives showed up in Caracas, Venezuela to join the opposition in a Nov. 4 march in support of its Presidential candidate Manuel Rosales, who is running against Hugo Chavez

in the Dec. 3 elections, and to participate in a seminar "in defense of freedom and democracy" in Venezuela.

In a tour described as a continuation of his February 2006 visit to Mexico, where he outrageously intervened to lobby on behalf of PAN Presidential candidate Felipe Calderon, the rabidly anti-Muslim, pro-Franco Aznar announced that he would be focussing on such issues as reforming NATO; "What Is the West?"; the need to create a free-trade-based Atlantic Prosperity Area; and "Ibero-America conceived of as an essential part of the West," as opposed to "indigenist populism." On Nov. 9, Aznar was to receive an honorary doctorate at the Francisco Marroquin University, the Central American headquarters of a nest of University of Chicago-trained, Friedrich von Hayek-loving "economists."

'Ibero-America's Voice Must Be Heard'

That was the message delivered Nov. 4 by Argentine President Nestor Kirchner to the Ibero-American Summit in Montevideo, Uruguay. Kirchner was addressing the annual gathering of Ibero-American heads of state, and the Spanish King and current Prime Minister, Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero. "The prism of globalization leads us to give greater importance to a sense of community which demands a different, more universal decisiveness—a synthesis which preserves, but at the same time integrates our peculiarities."

Kirchner stated that, "We must increasingly become enamored of building an Ibero-American space." But he warned that, while it is the responsibility of each government to fight poverty, unemployment, and inequality, "the success of development policies depends on being able to count on a more just and fair international financial system, which shows greater solidarity."

Kirchner embraced the proposal made by Zapatero to create an "Ibero-American Fund," that could be used to combat poverty and social and economic marginalization. Exclusion "prevents the creation of a community," Kirchner said, because those excluded "produce as a reaction an identity of resistance, anchored in the past." To overcome this, there must be cooperation and development projects, so that people won't be forced to leave their own countries in search of better opportunities elsewhere. "I absolutely agree" with Zapatero, Kirchner said. "We face enormous challenges ... and it is very important that the Ibero-American voice be heard in consolidating that multilateralism that is so endangered today...."

Uruguay Pays Off IMF Debt

Following in the footsteps of Brazil and Argentina, Uruguayan Economics Minister Danilo Astori announced on Nov. 8 that his government would pay off the entirety of its \$1.08 billion debt to the International Monetary Fund, a full two years ahead of time, in order to free itself from "some demands which sometimes become restrictions." He was quick to add that this did not mean a break with the IMF, but that it did end the stranglehold of "conditionalities" that the IMF imposes on debtor countries.

Bush Support Proves Kiss of Death for Nicaraguan Allies

The Bush Administration provided critical help in electing Sandinista Danny Ortega as President of Nicaragua in the first round of voting on Nov. 5. The Administration's imperialist threats, that Ortega was unacceptable to the Bush regime, were not welcomed by the Nicaraguan population. Having one of his opponents backed by the Bush Administration, and the other by Iran-Contra criminal Ollie North, added to Ortega's support.

See "Calderon Has That Old Sinking Feeling," in our InDepth section this week, for a look at other political leaders in Ibero-America who have yet to learn that tying one's fate to Bush and globalization is proving a politically suicidal act.

Western European News Digest

Italian Government Happy with U.S. Election Results

Prime Minister Romano Prodi is among the few European leaders who have offered a comment on the U.S. vote, *Corriere della Sera* reported Nov. 8. "The fact that, immediately after the election result, Rumsfeld resigned, gives a particular significance to these elections. Besides the domestic issues, the Iraq issue became more and more forcefully present."

Foreign Minister Massimo D'Alema, asked for a comment on Rumsfeld's ouster, said: "That is democracy, baby," adding that "I look with interest toward the next two years, because this result can produce either a paralysis or a change in the Bush Administration." A change would be necessary, D'Alema said, because "Europe, without America, will not be able to achieve its foreign policy goals."

In a clear signal that the neo-cons have been weakened, Michael Ledeen made a very depressed TV appearance in Italy on a popular talk show Nov. 9. Ledeen complained that Bush's nominee for Rumsfeld's replacement as Defense Secretary, Robert Gates, is in favor of direct talks with Syria and Iran, and not for regime change.

German Supreme Court Declares EU Charter Dead

In a ruling which implies the final death knell for the EU Charter plan, the Constitutional Court of Germany ruled in early November that the charter cannot be ratified by Germany, because it has already been invalidated by the "no" in the referenda in France and in the Netherlands.

The charter has (unfortunately) been ratified by the vast majority of the German Parliament (Bundestag), but President Horst Koehler, also in view of an injunction by a group of parliamentary dissidents filed with the Court, has refused to sign the document, saying he wants to see the Court's ruling, first.

With that ruling, the Presidential signature is off, and so is the charter—in the biggest member country of the European Union. How Chancellor Angela Merkel can "revive" the charter, as she announced for her EU presidency for the first half year of 2007, remains a mystery. The Court ruling is binding upon Germany.

