

Cheney Impeachment Vote Augurs Downfall of Pelosi

by Nancy Spannaus

As a result of the bold initiative by Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio), a candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination, to bring a privileged resolution for the impeachment of Vice President Dick Cheney directly to the floor of the House of Representatives on Nov. 6, the House unexpectedly voted to refer it to the House Judiciary Committee, which has official jurisdiction over impeachment.¹ In the words of Lyndon LaRouche, the bill to impeach Cheney is now “a live bomb sitting in the middle of the process. Instead of being killed, it has been kept alive.”

The Nancy Pelosi-run Democratic leadership in the House, represented that day by Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.), attempted to kill Kucinich’s effort, in favor of their traitorous “impeachment is off the table” policy. Their failure indicates that Pelosi’s future as Speaker of the House, and as the current *de facto* head of the Democratic Party, is also in question.

In fact, by bringing the resolution for impeachment to the floor, Kucinich made a crucial intervention, aimed at preventing Cheney from carrying out his broadly signalled intention to launch a war against Iran. Kucinich’s three Articles of Impeachment include one based upon Cheney’s campaign to manipulate the President, and the Congress, into another disastrous war, against the “security interests of the United States” (see text, page 40).

1. According to official House Precedents, covering the “Rights of the House member Presenting a Privileged Impeachment Resolution: A member submitting a privileged resolution, memorial or motion proposing impeachment is entitled to recognition for one hour in which to debate it. A member recognized to present a privileged resolution may not be taken from the floor by a motion to refer.”

During an interview on C-SPAN while the vote was taking place, Kucinich emphasized that the importance of the impeachment motion, is that it addresses the danger posed by the Administration’s aggressive moves against Iran.

Both Kucinich’s initiative, and the House’s vote against killing the resolution—which drew almost four times as many Democrats as have co-sponsored Kucinich’s bill (86 voted against tabling; there are 22 co-sponsors)—also represent a turn in the political situation directly attributable to the activities of the LaRouche Political Action Committee (LPAC). Not only have LaRouche and LPAC been the prime movers behind the drive to impeach Cheney, from June 2003 on, but LaRouche had recently launched an aggressive, but humorous campaign demanding that Pelosi, the chief roadblock to impeachment and necessary action to save the economy, be removed (see animation at www.larouchepac.com).

Impeachment on the Table

Following Kucinich’s announcement that he would be introducing his resolution, he read the full text of his Articles of Impeachment on the floor of the House. The House Democratic leadership, in the person of Hoyer, immediately moved to “lay it on the table,” i.e., to kill the measure and prevent its consideration.

As the roll-call vote was being called, Hoyer’s motion was winning, with about 290 “yea” votes. But at that point, a number of Republicans began changing their votes, so that there would be a debate on the floor; ultimately, 165 Republicans joined 86 Democrats in defeating the Pelosi-Hoyer motion to table the resolution.



EIRNS/Joanne McAndrews

Reps. Dennis Kucinich and Maxine Waters announce the introduction of H.R. 333, the resolution to impeach Cheney, at a news conference at the Capitol, June 13, 2007.

Although some Republicans later claimed that their objective was to embarrass the Democratic leadership by forcing a floor debate, there was clearly more to it than that. One can just imagine the alarm and consternation in Cheney's office, as the deal between the Democratic and Republican leaderships to kill Kucinich's motion, fell apart.

But once that had happened, Hoyer and Pelosi were stuck. Hoyer then moved to refer the Kucinich motion to the Judiciary Committee, obviously in hopes that it could be "buried" there, as some pundits have subsequently claimed. But it seems clear that some assurances must have been given to supporters of the motion that the committee would treat it seriously, because Kucinich and most of his co-sponsors voted for the motion to send it to the committee. That motion carried by a 218-194 majority.

What Now?

While some news outlets are insisting that the resolution will be buried in the Judiciary Committee, which is chaired by Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.), statements by Kucinich and a number of other Democrats have indicated that the committee will take it seriously and likely hold hearings. In three television interviews on the morning of Nov. 7, Kucinich made a forceful case that action must be taken.

