

LaRouche Campaign vs. Cheney Rocks Washington, D.C.

by Michele and Jeffrey Steinberg

Radio listeners in Washington can hardly avoid hearing the drive-time ads of Democratic Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, calling for the immediate ouster of Vice President Dick Cheney. In one of the ads now airing, LaRouche says: "We'd better make sure, that what Cheney represents inside the United States is out of power! We must understand, that we can not submit to the Synarchist International. . . . We must understand, that we must show at least as much courage as Roosevelt and Churchill did, in stopping what would have otherwise become a world takeover by Adolf Hitler and his type."

These ads are part of a multi-level campaign by LaRouche—still the second-leading Democratic Presidential candidate in numbers of contributors nationwide—and it is rocking Washington, a highly-placed "inside the Beltway" political contact told *EIR*. According to *EIR*'s source, Cheney's office is becoming *very* nervous, as more political forces seem to be saying that it is Cheney—not Bush, and not even Rumsfeld—who is behind the Iraq debacle, behind the massive economic troubles and deficit of the United States, and behind Enron-style corruption that is bleeding American taxpayers of another \$87 billion for Iraq. LaRouche has called the \$87 billion request for Iraq nothing more than a "relief fund" for Halliburton—Cheney's piggy bank—under the guise of an Iraq "reconstruction" that is never going to happen, unless the "ignoble liars" in Cheney's neo-con cabal are out of government.

The paranoia among "beast-man" Cheney's circle was in full view on Oct. 14, when Ann Coulter, the "female Rush Limbaugh," blew her stack about LaRouche during her appearance on a CNN news show discussing Cheney's role in the Iraq war lies. The first words from Coulter—the author of a book called *Treason*—were about LaRouche. Asked, "Is it fair to say . . . that it's the Vice President, in fact, who is . . .

in control of the Administration's foreign policy?" Coulter erupted, "That's the Lyndon LaRouche theory which has been picked up by Maureen Dowd at *The New York Times*. . . . I don't really understand the theory under which the smart guys, like Dick Cheney, get together and decide, let's run this idiot for President. Wouldn't you think Dick Cheney would like to be President? . . . The Presidents are the Presidents, the Lyndon LaRouche theory notwithstanding, that Cheney is the one who needs to be impeached." Coulter's hysteria did not diminish when it was pointed out that Cheney had stressed that Saddam Hussein has nuclear weapons and nuclear and biochemical weapons—and that none have ever been found. She even claimed that Saddam Hussein had not let UN inspectors into the country in 2002!

The Post-Cheney Era

LaRouche, one of only two Democratic Party Presidential candidates certified by the Federal Election Commission (FEC) to receive Federal matching funds, has escalated his year-long campaign Cheney's ouster. The mobilization is nationwide, and includes a new mass campaign leaflet on "beast-man" Arnold Schwarzenegger, which documents how the LaRouche youth forces handed Arnie an historic defeat in Los Angeles County on Oct. 7: "What was done successfully by my LaRouche Youth Movement in California, must now be done on a national scale against Beast-Man Cheney. If the Germans had done what LaRouche did in California, they could have stopped Hitler. You still have a chance to ensure that what Arnie represents, does not consolidate control over the United States."

The mobilization, which includes an Oct. 22 international webcast on the "post-Cheney era in American politics," comes at a point that the "knives are out" for the lies and the liars who created the Iraq war.

But backed against the wall, Cheney is telling more lies, as on Sept. 14 when he told “Meet the Press” that he has “no financial ties” to Halliburton. Indicative was his geek-act performance on Oct. 10 at the Heritage Foundation, Washington’s Mont Pelerin Society front-organization. There, Cheney threw down the gauntlet to anyone who dares to question: the preventive-war doctrine; the decision to unilaterally invade Iraq; or the Administration’s de facto decision to write off the United Nations as a menace to the war on terrorism. He repeated the neo-con mantra that the entire international political order collapsed with the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, and that now the United States has an obligation and a right to act alone, pre-emptively, and with no concern for international law or the interests of our allies.

The next day, even the *Washington Post* reported that Cheney’s performance was over the edge. Earlier in the week, both National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice and President Bush had gone out on the stump to defend the Iraq fiasco. But neither had defended the White House’s pre-war claims of Saddam Hussein’s ties to the 9/11 terrorists, or arsenal of ready-to-launch weapons of mass destruction—as Cheney had done at Heritage.