Pope Calls on World Leaders To Halt Bloodletting in Gaza

In his blessing to 20,000 pilgrims and tourists in St. Peter's Square in Rome Nov. 6, Pope Benedict XVI called on world leaders to work for the immediate resumption of "direct and serious negotiations" to bring an end to the bloodshed in the Gaza Strip. Noting that he has followed with "grave concern" the reports of Israeli military operations there, which began on Nov. 1, he said he wanted "to express my closeness to the civilian populations suffering the consequences of acts of violence.... I ask you to join me in prayer to the almighty and merciful God, that he may enlighten the Israeli and Palestinian authorities, as well as those of nations with particular responsibility in the region, ensuring that they make every effort to put an end to bloodshed, increase humanitarian aid initiatives, and favor the resumption of direct, serious, and concrete negotiations."

German Analyst Sees Threat of 'Lame Duck' War Strike

At a public event on "The Future of the Mideast," held in Wiesbaden, Germany Nov. 8, Andreas Zumach, arms-control

expert and book author and columnist for left-wing media, said that there are "problematic elements" inside the Democratic Party: people who think like Republican neo-cons about Iran and Islam.

He reported that at a Berlin seminar of the (Green Party's) Heinrich-Boell Foundation last week, Martin Indyk spoke as a representative of that Democratic current, calling for the formation of an "axis of the good"—the USA, Europe, Israel, and the Sunni Arab states like Egypt and Saudi Arabia—against the "axis of evil." Indyk said that the Americans would win over the Europeans with some new initiative for peace in Mideast, which would, however, only produce a "Palestine Bantustan," not a real Palestinian state.

In response to a question from *EIR* about the red-hot danger of a U.S. attack on Iran between now and the end of January, Zumach said first that the big war danger, which he saw between Condi Rice's Mideast tours in June and October, fortunately did not materialize; however, he agreed that "indeed, these weeks between the election and the State of Union Address are highly dangerous, because Bush and his people know that even if the Democrats conquer a majority in only one house of the Congress, all the investigations will start again, and they will face impeachment. It makes a lot of sense, therefore, for Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld and so on, to try a trick to get out of that. I hope it will not happen, but it can happen, the attack on Iran." (Obviously, these remarks were made before the firing of Rumsfeld, and the securing of both houses of Congress by the Democrats—ed.)

Zumach added, in a response to another question, that he has been told by military, intelligence, and political experts in the USA and Germany that an Iran war is not likely because 1) the USA is bogged down in Iraq, and will not open another front; 2) because there is opposition in the U.S. military; 3) because neither the Europeans, nor the Russians and Chinese would support it; and 4) because it would unleash incalculable conflicts with the entire Islamic world. Zumach said, however, that he is not convinced by these arguments, because the hard facts are that, "the Americans have everything already stationed right there, in the Persian Gulf: aircraft carriers, cruise missiles, and so on, and it has nothing to do with the rest of the military. It only takes a decision by the White House, and then the attack will begin at 5 a.m., and at 6 a.m., we will learn about it on the news. I hope it will not happen, but that is the situation." Zumach said, in response to another *EIR* question, that "indeed," another Tonkin incident, "real or pretended," might provide the pretext for the attack.

Unilateral British Moves Continue: 'Secret' Meetings in Syria

As evidence of the diverging foreign policy efforts of the UK relative to the U.S., Sir Nigel Sheinwald, chief foreign policy advisor to Prime Minister Tony Blair, held "secret" meetings with Syrian President Bashar Assad and other Syrian officials, in Damascus on Oct. 30. Although the fact of the meetings was made public by the Syrian government, their contents have not been revealed, although it is all but certain that Iraq, Iran, and Lebanon were discussed. Sheinwald then travelled to Japan to meet Yuriko Koike, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's national security advisor, where they discussed the North Korean nuclear issue.

According to columnist David Ignatius, Sheinwald's trip was not kept secret from the Bush Administration; he was in Washington the week before going to Damascus. Ignatius claims Sheinwald discussed with Administration officials various proposals of the Iraq Study Group led by James Baker III, but this can not be confirmed. One day after Sheinwald's meeting with Assad, the Bush Administration accused Syria and Iran with trying to bring down the Lebanese government, which both countries, as well as the Lebanese government, denied.

Sheinwald participates in the weekly video-conference with President George W. Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, Prime Minister Blair, and Blair's Chief of Staff Jonathan Powell.

In addition to being Blair's top foreign policy advisor, Sheinwald, a 30-year Foreign Office veteran, is also head of the Defense and Overseas Secretariat, which is responsible for delivering Whitehall's foreign, security, defense, and

counterterrorism policy to the government, and also heads the central crisis-management facility. Sheinwald is expected to be named ambassador to Washington next year.

Russia and the CIS News Digest

Putin: Conflict Potential Growing

In a speech at the Nov. 8 dedication of a new headquarters building for Russian military intelligence (the Main Intelligence Directorate, or GRU, of the Armed Forces General Staff), Russian President Vladimir Putin presented a sharply worded characterization of the world situation: "We need to be fully aware that the potential for conflict in the world is on the increase. The use of force in international relations, as a factor blown out of all proportion, is being imposed upon the international community. Stability is being seriously undermined by unilateral actions—actions that are not legitimate from the standpoint of international law—undertaken by a number of countries, and by attempts on the part of some countries to unceremoniously impose their positions, without taking into account at all the legitimate interests of other partners. And you know the means employed by states that behave in this way: the economy, political and diplomatic means, and a monopoly on the world media."

