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EIR

From the Managing Editor

The day before the U.S. election, a large asteroid approached our planet, coming within 17 times the Earth-Moon distance (4 million miles). *Discovery News*, commenting on the unusual timing of this “near-Earth” passage, wrote, “As the world eagerly awaits the results of the 2012 U.S. presidential election, it’s worth remembering our solar system is buzzing with massive chunks of rock that, if their orbits start to drift too close to Earth, political rhetoric will quickly become irrelevant” (emphasis in the original).

While the asteroid’s whiz-by posed no danger to the Earth and to civilization (this time), the same cannot be said of the political rhetoric that swamped this election campaign, nor of the policies of both Presidential candidates. Now that Obama has been re-elected, the questions discussed in this week’s issue are as urgent as ever before, and the dangers just as great.

Our *Feature* is introduced by Editor Nancy Spannaus, so I will only mention here that it consists of the transcript of a press conference given by Lyndon LaRouche and Jeffrey Steinberg at the National Press Club on Nov. 2. The focus was the threat of thermonuclear war, and the specific case of the terrorist attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya. Steinberg’s documentation, which comes from official transcripts assembled by the House of Representatives, is reprinted here in full. Updates on the war threat, and the fight to stop it, are in *International*.

In *Economics*, Marcia Merry Baker presents an initial report of the horrific damage from Superstorm Sandy, which resulted not from an act of God, but from the negligence and cost-cutting of the human beings who were tasked with protecting America’s most populous region from natural disasters—and failed to do so. Decades of decline of the physical economy mean that the cleanup and restoration efforts will be monumental, and can only be accomplished with a top-down change in economic policy.

And in *National*, we report the implications for the U.S. health-care policy of Britain’s Liverpool Care Pathway for murder of the ill and elderly—and the fact that some Britons are finally speaking out against it.

These are the issues upon which the political battles of the coming months will hang.