The backlash to Cheney’s rant immediately spread, with Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), the respected chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, appearing on “Meet The Press” the next day, with the Committee’s ranking Democrat, Sen. Joseph Biden (Del.). Both blasted Cheney and demanded that Bush finally take charge of his deeply divided Administration. Asked by host Tim Russert what he would do with one minute alone with the President, Biden replied, “I’d say, Mr. President, take charge. Take charge. Settle this dispute. Let your Secretary of Defense, State, and your Vice President know, ‘This is my policy—any one of you that diverts from the policy is off the team.’” Lugar agreed: “I concur with my colleague. . . . The President has to be the President. That means . . . over the Vice President, and over the Secretaries.”

The same day, Oct. 12, the *Washington Post*, in a front-page story, reported that, on a number of occasions, Vice President Cheney had countermanded specific orders from President Bush. In one case, Cheney had approved Pentagon assistance to Ahmed Chalabi, the head of the widely discredited Iraqi National Congress, bringing him onto Iraqi territory at the outset of the U.S. invasion in late March 2003—despite the fact that President Bush had issued an order, through National Security Advisor Rice, that Chalabi was to get no special treatment.

A New ‘Yellow Cake’ Scandal

Pentagon sources have confirmed that Cheney and his National Security Advisor and Chief of Staff Lewis “Scooter” Libby virtually ran the Pentagon Office of Special Plans (OSP), the secret intelligence and covert operations unit under Douglas Feith, William Luti, and Abram Shulsky, that faked the intelligence on Iraq’s terror links and WMD caches to

justify invasion. Indeed, Luti, the OSP head, was dispatched out of the Vice President’s office to steer the covert Pentagon unit.

It has become one of the worst-kept secrets around Washington that it was Cheney’s office that was behind the criminal leak of the CIA pedigree of Ambassador Joe Wilson’s wife, Valerie Plame. Not only was the leak, to syndicated columnist Robert Novak and a half-dozen other Beltway reporters, a serious crime. It represented a serious breach of national security, exposing a CIA “non-official cover” officer, her network, and a CIA front company. Other sources have reported that the Vice President launched an operation against Ambassador Wilson in March 2003, within days of the UN Security Council testimony by Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), revealing that documents purporting to prove Iraq was seeking uranium from Niger, were shoddy forgeries. Ambassador Wilson had traveled to Niger in February 2002, to probe other allegations about the Iraq-Niger illegal uranium sales, and had reported back to the Vice President, via the CIA, that the story was false.

The more Cheney flails with beast-man threats against anyone who raises questions about his Iraq war, the more vulnerable he becomes. On Oct. 15, Cheney was confronted with new scandal when it was revealed on CBS-TV’s “60 Minutes II” that his favorite claim of “proof” of Iraq’s nuclear weapons—Saddam Hussein’s acquisition of “aluminum tubes”—had been debunked more than a year earlier by experts at the State Department and the Oak Ridge nuclear laboratory in Tennessee. The revelation was made by Greg Thielmann, a 25-year veteran at State, “whose last job was director of the Office of Strategic Proliferation and Military Affairs, which was responsible for analyzing the Iraqi weapons threat for Secretary Powell.” CBS reported that Thielmann “and his staff had the highest security clearances, and everything, whether it came into the CIA or the Defense Department, came through his office.” A shipment of “aluminum tubes” bound for Iraq was seized in 2001, Thielmann told CBS correspondent Scott Pelley, and months later he told Powell’s office “that they were confident the tubes were *not* for a nuclear program. Then, about a year later, when the Administration was building a case for war, the tubes were resurrected on the front page of the *New York Times*.” Cheney cited the aluminum tubes as cause for war in August 2002, in his war dance at the Veterans of Foreign Wars convention, in September 2002, and on March 16, 2003, on the eve of the Iraq attack.

Thielmann told “60 Minutes II” that “the public was deceived.” The “aluminum tubes” could be another Niger yellowcake scandal.

The real world, led by Lyndon LaRouche, is demanding that President Bush take the only step that will avert an even greater disaster for the United States: Dump Vice President Cheney, and clean out the entire neo-con cabal that hijacked his Presidency on 9/11.