In the area of armaments, Putin said, "Leading powers not only refuse to rid themselves of their arsenals, which are obviously bigger than the level necessary for self-defense, but on the contrary, keep perfecting them, including offensive arms." Putin talked about particular systems: "In my address [to the Federal Assembly], I spoke of the stagnation in disarmament.... Furthermore, the threat of the emergence of destabilizing weapons, such as low-charge nuclear weapons and strategic missiles equipped with non-nuclear warheads, is on the rise. A number of countries seek to have their hands free in order to place weapons, including nuclear weapons, in space."

Most of Russia's top defense and security officials, as well as Kremlin Chief of Staff Sergei Sobyenin, First Deputy Premier Dmitri Medvedev, and Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, accompanied Putin to the ceremony.

Moscow Wary of Some U.S. Democrats

Russian commentators and politicians of various political persuasions have expressed nervousness about the incoming Democratic leadership of the U.S. Congress. Speaker of the State Duma Boris Gryzlov was typical, in stating that he thought the Dems were "more prone to apply double standards on human rights." It emerged that some of the Russian reactions to the Nov. 7 election results are due to the continuing influence of the Truman/Henry Jackson virus within the Democratic Party, expressed in its Democratic Leadership Council/Gore/Lieberman wing. *Kommersant* and *Novyye Izvestia*, among others, ran articles Nov. 9 on the prospect that Rep. Tom Lantos (D-Calif) will chair the House International Affairs Committee. *Kommersant* called Lantos "one of the American establishment's harshest and most irreconcilable critics of the Kremlin." Both papers note that Lantos, together with Sens. John McCain (R-Ariz) and Joe Lieberman (I-Conn), and Rep. David Dreier (R-Calif), wrote an open letter to President Bush in June 2006, calling for a boycott of the St. Petersburg G-8 summit, due to President Putin's "authoritarianism."

Sergei Rogov, director of the U.S.-Canada Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, told RIA Novosti that he thought bilateral relations would continue to deteriorate. "Both [Republicans and Democrats] extremely negatively evaluate Russia's domestic and foreign policies," Rogov said, while noting that the election results came partly because "American society realizes that there will be no victory in Iraq." Mikhail Margelov, head of the International Affairs Committee in the Federation Council, said he does not expect the new composition of the U.S. Congress to have a negative impact on relations with Russian MPs: "It has to be said that all of these players, who are now taking up leading roles in the House of Representatives from among the Democrats, are well-known to us in Russia. We have a working dialogue with them.... It's

another matter that traditionally the Democrats are considerably more critical of our country on issues such as observing human rights, freedom of speech, the development of democracy."

Putin, Ivanov Attend Aircraft Industry Conference

Attending a military-related event for the second day in a row, Russian President Putin held a conference Nov. 9 on implementation of his February 2006 decree on formation of the United Aircraft Corporation (UAC). Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov, who has just been named the CEO of UAC, was with him.

FSB Warns of Attacks on Hydroelectric Dams

Testifying Nov. 7 before Russia's new National Anti-Terrorism Committee, Federal Security Service (FSB) director Nikolai Patrushev said that there is "a very real" threat of terrorist attacks on large hydroelectric power facilities in southern Russia. He said that intelligence indicates targetting of the Volgograd and Saratov dams, as well as others, in Rostov Region and in Dagestan. Such attacks, said Patrushev, would bring "catastrophic consequences, paralyze the region, and cause mass casualties and economic losses."

Russia Moves Against Foreign Energy Operators

The Russian Prosecutor General's Office announced Nov. 7 that it is calling on the Natural Resources Ministry to revoke the license of Rospan, a natural gas facility owned by TNK-BP (which bought it from the moribund Yukos Oil), based on "systematic violations of the subsoil law, licensing, and environmental safety standards." Rospan has been in a conflict with the country's main gas producer, state-owned Gazprom, over access to pipelines. Prosecutors have also threatened to revoke TNK-BP's license to develop the large Kovykta gas field in eastern Siberia, over similar violations, and have opened a criminal investigation into the handing of classified documents to TNK-BP, with its 50% foreign ownership. Environmental violations have also been used to freeze operations of Shell Oil's subsidiary in the Sakhalin Island oil and gas projects.

The *Financial Times* of London ran an article Nov. 7 that didn't refer to the moves against BP, but coincided with these developments, under the headline, "Russia faces chilling prospect of winter short of gas." Highlighting the complaints from Russia's power company, UES, that Gazprom won't sell them the gas they need, the *FT* reviewed Gazprom's declining production in many of its fields. Gazprom has been filling its gas shortfalls with imports from Turkmenistan, with which there are mounting pricing and supply problems.

Gazprom has just doubled gas prices for sales to Georgia, and is threatening to quadruple them for Belarus, renewing pressure on the latter to turn over its pipeline network to the Russian firm.

Fradkov to China for Energy and Investment Talks

Energy deals were high on the agenda during the visit Nov. 9-10 of Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov in Beijing, where he attended the third China-Russia Conference on Investment Promotion. *China Daily* reported that close to \$1 billion in deals were signed.

