

Final Debate Shows Again That Bush Is Insane

by Nancy Spannaus

The third and final debate of the 2004 Presidential elections on Oct. 13 once again rammed home the essential point which Democratic leader Lyndon LaRouche has made in the course of the post-Convention campaign: George W. Bush is a liar, and he's insane. Anyone who decides to vote for him is of questionable sanity as well.

Because LaRouche himself, the only qualified candidate for U.S. President in this time of world crisis, was excluded from the Democratic Party's primary election process, the crucial issues of the nature of the *world* economic crisis and how to deal with it, were not put on the table. Thus, going into the last two weeks of the campaign, the outcome remains nip-and-tuck, whereas a clear presentation by Democrat John Kerry of the FDR-style solution put forward by LaRouche, could have mobilized the landslide Democratic victory that's required to put the nation back on track.

Organizing for a Democratic landslide is under way in areas where the LaRouche Youth Movement is active, particularly Ohio, Texas, Oregon, and Michigan. So far, LaRouche's political action committee has put more than a million "real Democratic platforms" into circulation, along with over a million leaflets on President Bush's mental health, and half a million pamphlets on the economic crisis and how to solve it ("It's the *Physical Economy, Stupid!*"). Democrats in these states, and all around the country, are grabbing up the LaRouche literature, often in bulk, in order to have material to organize their fellow citizens to vote. Excitement has also been built up through a massive voter-registration campaign, which appears to have brought about record voter signups, most in Democratic areas, all around the country.

But will the Democratic Party be able to turn out this vote on Election Day? LaRouche is pulling out all the stops he can, with a special focus on Ohio, where he will hold a

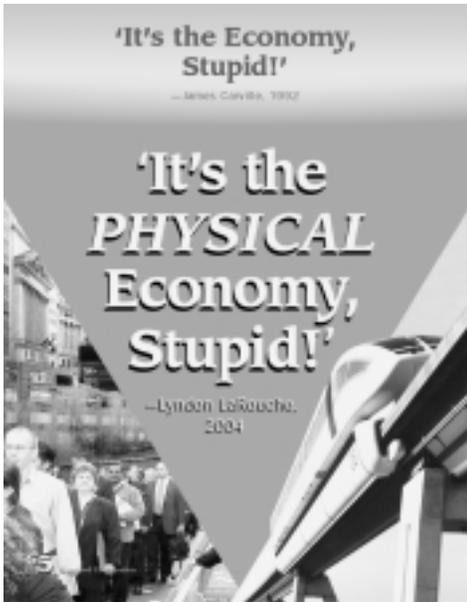
webcast/town meeting in Cleveland on Oct. 27. Major surprises from the desperate Bush-Cheney crew cannot be ruled out, nor can the potential for a dramatic economic-financial event, triggered by the steep rise of the oil price, or some unexpected bankruptcy or collapse. Whether the United States heads deeper in a potentially irreversible fascist direction (Bush-Cheney), or changes course, as the country did when Franklin D. Roosevelt replaced Herbert Hoover, hangs in the balance.

Bush's Lunacy . . .

The most notable aspect of the third debate, like the other two, of course, was the mental state of the incumbent President. As LaRouche observed, Bush was simply babbling and posturing. When a tough concrete question came up, like what he would do about the minimum wage, the President simply changed the subject to education, to promote his "No Child Left Behind" program. When asked about the scandalous lack of flu vaccine for the American people, the best advice Bush could give was to tell people who were healthy to forego getting a shot, the way he has done. As for what the elderly and vulnerable should do, he had no proposal. This followed the course of how one Democrat characterized Bush's health plan: "Don't get sick!"

Otherwise, the President engaged in constant babbling about his commitment to education (the alleged solution to the lack of jobs), about Senator Kerry being "out of the mainstream," and about "freedom on the march."

As in the second debate, President Bush seemed to be agitated and a bit hyper, an affect some said was in order to deliberately avoid the angry scowl which he sported in the first debate. Instead, Bush concluded his answer to every question with his self-satisfied smirk.



