

Support Broadens For Congress To Save Machine Tools

by Anita Gallagher

Since the publication of back-to-back three-quarter-page ads in the Capitol Hill weeklies *The Hill* and *Roll Call* on June 7-8, and the lobbying wave of some 25 local elected officials and union officers in teams with about 25 LaRouche Youth on the Hill, June 8, support for Lyndon LaRouche's Emergency Recovery Act of 2006 has grown. One sign of the spreading support is more than 100 new endorsers of the statement published in the ad, demanding that Congress enact this legislation at once.

To stop the destruction of the auto industry, and the machine tool capacity embedded in it, LaRouche has proposed that "The Federal government intervene by placing the productive capacity of the industry into government supervised receivership, and then fund the retooling and expansion of that capacity to supply the components of desperately needed national infrastructure projects."

The ad also quotes LaRouche that "any liquidation of the present structure of the physical productive capacities of the auto industry, especially its machine-tool sector, would do irreparable damage to our physical economy," and irreparably damage the physical economy of the United States and the whole world. move by word

During May, two complete auto plants were auctioned off online, Daimler-Chrysler in Toledo, Ohio, and Delphi, in Irvine, California. In May, the ongoing demolition of the Delphi Battery plant in Anderson, Indiana was begun by wreckers. A half-million-square-foot plant is being smashed up for scrap metal, causing some earthquake symptoms—both physical and economic tremors—in the town.

As of June 22, General Motors has bought out 28,000 of its workforce, and expects that number to climb to 30,000 by June 23, while Delphi, with GM money, has bought out 9,000 of its workers, and has targetted another 10,000 in the second phase. The number of workers who have taken the retirement buyout is heading for 60,000, at least, by August. The demise of auto is rapidly advancing.

As it does, the reality of this situation is hitting on the ground in the nation's Congressional Districts. In three Midwest State Democratic Conventions that occurred in June, scores of local leaders—the kind of Democrats who deliver election victories—added their names to the call on Congress to enact this legislation. Endorsements also resulted from the



LaRouche Youth Movement intervention into the United Auto Workers Annual Convention in Las Vegas, the week of June 11.

At the UAW Convention, including the speeches of the leadership, there was recognition of the "doom" facing the auto sector. The circulation of the LaRouche Call for Emergency Legislation there, was a proof that there is a solution. When someone would say, "Globalization is inevitable," the youth, and UAW local leaders working with them, would counter, "It isn't. Why not fight it?" The LaRouche White Paper, "Rohaytn: The French-Nazi Connection," was grabbed up in the hotel lobby, and "Filthy Felix" Rohaytn's role in taking down the industry of the United States was a prime topic of conversation. The UAW Convention took place immediately on the heels of LaRouche's June 9 webcast in Washington, "Felix Rohatyn and the Nazis." Many contacts were made, and a number of them signed the resolution on the spot. Many at the United Steel Workers of America "Rapid Response" Conference in Washington, D.C. on June 19-22, readily endorsed, recognizing that the Rohatyn group bankrupted steel.

The same "no illusions" attitude about the future of auto was apparent in the Democratic State Conventions held in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa June 10 and 17. In Minnesota, a number of prominent Democrats, including labor officials, signed. The Ford Assembly plant in St. Paul, located on 2.1 million square feet of industrial space, with 1,800 production workers, is slated to close.

The response to an initiative to save auto in Wisconsin, where the Delphi Energy and Chassis plant in Milwaukee is to be closed, was also wide open. At the Iowa Democratic Convention on June 17, thirty-four people signed the call after discussion. One of them was a UAW official who had seen the LaRouche contingent in Las Vegas.

It is very clear that the base of the Democratic Party "gets it" on saving the machine-tool capacity of the United States, and they intend to use this Call for Action to have the Congress "get it" and "get on it" immediately.