Bakiyev's Concessions Stabilize Kyrgyzstan

A week-long standoff in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, ended Nov. 9 with President Kurmanbek Bakiyev signing into effect a new constitution, drafted partially on the basis of opposition demands. The new law eliminates the President's right to dissolve

Parliament, while giving the latter the authority to appoint the government. Prime Minister Felix Kulov expressed a continuing sense of uncertainty in the country, commenting that "fear, confrontation, and pressure from demonstrations are bad advisors" for effective law-making. On Nov. 7, as violent clashes flared between police and the Bishkek demonstrators, Bakiyev consulted with Russian President Putin by phone.

Former Indian diplomat M.K. Mhadrakuma, writing in the *Asia Times* of Nov. 6, noted that this was the third attempt this year, by a U.S.-backed coalition of political activists and NGOs, to bring down Bakiyev and Kulov. He called it a regrouping of the forces of the 2005 "Tulip Revolution" that ousted long-time President Askar Akayev and brought them to power; on one side, are those who still enjoy U.S. backing, and, on the other, the Bakiyev-Kulov team, who want to make Kyrgyz policies harmonize with Russian and Chinese strategic goals in the region. "The regional stakes are high, since Bakiyev's policies have helped integrate Kyrgyzstan with not only the CSTO [Collective Security Treaty Organization], but also the Eurasian Economic Community and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization," said Mhadrakuma. The author noted that, although the Tulip Revolution was supposed to bring Kyrgyzstan into the U.S. orbit, Washington belatedly realized that the reverse had happened. This was brought home by Bakayev's demand that the U.S. should pay a fair rent for the use of Manas Air Base.

Southwest Asia News Digest

Worldwide Censure of Israel's 'Massacre' of Palestinians

International leaders condemned what they called a "massacre" of Palestinian children by the Israeli army, in a rare explicit use of the term. On Nov. 8, in Gaza, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) shelled a civilian area, and killed 19 civilians, including eight members of a single family. Hundreds of others were wounded.

Jordan's King Abdullah condemned "the ugly massacre that led to the martyrdom of a number of innocent civilians including children." From Syria, a Foreign Ministry statement called for the intervention of the United Nations. "Syria condemns strongly the state terrorism committed by Israel, and calls on Palestinians to unite their national line in face of Israeli crimes. The international community and the UN Security Council bear complete responsibility to stop these massacres and hold Israel accountable."

Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa called the Israeli attack an "incomprehensible massacre," and said he would call upon Arab officials to act.

Italian Foreign Minister Massimo d'Alema, said, "This morning, 18 people, women and children, were massacred ... an escalation of violence which I think is unacceptable." He called for an "international initiative to unblock the Palestinian situation.... It is clear that if this escalation of violence is not stopped, we risk returning to a climate of war."

The European Union joined in condemning the action. "The killing this morning of so many civilians in Gaza, including many children, is a profoundly shocking event. Israel has a right to defend itself, but not at the price of the lives of the innocent," EU external relations chief Benita Ferrero Waldner said.

Ritter Says: Negotiate with Iran

Former UN weapons inspector Scott Ritter, in a commentary to appear in the Nov. 20 issue of *The Nation*, reports that he has recently returned from a trip to Iran. "The Iran I witnessed was far removed from the one caricatured in the U.S. media. I left with the frustrating realization, as had been the case with Iraq, [that] America was stumbling toward a conflict, blinded by prejudice and fear born of our collective ignorance," he wrote. Ritter evidently was able to talk with a

broad cross-section of the population, ranging from the "old rich," families who became wealthy during the days of the Shah, to young members of the Revolutionary Guards. "My trip convinced me, that support for U.S. intervention does not exist to any significant degree, but rather resides solely in the minds of those in the West who have had their impressions of Iran shaped by pro-Shah expatriates who have been absent from the country for more than a quarter-century," he said. Even among those who yearn for a return to the secularized society of the time of the Shah, "the hope for such liberation [by the U.S.] has been tempered by the ever deepening disaster in Iraq."

On national security policy, Ritter said that President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad actually has no authority over foreign policy, which resides with Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and the Expediency Council. Ritter noted that, "while the Western media have replayed Ahmadinejad's anti-Israel statements repeatedly, very little attention has been paid to the Supreme Leader's pronouncement—in the form of a *Fatwa* ... that Iran rejects outright the acquisition of nuclear weapons, or to the efforts by the Supreme Leader in 2003 to reach an accommodation with the United States that offered peace with Israel."

Ritter demolished the arguments that Iran is harboring al-Qaeda terrorists, noting that not only did Iran (as did Hezbollah) condemn the 9/11 attacks on the U.S., but almost went to war with the Taliban rulers of Afghanistan in the late 1990s.

Ritter warned that the path that the Bush Administration is on with respect to Iran "is a path that will lead to war."

Larijani, Lavrov Hold Talks on Iran Nuclear Program

On Nov. 10, after meeting in Moscow with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Iran's negotiator on nuclear matters, Ali Larijani, said the current draft UN resolution, put forward by major European powers, was unacceptable. "We will review our relations with the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] if the United Nations adopts the European resolution without the amendments proposed by Russia," Larijani was quoted in news wires as saying.

Even if Russian amendments—which soften the proposed UN resolution—are included, that "will not make Iran change its mind" about developing nuclear power, he said. "We have to find a logical way to solve this problem." Larijani was to continue talks with Russian officials Nov. 11.

