

Impose Food Price Controls Now!

With the hyperinflationary policy of the British Empire leading to an explosion in food prices, and an escalating threat of food shortages due to speculation, Lyndon LaRouche has issued a clarion call to action. “We demand emergency food price controls now!” LaRouche said on June 7. That is the only way we are going to avoid disaster, including mass starvation, for the U.S. population, and the rest of the world.

LaRouche put it plainly:

“We’re in a situation, where the United States in particular, and the rest of the world, is being driven into hyperinflation in food prices, and other prices. There’s only one way to deal with this: Don’t try to resist rises in prices, *crush them!* You go to controls. Because there’s no reason, because of a shortage of food, to raise the price! And if somebody wants to do that, and makes an argument, ‘Well, you got to do it, because there’s a shortage. We got to make a buck, you know?’ You say, ‘No, you go to jail is where you go!’ And we need immediate price controls.”

“This is going back to what Franklin Roosevelt did under appropriate circumstances. That was under wartime conditions, but we’re under combat conditions right now, in terms of food supply, in terms of the conditions of life out there in the field.”

Even before the attack on Pearl Harbor, in 1941, President Roosevelt had established an Office of Price Administration. As the war mobilization built up after Pearl Harbor, FDR saw the need to act. He created the Emergency Price Control Act on January 30, 1942, and explained its purpose:

“Nothing could better serve the purposes of our enemies than that we should become the victims of inflation. The Act, taken all in all, is a

workable one. It accomplishes the fundamental objectives of setting up a single Administrator, and empowering him to establish maximum prices and rents over a broad field, to prohibit related speculative and manipulative practices, and to buy and sell commodities in order to obtain the maximum production. To make price and rent control effective, the Administrator is given adequate powers to license persons subject to the Act, to investigate and enjoin attempted violations, and to bring about the commencement of criminal proceedings against violators. Civil suits for treble damages by private persons provide an additional enforcement tool.”

As a result of this action, eventually up to 90% of retail food stuffs saw their prices frozen at the level of March 1942, thus permitting the American population to eat modestly throughout the war period. Eventually, rationing was also required, due to the demand for production of war matériel—but the American people did not complain. The speculators had been stopped.

Today, there will be other areas besides food that should come under price controls, including energy, LaRouche added, but the place to start is food. By taking this action, we can wipe out the speculators, and provide adequate sustenance to the millions of Americans who currently are faced with choosing between eating, and paying for other necessities. If anyone says that President Obama disagrees and won’t do it, LaRouche added, the answer is simple: Get rid of him!

Even in the midst of the life-or-death mobilization for Glass-Steagall over the next few weeks, this demand for food price controls, and associated regulation of adequate supply, is an urgent priority. Demand emergency food price controls now!