In a feisty sparring match with MSNBC's Tucker Carlson, who claimed that impeachment is effectively "dead for right now," the Ohio Democrat responded that he "would take issue

with the assertion that it's dead, because I think that there's a groundswell from people of all political parties who are concerned about the abuse of power by the Vice President."

"I think that there will be hearings in the Judiciary Committee," he added.

When Carlson called Kucinich's initiative "merely a ceremonial act," the Congressman countered that U.S. aircraft are being outfitted right now to bomb Iranian nuclear research facilities with bunker busters. "This would create an ecological and humanitarian disaster. We really are called upon to defend the Constitution," Kucinich said. "We can't afford to wait. . . . In a year, look at how much damage could be done."

Replying to the assertion by CBS commentator Harry Smith that Republicans had "called his bluff" in voting yesterday to have

the debate on impeachment, Kucinich said:

"They didn't call my bluff. I was fully prepared for debate—with a three-inch-thick binder annotating the violations of law and the violations of the Constitution committed by the Vice President which would justify an impeachment.

"In Washington, the truth is an 'unidentified flying object.' And it's time that someone stood for the truth. The American people demand nothing less."

Others Want Hearings

In addition to the Ohio Congressman's own interviews, other Democrats entered the debate.

Rep. Robert Wexler (D-Fla.), a member of the House Judiciary Committee sent a letter to his constituents, and urged the Committee "to schedule impeachment hearings immediately, and not let this languish as it has over the last six months. . . . The American people are served well with a legitimate and thorough impeachment inquiry." Wexler had not been one of the 22 co-sponsors of Kucinich's bill of impeachment against Cheney (H.R. 333), but he was one of 86 Democrats who voted to defeat Hoyer's attempt to "table" the Kucinich resolution.

Democratic Rep. Steve Cohen of Tennessee, who is a co-sponsor, also predicted that the Judiciary Committee will hold hearings, according to the *Washington Post*. "The issue is still alive," Cohen said.

Another Democrat, also not a co-sponsor of H.R. 333, Carolyn Shea-Porter (N.H.), issued a statement which said:

“In a strongly bipartisan vote today, the House of Representatives voted to refer a resolution to impeach Vice President Cheney to the House Judiciary Committee.... It is the duty of the Vice President to faithfully execute the laws of the United States of America and to defend the Constitution. There is growing evidence that the Executive Branch has ignored some of our laws and has attempted to bend the Constitution to its will.

“Members of both parties decided that this issue is too important to ignore. I voted with my Republican and Democratic colleagues to investigate the Vice President’s actions in office.”

The Impeach Cheney resolution is now squarely “on the plate” of the Judiciary Committee, as one Congressional staffer noted. The committee itself put out a statement declaring: “The committee has a very busy agenda—over the next two weeks, we hope to pass a FISA bill, to vote on contempt of Congress citations, pass legislation on prisoner re-entry, court security and a variety of other very important items.... The Chairman will discuss today’s vote with the committee members, but it would seem evident that the committee staff should continue to consider, as a preliminary matter, the many abuses of this Administration, including the Vice President.”

LaRouche Answers Hoyer

As usual, it was left to LaRouche to directly answer the sophistry which is coming from the House leadership, specifically the Majority Leader. Hoyer issued a statement after the vote in which he claimed that the Democrats would stick to “priorities” like health care and Iraq, rather than impeachment—although, of course, no effective action can be taken by the Congress, without being subject to Presidential veto, or subversion through signing statements, without getting rid of Cheney.

LaRouche’s statement read as follows:

“1. The ouster of Vice-President Cheney is an existential issue of the immediately highest importance for the continued existence of our republic. Failure to oust Cheney now would represent the gravest clear and present danger to the continued existence of our present constitutional republic.

