

Apollo Energy Alliance, consisting of friends of Al Gore and George Soros, and various “progressive Democrats” and unionists. The common father of this strange alliance is the George Shultz who created the George W. Bush Administration and works with the greenie Rocky Mountain Institute of Amory Lovins, which like Shultz’s Committee on the Present Danger, began promoting the ethanol fraud as a way to attack the nations of the Middle East.

Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.) gave a disoriented “Apollo project” speech about ethanol and “flex-fuels” at the Detroit Economic Club May 1. Proposing an Apollo Project for ethanol fuel, is like proposing an Apollo Project for laetrile as a cancer treatment; ethanol might as well be laetrile for cars.

As one United Auto Workers union leader in a southern state succinctly put it recently, “the only thing you can run on ethanol, is an old drunk.”

No ‘Sales’ Way Out

The ethanol part of the “flex-fuel” package is 100% fakery, along with related proposals to burn various products of “atholes.” By contrast, the hydrogen-fuel proposals, including some work by the major automakers, are potentially revolutionary for engine propulsion. But the best prospects for producing hydrogen efficiently involve, again, using the high heats from nuclear power plants to crack hydrogen out of ammonia or related stocks. The storage and use of hydrogen may point to new engines much larger than those of automob-

iles. This is a crucial area of research and development. *If* action is taken now by Congress, to intervene with credits to use the increasingly idled auto capacity for new infrastructure projects, the development of new engine types becomes a viable part of that process.

The third element of “flex-fuel,” electric-diesel hybrid engines, while obviously not fakery, changes nothing in the collapse of the U.S. auto sector, but a few more miles per gallon in a somewhat more expensive car. The fundamental problem is real wages and unemployment, as the House Democrats reminded Bill Ford. Overall U.S. auto sales are falling, this year toward the 16-16.5 million units characteristic of almost a decade ago. The sales drop is concentrated in—the upper Midwest region, where U.S. autos and auto parts are made! Fewer cars and light trucks are being bought by those Americans most inclined by loyalty to buy U.S.-made vehicles. Car sales are shifting toward corporate and rental fleets and toward the wealthy. The three Cornball Brothers are kicking their own sales in the head by their layoffs and plant shutdowns and the shutdowns radiating from their effect.

Neither hybrids nor fuel mixes are going to revive sales in the teeth of continued globalization. The capacity is unutilized, by 50% or more. It is up to Congress to use it or lose it. American industry’s most versatile remaining machine tool capabilities are fast disappearing now. Yet they are crucial for the infrastructure tasks indicated by LaRouche in his “Emergency Legislation, Now!” memo.

IAM President to Congress: Save Manufacturing!

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) President Thomas Buffenbarger told IAM delegates to burn the backsides of Congress, with the message that defending the U.S. industrial base is a matter of national security. Buffenbarger addressed the opening session of the IAM’s yearly legislative conference in Washington, D.C. on May 15, which was on the theme, “Have You Had Enough Yet?” He quoted from President John F. Kennedy’s speech to the IAM conference in May 1963, a speech which, in turn, had quoted President Franklin D. Roosevelt on fighting for the general welfare. Buffenbarger challenged IAM members to get involved in fighting for U.S. leadership to achieve peace around the world, by fostering economic development and optimism.

“We have lost the ability to manufacture the means of our prosperity,” and now Congress has given away “the ability of this country to defend itself,” he charged. There are only six shipyards left in the country, we can no longer

produce tanks, and we have lost critical machining capacity and the worker expertise needed to develop other weaponry. “We don’t even have the ability to train our kids to defend themselves”—not to carry a gun, but training them in the skilled trades necessary to defend the nation.

He denounced the Pentagon’s Quadrennial Defense Review, calling on the IAM delegates to grill their Congressmen on it, since they voted for it. I am sure Congress is “clueless” that that QDR outlines the most radical transformation of the military ever proposed, through privatization and outsourcing, he said.

“Politicians will say ‘this is our year,’ but what good is it to elect Democrats who will do the same things as Republicans do? We need to make a change,” he insisted. He rejected President Bush’s idea of using troops to patrol the border with Mexico, saying that the immigration problem was created by bad U.S. trade policies like NAFTA. “The immigrants are just trying to feed their families. Don’t blame them for a situation we caused.”

He ended by demanding that when his members go to Capitol Hill (they were lobbying the next two afternoons), they “kick their asses”—referring to the Congress—and show them how the vision of FDR and JFK can be fulfilled.