Russia continues to block threatening resolutions against Iran. "We consistently call for a negotiated solution to this problem," Lavrov said.

The two also discussed progress on the Bushehr nuclear power plant, after which Larijani reiterated Iran's openness to a Russian compromise proposal under which uranium needed for any future Iranian nuclear program would be enriched at Russian facilities, thereby preventing Iran from mastering the sensitive technology on its territory. "This proposal was never rejected and it remains on the negotiating table," he declared.

Iran Calls on UNSC To Act Against Israeli Military Threats

Mohammad Javad Zarif, Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations, submitted a complaint to Secretary General Kofi Annan and the Security Council Nov. 11, following threats against Iran by Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Ephraim Sneh.

Zarif criticized the Security Council for its "inaction" in dealing with Israeli policies and practices which, he said, is emboldening the Israeli government "to continue and even increase its defiance of the most basic and fundamental principles of international law and the United Nations Charter."

Referring to a letter written Oct. 23 by the Israelis to the UN, and circulated as document A/61/538-S/2006/841, Ambassador Zarif said that the document "is yet another failed attempt and tired smokescreen by the Israeli regime to distract the international community's attention from the real and serious threats that the said regime poses to international and regional peace and security."

He further blasted the letter as "an attempt to deflect the UN's attention from the daily illegal Israeli threats to resort to force, as well as its horrendous cases of resorting to force, occupation, and aggression, against the countries in the region."

Zarif listed Israel's threats against Iran:

"On November 10, 2006, Ephraim Sneh, a Deputy Minister in the Israeli regime's cabinet, threatened that the said regime may launch a pre-emptive military strike against Iran's peaceful nuclear program and said, 'I consider it a last resort. But even the last resort is sometimes the only resort.'

"On October 19, 2006 [Prime Minister] Ehud Olmert, in a blatant threat against the Islamic Republic of Iran, said that Iran would have 'a price to pay' if it does not relinquish its peaceful nuclear program. He also said, 'We have to prepare for the struggle to prevent this capability being attained,' and further threatened that Iranians 'have to be afraid of the actions that may be taken by the Israeli regime.'

"On May 15, 2006, Josef Olmert, who works closely with the Israeli Mission to the United Nations in New York, threatened at Sinai Temple in Los Angeles that 'Israel will not allow Iran to acquire nuclear capability, and will launch a unilateral military strike if necessary to destroy Iranian nuclear facilities' ... [and further] said that 'Israel can't wait for the hope of regime change in Iran because time is running out.'

"On March 7, 2006, Moshe Ya'alon, the former Chief of Staff of the Israeli regime's military, said at the Hudson Institute in Washington, D.C., that 'Israel has a military option to counter Iran and decision-makers must take the Israeli military option into consideration.' " Zarif reported.

Zarif called on the UN to act against these threats by "unequivocally condemning them and demanding that the said regime abandon its policy of flouting international law and the UN Charter," and for it to "cease and desist immediately from resorting to the threat of use of force against members of the United Nations." He asked that his letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 13, 14, and 100 and of the Security Council.

Israeli Leader Plans Ethnic Cleansing of Arabs

Israeli fascist Deputy Prime Minister Avigdor Lieberman called the Israeli Arab minority a "problem" that requires "separation" from the state, in an interview with the *Daily Telegraph*, reported by *Ha'aretz* Nov. 6. Lieberman is quoted, "Minorities are the biggest problem in the world."

Asked if Israel's Arab citizens should be forced out of the country, he said, "I think separation between two nations is the best solution. Cyprus is the best model. Before 1974, the Greeks and Turks lived together and there were frictions and bloodshed and terror. After 1974, they constituted all Turks on one part of the island, all Greeks on the other part of the island, and there is stability and security."

Lieberman did not say that the separation resulted from war and ethnic cleansing, nor that the so-called "stability and security" are because there are thousands of UN peacekeeping troops there, nor that a state of war continues to exist on the island.

Arab Israeli Knesset member Mohammed Barakeh denounced Lieberman's interview and charged, "Until a week ago, these were statements by a Member of the Knesset. Today, they are those of a Deputy Prime Minister. If there is no appropriate response from Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, it means the government is adopting these positions, and it will turn into a government with a new, fascist agenda."

Olmert issued a statement merely saying, "Lieberman's recommendations are not mine. That is not the position of the cabinet and Lieberman knows that."

Asia News Digest

Perry Threatens North Korea with Preemptive War

Former Clinton Defense Secretary William Perry, George Shultz's partner in promoting "coercive diplomacy," threatened North Korea with preemptive war, and blamed South Korea and China! Speaking at a Nov. 4 emergency international symposium in Japan, titled "North Korean Nuclear Test and Security in East Asia," hosted by the Japanese daily *Yomiuri Shimbun*, Perry held South Korea and China responsible for his threat to preemptively attack North Korea. According to *Yomiuri* Nov. 6, Perry said that if China and South Korea "did not provide the coercion" by threatening to cut off their supply of food and oil to North Korea in the event it completed construction of its large nuclear reactor, the United States "might take the only meaningful coercive action available to it—destroying the reactor before it could come on line."