“2. The only legislative issue of comparable importance for our republic is the immediate enactment of my proposed firewall legislation, HBPA, without which a social crisis, combined with a chain-reaction disintegration of our banking system were virtually inevitable for the short period immediately ahead.

“3. The Speaker may have a contrary agenda, but that agenda is not presently in the existential interest of our republic. Political egos can not be given priority over the interests of the existential interests of our republic and its people.”

Documentation

Kucinich Resolution To Impeach Cheney

Here is the text of House Resolution 333, introduced on April 24, 2007, by Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio), calling for the impeachment of Vice President Dick Cheney.

RESOLUTION

Impeaching Richard B. Cheney, Vice President of the United States, for high crimes and misdemeanors.

Resolved, That Richard B. Cheney, Vice President of the United States, is impeached for high crimes and misdemeanors, and that the following articles of impeachment be exhibited to the United States Senate:...

Article I

In his conduct while Vice President of the United States, Richard B. Cheney, in violation of his constitutional oath to faithfully execute the office of Vice President of the United States and, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and in violation of his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, has purposely manipulated the intelligence process to deceive the citizens and Congress of the United States by fabricating a threat of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction to justify the use of the United States Armed Forces against the nation of Iraq in a manner damaging to our national security interests, to wit:

(1) Despite all evidence to the contrary, the Vice President actively and systematically sought to deceive the citizens and Congress of the United States about an alleged threat of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction:

- (A) “We know they have biological and chemical weapons.” March 17, 2002, Press Conference by Vice President Dick Cheney and His Highness Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince of Bahrain at Shaikh Hamad Palace.
- (B) “...and we know they are pursuing nuclear weapons.” March 19, 2002, Press Briefing by Vice President Dick Cheney and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in Jerusalem.
- (C) “And he is actively pursuing nuclear weapons at this time....” March 24, 2002, CNN Late Edition interview with Vice President Cheney.
- (D) “We know he’s got chemicals and biological and we know he’s working on nuclear.” May 19, 2002, NBC Meet the Press interview with Vice President Cheney.
- (E) “But we now know that Saddam has resumed his ef-

forts to acquire nuclear weapons.... Simply stated, there is no doubt that Saddam Hussein now has weapons of mass destruction. There is no doubt that he is amassing them to use against our friends, against our allies, and against us.” August 26, 2002, Speech of Vice President Cheney at VFW 103rd National Convention....

(G) “He is, in fact, actively and aggressively seeking to acquire nuclear weapons.” September 8, 2002 NBC Meet the Press interview with Vice President Cheney.

(H) “And we believe he has, in fact, reconstituted nuclear weapons.” March 16, 2003, NBC Meet the Press interview with Vice President Cheney.

(2) Preceding the March 2003 invasion of Iraq the Vice President was fully informed that no legitimate evidence existed of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. The Vice President pressured the intelligence community to change their findings to enable the deception of the citizens and Congress of the United States.

(A) Vice President Cheney and his Chief of Staff, Lewis Libby, made multiple trips to the CIA in 2002 to question analysts studying Iraq’s weapons programs and alleged links to al Qaeda, creating an environment in which analysts felt they were being pressured to make their assessments fit with the Bush administration’s policy objectives accounts.

(B) Vice President Cheney sought out unverified and ultimately inaccurate raw intelligence to prove his preconceived beliefs. This strategy of cherry picking was employed to influence the interpretation of the intelligence.

(3) The Vice President’s actions corrupted or attempted to corrupt the 2002 National Intelligence Estimate, an intelligence document issued on October 1, 2002 and carefully considered by Congress prior to the October 10, 2002 vote to authorize the use of force. The Vice President’s actions prevented the necessary reconciliation of facts for the National Intelligence Estimate which resulted in a high number of dissenting opinions from technical experts in two Federal agencies....