This pamphlet, circulated by LaRouche PAC in half a million copies so far, raises the fundamental issues that were ignored in the Oct. 13 Presidential debates. The LaRouche forces are concentrating their intervention in Ohio and other key "swing" states.

... and Lies

Besides displaying his mental instability, Bush kept up his policy of lying. Given the fact that he has presided over the nation's descent into deep depression and a seeming "no-exit" and expanding war, he is understandably reluctant to trumpet many aspects of his record, such as the increase in poverty, the collapse of health care and infrastructure, and the accelerating disaster in Iraq.

"The President is a liar," said LaRouche in response to the Oct. 8 debate. "Whether the President knowingly lied, or lied because of some junk that was fed to him, he lied to the American people, and we cannot afford to have a U.S. President who lies."

Some of the most outrageous lies from the Oct. 8 debate, some of which were repeated in the Oct. 13 debate, were:

1. Challenged on his rush to war without a plan for the peace, President Bush said, "Of course, I listened to our generals."

This is an *outright lie*, since Gen. Eric Shinseki (ret.), then Army Chief of Staff, had publicly said that several hundred thousand troops were necessary to secure Iraq, and he had been "retired" as a result.

2. Several times throughout all the debates, President Bush said that his Administration had created 1.9 million jobs in the last 13 months and that "we're growing," and "small business is flourishing."

This is an *outright lie*—or a hallucination. First, over 80% of the jobs allegedly created were "computer projections," i.e., virtual jobs, imputed to new businesses *assumed* to have been started, but which have never been surveyed by the Labor Department to know if they exist or not. Second, the overall job figures have gone down since Bush took office, by at least a net 600,000 jobs, and by many more manufactur-

ing jobs. Senator Kerry is right that President Bush is the first President since Herbert Hoover to see a collapse in jobs during his term.

3. There is no growth in the economy, unless one counts *debt* as growth. Poverty has increased by at least 4.3 million people since President Bush took office, reaching 36 million people, according to the ridiculously low standard upon which the government statisticians compute. Many major urban centers have a poverty rate of over 20%, due to the collapse of manufacturing jobs, with the major city of Cleveland, a former industrial center, having a rate of over 31%.

These examples by no means exhaust the President's lies, which included his insistence that his "lower taxes on the rich" tax plan is necessary to protect small business; his claim that Senator Kerry's health plan would hand all decisions over to the Federal government; and his denial that he owned a timber company (which was, in fact, listed on his 2001 tax return).

From Hoover to Roosevelt

While Senator Kerry has implicitly compared Bush to President Hoover, the last U.S. President who saw jobs disappear during his Presidency, he has so far refused to put forward the real economic policy alternative, which was carried out by Franklin Roosevelt, and is today proposed by LaRouche. For this reason, LaRouche noted that Kerry touched on real economic issues—such as the minimum wage, Social Security, poverty, and health care—but didn't really discuss economics.

To discuss economics would have meant to assert the truth that the U.S. and world economy are in a systemic breakdown crisis, which requires a decisive change in policy, rejecting the post-industrial, free-market paradigm of the last 40 years.

This crisis is not going to be dealt with, or solved, by an attempt to return to the 1990s, or by small changes in the tax code, desirable as some of those may be. There must be bankruptcy reorganization, *a la* FDR, and then a massive infusion of government credit to rebuild the nation's vital economic infrastructure—bridges, railroads, water infrastructure, schools and hospitals—which is now falling apart. Contrary to today's "experts," the government must create jobs.

As he has on the war, however, Kerry decided to stick within the current anti-FDR economic axioms. This reflection of cowardice or ignorance, defines the absolute necessity of a dominant LaRouche role within an incoming Kerry Administration, so that a President Kerry has the guts and the backing to take on the banking interests, and mobilize the "forgotten men and women" of America behind measures that will protect them, and put them into productive work, that pays a living wage.