Responding to this threat, U.S. Democratic Party statesman Lyndon LaRouche said he wanted to send this message to Bill Perry: "Stop masturbating, you stupid son-of-a-bitch! You may get a kick out of it, but it's not worth general warfare."

Two former government officials had similar, if less direct, comments in discussion with *EIR*. A former leading intelligence hand with close ties to Korea said that he did not believe anyone in the administration actually wants a war on North Korea, since "they know how many millions of people it would incinerate," but that the PSI (Proliferation Security Initiative, the plan to stop North Korean ships on the high seas, which the administration claims, falsely, is incorporated into the UN sanctions resolution) does indeed carry the danger of provoking a full-scale war, as South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun has warned.

A second source, a leading U.S. weapons inspector, said that "North Korea's bomb is not a military weapon—it's a political weapon. North Korea is very rational—they won't go to war over this." He said that U.S. military and intelligence officials are keeping quiet publicly, but are very angry about U.S. policy on Korea privately. He added that in 1994, Defense Secretary Perry and his partner Ashton Carter were chomping at the bit to go to war against North Korea, to test out their military "counter-proliferation" theory, and were not pleased that Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton intervened to reach a peaceful settlement. "Now these guys are damn crazy, calling for war again," he said.

South Korean President Rejects War with North

South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun told the National Assembly Nov. 6 that he rejects war with the North, and would proceed with the Sunshine policy, of continuing overtures to Pyongyang. Even as George Shultz's criminal cohort on the "Democratic" side, William Perry, was threatening a U.S. attack on the North if South Korea and China do not impose "coercive actions" on the North (see above), President Roh told the South Korea General Assembly that: "Some argue that we should not shy away from going to war, which is truly irresponsible and dangerous."

As to the U.S. demand that the two main projects of the Sunshine Policy, the joint industrial park at Kaesong and the tourist project at Mount Kumgang, be scrapped, Roh said these are "symbols of peace and stability on the peninsula," and that "Under any circumstances, inter-Korean dialogue must be sustained and the government will stick to the basic policy for peace and prosperity."

On the UN resolution, also signed by Seoul, Roh said, "The Mount Kumgang and Kaesong projects will be continued, but carried out in a way that conforms to the spirit and purport of the UN sanctions resolution against North Korea."

The speech was read by Prime Minister Han Myeong-sook.

'Iron Silk Road' Comes Closer to Reality

"Asia's 40-year dream of an 'Iron Silk Road'" has come closer to reality, the *Malaysia Sun* wrote Nov. 7. Transport ministers and officials from 43 countries gathered in Busan, South Korea, the Asian terminal of the Great Eurasian Landbridge Nov. 6, for this year's ministerial conference on transport organized by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). The highlight of the six-day conference will be the signing Nov. 10 of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway (TAR)—the "Iron Silk Road." The 81,000-kilometer (50,200-mile) network, first mooted by the UN back in 1960, would link capitals, ports, and industrial hubs across 28 Asian countries "from Busan to Rotterdam." The project has been carried worldwide by the international LaRouche movement as the necessary physical economic basis for a new world financial system.

Twelve of the world's 30 land-locked countries are in Asia, said Barry Cable, director of Unescap's Transport and Tourism Division.

"The agreement lays a framework for coordinated development of internationally important rail routes," UNESCAP chief Kim Hak-Su said in a statement.

Kim noted that Asia boasts 13 of the world's top 20 container seaports, but it has fewer than 100 "dry ports"—inland container depots—while Europe has 200 and the United States has 370.

Taiwan First Lady Indicted; Chen Likely To Follow

Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian's wife was indicted on embezzlement and forgery charges Nov. 4, and the prosecution said that Chen would also be indicted as soon as he left office. He is constitutionally protected as long as he's President, but the already very unpopular Chen, the darling of the U.S. neo-cons for pushing confrontation with China and independence for Taiwan, is under huge pressure to step down immediately. The charges involve taking government funds under false pretenses to use for "secret diplomacy"—i.e., paying off countries to recognize Taiwan instead of China—and for personal use. Chen announced that he would address the nation over the Nov. 11-12 weekend.

China-Africa Cooperation Takes Leap Forward

Chinese President Hu Jintao laid out an ambitious perspective for enhancing cooperation between China and the nations of Africa, *China News* reported Nov. 4. Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), Hu proposed major Chinese projects in Africa, including: \$3 billion of preferential loans and \$2 billion of preferential buyer's credits in the next three years; a China-Africa development fund of \$5 billion to encourage Chinese companies to invest in Africa; cancellation of the some loans owed by the heavily indebted poor countries and the least developed countries in Africa; increasing from 190 to over 440 the number of export items to China

receiving zero-tariff treatment from the least developed countries in Africa; establish three to five trade and economic cooperation zones in Africa in the next three years; train 15,000 African professionals; send 100 senior agricultural experts; set up 10 special agricultural technology demonstration centres; build 30 hospitals; dispatch 300 youth volunteers to Africa; build 100 rural schools; and increase the number of Chinese government scholarships to African students from the current 2000 per year to 4000 per year by 2009. (For more on this, see last week's Africa Digest.)