The Vice President subverted the national security interests of the United States by setting the stage for the loss of more than 3,300 United States service members; the loss of 650,000 Iraqi citizens since the United States invasion; the loss of approximately \$500 billion in war costs which has increased our Federal debt; the loss of military readiness within the United States Armed Services due to overextension, lack of training and lack of equipment; the loss of United States credibility in world affairs; and the decades of likely blowback created by the invasion of Iraq.

In all of this, Vice President Richard B. Cheney has acted in a manner contrary to his trust as Vice President, and subversive of constitutional government, to the prejudice of the

cause of law and justice and the manifest injury of the people of the United States. Wherefore, Vice President Richard B. Cheney, by such conduct, is guilty of an impeachable offense warranting removal from office.

Article II

In his conduct while Vice President of the United States, Richard B. Cheney, in violation of his constitutional oath to faithfully execute the office of Vice President of the United States and, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and in violation of his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, purposely manipulated the intelligence process to deceive the citizens and Congress of the United States about an alleged relationship between Iraq and al Qaeda in order to justify the use of the United States Armed Forces against the nation of Iraq in a manner damaging to our national security interests, to wit:

(1) Despite all evidence to the contrary, the Vice President actively and systematically sought to deceive the citizens and the Congress of the United States about an alleged relationship between Iraq and al Qaeda:

(A) “His regime has had high-level contacts with Al Qaeda going back a decade and has provided training to Al Qaeda terrorists.” December 2, 2002, Speech of Vice President Cheney at the Air National Guard Senior Leadership Conference.

(B) “His regime aids and protects terrorists, including members of Al Qaeda. He could decide secretly to provide weapons of mass destruction to terrorists for use against us.” January 30, 2003, Speech of Vice President Cheney to 30th Political Action Conference in Arlington, Virginia.

(C) “We know he’s out trying once again to produce nuclear weapons and we know that he has a long-standing relationship with various terrorist groups, including the Al Qaeda organization.” March 16, 2003, NBC Meet the Press interview with Vice President Cheney....

(2) Preceding the March 2003 invasion of Iraq the Vice President was fully informed that no credible evidence existed of a working relationship between Iraq and al Qaeda, a fact articulated in several official documents, including:

(A) A classified Presidential Daily Briefing ten days after the September 11, 2001 attacks indicating that the United States intelligence community had no evidence linking Saddam Hussein to the September 11th attacks and that there was “scant credible evidence that Iraq had any significant collaborative ties with Al Qaeda.”

(B) Defense Intelligence Terrorism Summary No. 044-02, issued in February 2002 by the United States Defense Intelligence Agency, which challenged the credibility

of information gleaned from captured al Qaeda leader al-Libi. The DIA report also cast significant doubt on the possibility of a “Saddam Hussein-al-Qaeda conspiracy: Saddam’s regime is intensely secular and is wary of Islamic revolutionary movements. Moreover, Baghdad is unlikely to provide assistance to a group it cannot control.”

- (C) A January 2003 British intelligence classified report on Iraq that concluded that “there are no current links between the Iraqi regime and the al-Qaeda network.”

The Vice President subverted the national security interests of the United States by setting the stage for the loss of more than 3,300 United States service members; the loss of 650,000 Iraqi citizens since the United States invasion; the loss of approximately \$500 billion in war costs which has increased our Federal debt; the loss of military readiness within the United States Armed Services due to overextension, lack of training and lack of equipment; the loss of United States credibility in world affairs; and the decades of likely blow-back created by the invasion of Iraq.

In all of this, Vice President Richard B. Cheney has acted in a manner contrary to his trust as Vice President, and subversive of constitutional government, to the prejudice of the cause of law and justice and the manifest injury of the people of the United States.

Wherefore, Vice President Richard B. Cheney, by such conduct, is guilty of an impeachable offense warranting removal from office.

