

# Mass Strike Process Continues To Expand

Special to *EIR*

Sept. 6—Starting at the end of July, a new phenomenon broke out in the United States, which can only be accurately identified as a mass strike, a popular upheaval spreading inchoately throughout the country, and bringing hundreds of thousands of former couch-potatoes out of their living rooms, and into town meetings, to express their anxiety and rage: “We’ve had enough!” First ascribed to a handful of right-wing Republicans, this movement soon began to be understood as an expression of the rage that a majority of Americans currently feel against a government that is leading them into a disaster-land of unemployment, collapse, and hopelessness, while feeding trillions of dollars to the financial predators who have destroyed our country.

Yes, there are some die-hard supporters of the Obama Nazi health “reform,” who continue to insist that the popular uproar has been exaggerated by the press, and is not so dramatic a rejection of the President as it seems. They are out of touch with reality, or lying. For, in fact, as *EIR*’s monitoring shows, the numbers of Americans getting up off their couches to attend political events, perhaps for the first time, and mostly on the hated health-care plan, is actually increasing.

Our tracking shows that most days, over the last week of August, saw upwards of 10,000 Americans attending town meetings. Some were huge, with 3,000, or, in one case, 4,200, attending. One Congressman cancelled a meeting because over 1,000 constituents registered to attend. Another, from the Gulf Coast area, was so shocked by the fact that 1,300 persons attended (as compared to 300-400 in the aftermath of Katrina), that aides scoured the attendance sheet to make sure that everyone was from the district—and they were!

*EIR* has the advantage of reportage on these town meetings from hundreds of LaRouche PAC organizers. We can attest to the fact that the meetings are anything but controlled, or unified around one political theme. But the mood of distrust of government, and angry insistence on finding an alternative to the horrors of the present, are virtually universal. Particularly notable has

been the broad positive response to LaRouche PAC’s own interventions, especially with the “Obamastache” poster.

## A Report from Illinois

Among the other notable characteristics of the mass strike, is the fact that many individuals have been motivated to become active organizers. The following report, written by such an individual, not a full time organizer, gives a useful picture of the process underway. The events occurred Aug 31.

“In the morning I deployed with LaRouche PAC organizers at the Skokie, Ill. post office. My 11-month-old son was with us. I was able to prompt people with the question, ‘How can we create a future for our children with a collapsed economy, lack of industry, and genocidal health-care policy shaping our nation?’ We spoke to many Skokie residents who are ignorant supporters of the proposed reform, all under impression that health care will be universal. By using the parallels to Hitler’s policies and actions, compared to this reform, we were able to initiate a thought process and response similar to my own, after reading Lyndon LaRouche’s more recent publications. I challenged the reform supporters and indifferent individuals to read the literature and consider the validity of LaRouche’s proposed solution—fix the economy first!

“Most of the citizens we spoke to were open-minded, some were aware of LPAC (some members already), and were many opposed to the bill. We also ran across blind Obama supporters backing his policies literally ‘to the grave.’ A few took pamphlets, but most of them cursed and yelled. One woman ripped down the Obama moustache poster and screamed at me, ‘You should be ashamed of yourself! What are you teaching that child?!’ My response was, ‘Ashamed? I am ashamed in your action and your ignorance! I am ashamed in our government and their policies, and our people for not standing up sooner!’

“Maybe we won’t get through to that fraction of the population—not until they experience first-hand the effects of our country’s current legislation—or hey, too late, untimely death due to the policies you supported!

“On a more positive note, we organized a few doctors opposed to the bill, but too scared of retaliation to speak up; however, they did leave donations. I assume more organizing would be beneficial among doctors and nurses. . . .

“Later, Monday evening, LPAC organizers and I at-



EIRNS/Tiffany Wamsley

*The mass strike spreading across the country, while lacking a single focus, as can be seen in this photo of a town hall meeting in Bloomfield, Mich. Sept. 1, reflects the underlying anger and fear of the American people, over just about every policy of the Obama Administration.*

tended Jan Schakowsky's (D-Ill.) town hall meeting at Niles West H.S. in Skokie. 1,200 people were let inside the meeting, with speculation that she let in mostly supporters. Only supporters were allowed to ask questions. At one point, 500-plus people fought, divided over the issue, outside of the school. No LPAC members were able to get inside; we organized outside with signs and leaflets.

"Most of the reform supporters were holding printed 'Health Care Now' signs, leading many to believe they were paid to attend and cause conflict, crushing the opportunity to have constructive organizing and dialogues. Among these supporters, there were a small percent of liberal families with universal health care in mind. I believe these individuals may be open and interested in hearing the issues behind the reform. To organize these people, it is important to outline our current crisis and explain that for health care to be 'universal,' we need to reconstruct our economy first and then take care of health care under a bill like HR 676 (single payer).

"On the other end of the street, were those opposing the reform. I noticed that many of these opposers were against the bill because they want limited government involvement. Although these people were fighting on

our side, they still need to be organized around the current crisis and actual reasons we cannot let this reform pass.

"Jan's 'town hall riot' was less productive than I had hoped because of the relentless, instigating, reform supporters. One elderly man was screaming at me and ripping the Nazi comparison sign from me; other opposers rushed to my aid, and we ripped the sign from his grasp as he shook with rage.

"It was this incident, along with others, that showed me how divided American citizens are internally. This is a problem because, not only are we fighting most of our government officials, but other citizens as well. I realized after both of my experiences orga-

nizing Monday what a difference the venue makes in the public response. These blind supporters are much more willing and less confrontational in a public setting not usually associated with the issue(s) at hand. With that said, I think at town halls or other rallies, it is more beneficial to organize the people on our side, because even if they are opposed [to the reform], they may not know what's at stake. There LPAC comes in and provides the necessary leadership we need to push our Congressmen to a real economic solution.

"Well, America is speaking up! Young and old, more citizens are becoming political; we are revolting. The time is now to organize people around LaRouche's policies so we can reconstruct this unique nation to benefit humanity, support, nurture, and help develop the minds of our growing population. We must unite our citizens. I worry that divided, we will fall. Our power lies in basic moral principles and our constitutional rights. I know we will not back down!

"I thank Lyndon LaRouche for his dedication to humanity and our future. I extend my thanks and appreciation to all the individuals that make up this organization. The most thanks for fighting, thanks for opening my eyes, and thanks helping me develop my intelligence, creativity, and purpose. We can do this!"