Africa News Digest

Egypt Intervenes To Prevent 'Regime Change' in Sudan

According to several senior Arab diplomats based in Washington, en route back from the Sino-Africa conference in Beijing, China last week, Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak asked Sudan's President Omar Hassan al-Bashir to pass through Cairo to discuss the Darfur situation. Egypt is attempting to force a new UN Security Council resolution that would supersede the existing Resolution 1706, which mandates a UN peacekeeping force with broad authority to use military force (there is already a proposal floating around for Darfur region, an area the size of Texas, to be declared a no-fly zone, à la Iraq prior to the Anglo-American invasion).

The al-Bashir government has resisted the imposition of a UN force, arguing that this would be a pretext for regime change, and pointing to the U.S. occupation of Iraq as reason why no international force is acceptable. Egypt, according to the diplomats, appreciates the complexity of the Darfur crisis, including the water factor—the years of drought that have brought Bedouin herders into Darfur from the north, desperately seeking water for their herds. Only the U.S. and British governments, the diplomats emphasized, persist in using the term "genocide" to describe the Darfur disaster. Egypt is pushing for an expanded African Union peacekeeping force, to be augmented by peacekeepers from Arab and Muslim countries, including Pakistan, India, and Malaysia.

The same Arab diplomats expressed grave concerns over the Somalia situation, although they noted that the Islamic militias that have taken control of the capital city have imposed the first cessation of conflict in many years. They agreed that the entire Horn of Africa region, vital to the security of Egypt and the rest of the Arab world, is in flames, and things could get far worse.

The Egyptian government is committed to averting a further political and humanitarian disaster, and Egyptian water engineers are fanned out all over the African continent, particularly in the Nile River region, attempting to develop competent water management programs. While some areas are facing severe water shortages, other areas are being flooded, creating equally severe problems. And in Egypt, 1 billion cubic meters of water from the Nile are lost each year, flowing into the Mediterranean Sea, and not being captured for use.

At present, southeast Ethiopia, and adjacent Somalia and Kenya, are still reeling from flash flooding in August and September. New heavy flooding has just hit the Somali region of Ethiopia. Hundreds of thousands of people are dislocated. (For more on this, see InDepth: "What Is Really Behind the Crisis in Darfur?" by Lawrence K. Freeman.)

UN Food Program: Aid Is Urgent for Ethiopia and Somalia

While little is reported in the Western press, *The Peninsula* of Qatar reported Nov. 6 that 68 people in the ethnic Somali region of Ethiopia have died in recent weeks from food and water shortages, and related complications. Ethiopia was hit by deadly floods again, and neighboring Somalia's Juba region is facing a worsening situation.

The World Food Program states that 1.5 million farmers "require urgent humanitarian assistance as large numbers of

livestock died, wells and boreholes dried up, malnutrition rates increased and disease became rampant."

Horn of Africa Could Be Next 'Iraq-Style' War

International wire services are pumping up the specter of an imminent "Iraq-style" war in the Horn of Africa, consuming the starving nations of Somalia, Eritrea, and Ethiopia. War could be within hours, days, or weeks, Reuters projected on Nov. 3, after talks broke down between the government of Somalia (which controls little of the country) and Islamicist "opposition" forces, which the Bush Administration charges are linked to al-Qaeda, but which control Somalia's capital and much of the South.

This Week in American History

November 14—20, 1811

Construction Begins on the National Road to the West

In colonial America, the condition of the roads was generally so terrible that most people preferred to travel by water—either up and down the Atlantic coast, or by river. But when America won her independence and the new nation expanded westward, it was difficult to navigate any boat beyond the "fall line" of the major rivers, where they approached the Eastern mountain chain. To cross the mountains, Americans went by foot or on horseback, following, as did the Indians, the old buffalo migration trails, which took the easiest routes.

One of these well-known trails was called Nemacolin's Path, named for the Indian who helped Western scout Christopher Gist widen the trail so that settlers could reach Ohio Company lands near what is now Pittsburgh. The Washington family was the leading sponsor of this effort, and when the French burned the settlement on the Youghiogeny River, young George Washington supervised the widening of the road. His Virginia and North Carolina troops, who marched on that road, were badly outnumbered by the French and their Indian allies, and suffered a military defeat at the Great Meadows in 1754.

Britain was forced to answer the French action, and sent Gen. Edward Braddock to capture the French-held fort at the fork of the Ohio River. Thus, Nemacolin's Path and Washington's Road became Braddock's Road, and it led to the Ohio River and thus to the vast Mississippi Basin. But the road ran through an almost impenetrable forest, cleared to only 12 feet wide, and plunged and climbed through the wilderness at often death-defying angles. It would not do for commerce, nor for delivering the United States mail.

When Thomas Jefferson became President in 1801, the territory of Ohio was well on its way to becoming a state, and there was a pressing need for better communication with the expanding population west of the Allegheny Mountains. The U.S. Constitution gave the government the power to "establish post-offices and post-roads," but there was an ongoing debate in Congress over whether the Federal government actually had the power to build the roads. In December of 1805, the Senate passed legislation which made the construction of the national road to the Ohio River a Federal project, and it specified that the money to finance the construction would come from 5% of the proceeds from selling the Federal lands in the Northwest Territory to settlers. This procedure was followed as the road was extended to Columbus, Indianapolis, and eventually to Vandalia, the early capital of Illinois.