Article III

In his conduct while Vice President of the United States, Richard B. Cheney, in violation of his constitutional oath to faithfully execute the office of Vice President of the United States and, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and in violation of his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, has openly threatened aggression against the Republic of Iran absent any real threat to the United States, and done so with the United States’ proven capability to carry out such threats, thus undermining the national security of the United States, to wit:

(1) Despite no evidence that Iran has the intention or the capability of attacking the United States and despite the turmoil created by United States invasion of Iraq, the Vice President has openly threatened aggression against Iran as evidenced by the following:

- (A) “For our part, the United States is keeping all options on the table in addressing the irresponsible conduct of the regime. And we join other nations in sending that regime a clear message: We will not allow Iran to have a nuclear weapon.” March 7, 2006, Speech of Vice President Cheney to Ameri-

can Israel Public Affairs Committee 2006 Policy Conference.

- (B) “But we’ve also made it clear that all options are on the table.” January 24, 2007, CNN Situation Room interview with Vice President Cheney.
- (C) “When we—as the President did, for example, recently—deploy another aircraft carrier task force to the Gulf, that sends a very strong signal to everybody in the region that the United States is here to stay, that we clearly have significant capabilities, and that we are working with friends and allies as well as the international organizations to deal with the Iranian threat.” January 29, 2007, *Newsweek* interview with Vice President Cheney.
- (D) “But I’ve also made the point and the President has made the point that all options are still on the table.” February 24, 2007, Vice President Cheney at Press Briefing with Australian Prime Minister in Sydney, Australia.

(2) The Vice President, who repeatedly and falsely claimed to have had specific, detailed knowledge of Iraq’s alleged weapons of mass destruction capabilities, is no doubt fully aware of evidence that demonstrates Iran poses no real threat to the United States as evidenced by the following:

- (A) “I know that what we see in Iran right now is not the industrial capacity you can [use to develop a] bomb.” Mohamed ElBaradei, Director General of International Atomic Energy Agency, February 19, 2007.
- (B) Iran indicated its “full readiness and willingness to negotiate on the modality for the resolution of the outstanding issues with the IAEA, subject to the assurances for dealing with the issues in the framework of the Agency, without the interference of the United Nations Security Council.” IAEA Board Report, February 22, 2007.
- (C) “...so whatever they have, what we have seen today, is not the kind of capacity that would enable them to make bombs.” Mohamed ElBaradei, Director General of International Atomic Energy Agency, February 19, 2007.

(3) The Vice President is fully aware of the actions taken by the United States towards Iran that are further destabilizing the world as evidenced by the following:

- (A) The United States has refused to engage in meaningful diplomatic relations with Iran since 2002, rebuffing both bilateral and multilateral offers to dialogue.
- (B) The United States is currently engaged in a military buildup in the Middle East that includes the increased presence of the United States Navy in the waters near Iran, significant United States Armed Forces in two nations neighboring to Iran, and the installation of anti-missile technology in the region.
- (C) News accounts have indicated that military planners

have considered the B61-11, a tactical nuclear weapon, as one of the options to strike underground bunkers in Iran.

(D) The United States has been linked to anti-Iranian organizations that are attempting to destabilize the Iranian government, in particular the Mujahideen-e Khalq (MEK), even though the State Department has branded it a terrorist organization.

(E) News accounts indicate that United States troops have been ordered into Iran to collect data and establish contact with anti-government groups.

(4) In the last three years the Vice President has repeatedly threatened Iran. However, the Vice President is legally bound by the U.S. Constitution's adherence to international law that prohibits threats of use of force.

(A) Article VI of the United States Constitution states, "This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land." Any provision of an international treaty ratified by the United States becomes the law of the United States.

(B) The United States is a signatory to the United Nations Charter, a treaty among the nations of the world. Article II, Section 4 of the United Nations Charter states, "All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations." The threat of force is illegal.

(C) Article 51 lays out the only exception, "Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defense if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations, until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security." Iran has not attacked the United States; therefore any threat against Iran by the United States is illegal.

The Vice President's deception upon the citizens and Congress of the United States that enabled the failed United States invasion of Iraq forcibly altered the rules of diplomacy such that the Vice President's recent belligerent actions towards Iran are destabilizing and counterproductive to the national security of the United States.

