

# Will Michigan, Auto Finally Heed LYM?

by Rob Ainsworth

A resolution demanding that “the Congress of the United States establish a ‘Marshall Plan’ for the U.S. automotive industry” was introduced into the Michigan State Legislature April 12, by Fred Miller, the chair of the House Labor Committee. Alluding to the crisis now wracking the auto sector, with tens of thousands of workers fleeing the dying industry in the recent months alone, the state government and United Automobile Workers have finally taken action, even though the resolution comes almost two years too late, and thus, is virtually irrelevant to what the U.S. economy now faces.

The measures in Resolution No. 31 are wholly inconsistent with the crisis: the looming takeover of Chrysler by a consortium of vampire hedge funds; GM already under the control of similar speculative interests; while Ford slides ever closer to bankruptcy. On top of these crises, the state of Michigan is itself facing a budget shortfall of \$940 million.

The resolution echoes the UAW’s 2006 proposal for a “Marshall Plan,” and limply calls for “a level playing field among all automotive companies,” ignoring the reality that the entire world economy is in the process of disintegrating! The resolution also foolishly calls for Federal assistance to accelerate the production of alternative fuels and energies, such as ethanol, fuel cells, and clean diesel, while mentioning nothing about the auto industry’s historic competence to produce, among other necessities, components for rail systems and nuclear power plants.

Resolution No. 31 stands in stark contrast to Lyndon LaRouche’s *Emergency Recovery Act of 2006*, which would have transformed the auto industry into a powerful center of infrastructure production. It is only by helping to rebuild the overall economic infrastructure of the United States that the auto sector could hope to survive. As collapsing auto sales demonstrate, without an immediate shift to a production-oriented economy, the population will neither be capable of sustaining current levels of consumption, nor of lifting the country out of bankruptcy. *It is this essential point that the UAW has refused to recognize, along with Michigan’s legislators.* The resolution will do nothing to stop the unprecedented hemorrhaging of the auto sector or the other remains of America’s formerly great industrial base.

## **Getting Out From Under Wall Street’s Thumb**

That any resolution has been introduced is, however, a reflection of LaRouche’s initiative, in combination with the

intensive mass organizing of the LaRouche Youth Movement over a span of several years. Across the Midwest and elsewhere, cities and states have passed resolutions echoing LaRouches *ERA*, calling on the Federal government to save the auto industry. In fact, Michigan legislator LaMar Lemmons III had introduced a resolution on May 18, 2005, demanding all the initiatives outlined by Lyndon LaRouche at that time. Unfortunately, lackluster UAW President Ron Gettelfinger, under intense pressure from Wall Street thugs such as Felix Rohatyn, capitulated; he would not endorse LaRouche's proposal, despite scores of his own members organizing for it, both in the Midwest and on Capitol Hill, with the LYM.

It is significant that, only two weeks before the resolution was recommended by the House Labor Committee, the LaRouche Youth Movement was in Lansing, the state capital, for two days, rallying the legislators to action. *A dozen official meetings took place*, as well as numerous impromptu discussions on the streets, and in the halls of the legislature.

In addition to these meetings, with music the LYM shattered the legislature's bleak pessimism. A chorus stood beneath the chamber's acoustically attuned dome, which vaults upward at least six stories, and sang the most beautiful canons and other Classical compositions in their repertoire, including Mozart's *Ave Verum Corpus*. One organizer related how, "as we sang, more and more people started looking over the second-, third-, and fourth-floor balconies to see who was singing. Several reps and lobbyists gazed down at us as we sang. One Democrat, who is very young, has always been afraid to meet with us. and complained in the past that we are too aggressive, stood behind our chorus, staring transfixedly throughout the whole piece. When we ended there was silence, then suddenly the entire dome filled with applause, which echoed through the whole capitol." This continued with Bach's *Jesu, meine Freude*, receiving widespread applause from all corners after each section of the motet was performed.

## Elevating Little People

What the LYM confronted, both in their meetings and in their discussions with staffers and legislators on the street, reflected the littleness of the "Marshall Plan" resolution. The legislators were almost universally pessimistic about the future prospects of the state, with some commenting that the majority of phone calls they receive from their constituents relate to the wave of bankruptcies, layoffs, and foreclosures hitting the population. Others believe they can only slash the state budget or increase taxes. As the LYM have also discovered in Washington and elsewhere, the people governing this country tend to have no conception of what a real economy is. They think about, and look for, solutions within the framework of a system increasingly based upon gambling, a system which, as Lyndon LaRouche has frequently asserted, is doomed. Thus, when the LYM addresses them with questions



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*A resolution calling for a "Marshall Plan" for the auto industry was introduced April 12 into the Michigan State Legislature, reflecting several years of intensive organizing by the LYM; unfortunately, it has come far too late. Here, a LYM chorus sings and organizes outside the state capitol building in Lansing.*

of philosophy, physical science, and music instead of a power point presentation, they are confronted with a profound paradox!

The issue the LYM continuously returns to, which is fully demonstrated by Resolution No. 31, is the failure of policy-makers to recognize what *exactly* is shaping their own decision making: their unobserved and thus unquestioned axioms. By addressing the most fundamental of ideas and principles, the LYM is able to elevate people out of their own self-imposed limitations; and so it is lawful that beautiful music be given to a culture drowned in ugliness, that some meetings revolved around the breakthroughs of Johannes Kepler, while others attacked the genocidal racism of Al Gore.

As one Democratic legislator was told, "LaRouche is saying, that at this moment, *only the impossible will work*. You're going to have to do things that aren't on the traditional list of possible actions. Large-scale economic changes must be made, but above all, creative thinking."

When the LYM departed from Lansing, they left behind a legislature invigorated with new ideas, which two weeks later, is now taking at least a first tentative step in more or less the proper direction, despite the particular drawbacks of the resolution itself. What is really needed, is LaRouche's *Emergency Reconstruction Act*, combined with an overall financial reorganization and rebuilding of the now decimated auto industry, all of which to be adopted as a comprehensive national economic policy. Nothing less will succeed in dealing with the immensity of the crisis. LaRouche and the LYM are providing the necessary leadership on the streets, in the halls of Congress, and around the world; as one legislator acknowledged, "the LaRouche movement are the only people out there."