The first section of the national road was known as the Cumberland Road because it began at Cumberland, Maryland, the base camp for both the Ohio Company and General Braddock's expedition. Congress provided for a three-man Cumberland Road Commission to oversee construction and maintenance, and to map out the route of the road. The general

route adopted was that of Nemaquin, Washington, and Braddock, but the ultimate destination was Wheeling, further down on the Ohio River than Pittsburgh.

Congress also set out specifications for the road, such as a 66-foot cleared width and a maximum grade of five degrees, or 8.75%, a very difficult requirement for mountainous terrain. In the summer of 1806, President Jefferson appointed Thomas Moore and Elie Williams of Maryland, and Joseph Kerr of Ohio, as the three commissioners, and they were sent westward to map out the route, along with two surveyors, two chain carriers, and two helpers. By the first week of December, they had done most of the work and were running into severe winter weather. Consequently, they sent a report and maps to President Jefferson and told him they would consult with him in Washington.

In their report, the commissioners wrote that the task of determining the route had become "a work of greater magnitude, and a task much more arduous, than was conceived before entering upon it." Not only was every locality and village begging them to bring the road in their direction, but the five degree requirement for the grade of the road was making the choice of route over the high Alleghenies very difficult.

The demands of the localities were not within the commissioners' purview, but they did find a way to solve the engineering difficulty: "The face of the country within the limits prescribed is generally very uneven, and in many places broken by a succession of high mountains and deep hollows, too formidable to be reduced within five degrees of the horizon *except* by crossing them obliquely, a mode which, although it imposes a heavy task of hill-side digging, obviates generally the necessity of reducing hills and filling hollows, which, on these grounds, would be an attempt truly Quixotic." Thus, the route followed horseshoe curves at the mountains, but ran straight ahead where grade was not a factor.

By the end of 1808, contracts were let out for clearing the right of way for the road, and the final surveying was completed to Wheeling. But actual construction did not begin until fall of 1811, and on Nov. 20, the road out of Cumberland reached the top of the Allegheny Front. The outbreak of the War of 1812 halted construction, but after the war it was resumed, and by 1818, the road was all but complete to Wheeling, and the first mail coaches began rumbling westward to the Ohio.

The road was greeted with enthusiasm when it came through any area. A farmer who lived near the construction site recorded that the workers came "a thousand strong with their carts, wheel-barrows, picks, shovels, and blasting tools, grading those commons, and climbing the mountain-side, leaving behind them a roadway good enough for an emperor to travel over."

After boulders were hauled away, trees were toppled, stumps pulled, roots grubbed out, and underbrush cut back, the workers would have a clearing 66 feet wide in which to construct the road. Ditches were dug along either side, leaving a sloped cradle 32 feet wide in the center. A 20-foot-wide section of that cradle was then dug out to a depth of 18 inches at the center and 12 inches at the sides. This was first filled with hand-crushed seven-inch stone, then by three-inch stone, and then by a surface of sand or gravel which was compressed by a three-ton roller.

The minute a new section was completed, the residents of the area would drive their horses, carriages, and wagons on it, often catching up to the work crew ahead and mixing in with their equipment. This ability to use the road immediately created more and more public support for the project, as was to happen in the not-too-distant future when the less difficult center section of the Erie Canal was built first, and every owner of a boat in upstate New York launched it on the canal.

Once the road was completed, the Conestoga wagons came into their own. The floor of a Conestoga sloped sharply upward on both ends to prevent people and goods from spilling out on steep slopes. The wagons were used by pioneers heading westward, but they were also freight carriers driven by wagon drivers who were legendary for smoking cigars as they handled the reins. These cigars were so ubiquitous among the Conestoga drivers that they acquired the nickname of "stogies."

Before the construction of the National Road, it took eight days to travel from Baltimore to Wheeling; the time was reduced to three days once the road was opened. By 1828, the city of Wheeling sent 1,750 tons of produce to Baltimore in over 1,000 wagons. Towns and villages multiplied near the road, the value of property increased, and local roads were built to provide access to the National Road.

Thomas B. Searight, whose father was a contractor for some sections of the National Road and served as a commissioner for Pennsylvania, wrote his reminiscences of the road during the 1830s to 1850s. "As many as 20 four-horse coaches have been counted in line at one time on the road," he remembered, "and large, broad-wheeled wagons, covered with white canvass stretched over bows, laden with merchandise and drawn by six Conestoga horses, were visible all the day long at every point, and many times until late in the evening, besides innumerable caravans of horses, mules, cattle, hogs, and sheep. It looked more like the leading avenue of a great city than a road through rural districts."

In 1844, the new Baltimore and Ohio Railroad reached Cumberland, and passengers then transferred to stagecoaches to travel the National Road. But soon the railroad reached Wheeling, and travel on the road became more local. John Lewis Peyton of Virginia, who had kept a diary of his journey on the road in 1848, published his observations in 1869. "At this day," he wrote, "a railway has been constructed across these Virginian Alps, rivaling in its grades and physical difficulties surmounted, that of Mount Cenis. Where the savage trod in 1755, and the stage-coach dragged its slow length along in 1848, the trains sweeps by in 1869, bearing thousands of passengers daily on their journeys, and transporting hundreds of thousands of tons of freight. We live in a fast age it must be allowed. Old things have passed away—all things become new."

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