

Small Projects Won't Work

Only NAWAPA provides the high level of physical-economic gain required to rescue our economy from today's last stage of prostration. For example: Local U.S. water projects were only able to develop 2 million acre-feet of water per year during the four years preceding 1979—itself a high level of development for the post-New Deal period. But at that rate, it would take 65 years to provide the benefits of NAWAPA, rather than 10 to 20. That, while the Ogallala Aquifer may be exhausted before 2020! Sixty-five years, that is, assuming it were possible to provide those benefits through local projects at all. But it isn't, because the greatest sources of available water are not in the continental U.S.A., but Alaska and Canada!

A fuller exploration of this point requires an understanding of why Lyndon LaRouche recently replaced the obsolete concept of "infrastructure," by what he calls "platforms." While it is impossible to do any justice here to LaRouche's concept of "platforms," we can at least point towards the area where that concept resides:

Note first that significant increases in productivity do not start with changes at the local "point of production," contrary to a myth common to Marxists and so-called "free-market capitalists." The revolution in the productivity of grain farming in the 19th/20th-Century United States, for example, first required the inexpensive long-distance transport

provided by our network of canals and railroads.

But those canals and railroads, in turn, did not appear in isolation from an entire, interwoven system of revolutionary simultaneous physical-economic, scientific, and cultural improvements. Leaps in human productivity, longevity, and quality of life, only occur when brought about by such a new, higher "platform."

An early example was the revolution based on astronomy, which occurred during the last Great Ice Age (approximately 110,000 to 10,000 years ago), and permitted regular transcontinental travel by means of celestial navigation, allowing us, for the first time, to find our way in the trackless ocean by knowing how to read the map of the heavens. Once you recognize that all Greek and Sanskrit mythology, and even religion, are rooted in this new, revolutionary astronomy, you must recognize that it marked a dramatic upgrading of all aspects of human life, a "platform" in LaRouche's terms.

And if you read Prometheus' mythical account of the benefits he brought to mankind in Aeschylus' play, you will see that what he brought was precisely this "platform."

The NAWAPA project as we are proselytizing for it—inextricably linked with a new age of space exploration and then colonization, with an enormous renaissance in nuclear, and then fusion power, with scientific advances reflecting Vladimir Vernadsky's advance beyond Bernhard Riemann, with a linking of the Old and New Worlds over the Bering Strait, and with a Great Pacific Alliance then spreading out to encompass most or all nations—is such a "platform."