In all of this, Vice President Richard B. Cheney has acted in a manner contrary to his trust as Vice President, and subversive of constitutional government, to the prejudice of the cause of law and justice and the manifest injury of the people of the United States.

Wherefore Richard B. Cheney, by such conduct, warrants impeachment and trial, and removal from office.

The LaRouche Record: Impeach Dick Cheney!

Here are highlights of Lyndon LaRouche's five-year effort to rouse both Democrats and Republicans to impeach Vice President Dick Cheney, or otherwise "convince" him to resign. Many other statements can be found at www.larouchepub.com and www.larouchepac.com.

2002

Sept. 20: LaRouche, then a contender for the 2004 Democratic Presidential nomination, makes his first demand that Cheney resign, in a statement entitled "Iraq Is a Fuse, But Cheney Built the Bomb." The statement was printed for mass distribution in the millions.

2003

March 18: LaRouche puts out a statement, "Can We Salvage This Presidency?" in which he identifies the Hitlerian rationale for the war, and for the first time tags the nexus of Administration warmongers known as followers of fascist philosopher Leo Strauss, as the "Children of Satan."

April 9: The LaRouche in 2004 campaign issues the first of three "Children of Satan" pamphlets, bearing the title "The 'Ignoble Liars' Behind Bush's No Exit War." LaRouche's article in the pamphlet, "Insanity as Geometry," proves that leading members of the Cheney-Rumsfeld-Ashcroft war party were students of Leo Strauss, mostly at the University of Chicago, where he had been installed, thanks to Nazi Party jurist Carl Schmitt.

June 7: LaRouche PAC press release, "LaRouche Says Charges Against Cheney Constitute Grounds for Impeachment," demands a full investigation of Cheney's role in faking the intelligence that led to the Iraq War: "Let there be no mistake about it. The nature of these charges constitutes hard grounds for impeachment. The question has to be taken head on. It is time for Dick Cheney to come clean. I want to know exactly what Dick Cheney knew and when he knew it. . . . Determining who knew what and when is, at this time, an urgent matter of national security."

June 9: BBC Radio interviews LaRouche, who calls for Cheney's impeachment. With regard to the push for war in Iraq, LaRouche says that Cheney "was pushing, actively, false information, personally and publicly, which he knew to be false at the time. Now, this is a very serious matter. As I said, it's an impeachable charge against the Vice President of the United States."

Aug. 1: *EIR* issues cover feature entitled "Case for Impeachment of Vice President Dick Cheney."

2004

Jan. 3: LaRouche's campaign releases the second pamphlet, "Children of Satan II: The Beast-Men."

June 18: LaRouche in 2004 releases the third of the "Children of Satan" pamphlets, "The Sexual Congress for Cultural Freedom."

2005

July 22: *EIR* publishes article by LaRouche, "The Case of a Vice-President's Mass Insanity," which is reprinted by LaRouche PAC, and circulates in more than 500,000 copies.

2006

March 3: *EIR*'s cover feature is LaRouche's "Prolegomena for a Party Platform: Franklin Roosevelt's Legacy." In it he states, "The grounds for impeaching Cheney are clearly in sight, and ever more abundantly so. He were wise to accept an easy way to a comfortable quiet life of retirement outside some prison." The document is also distributed in pamphlet form by LaRouche PAC.

April 27: LaRouche webcast, "The Greatest Economic Crisis in Modern History," warns that "if Cheney's not out, it's not possible to make the kind of changes that are required, which are changes that are consistent with what Franklin Roosevelt began to do in early March of 1933, at the time of his inauguration."

2007

March 7: LaRouche, in a webcast speech, states that "a bill of impeachment against Cheney, being drafted in the House of Representatives, for presentation to the joint body of the Congress, for impeachment trial, should be done right now. And I would like to know why it's not being done.... The problem is the Democrats who should be doing it, are under the influence of other Democrats who have cut a deal, and have agreed to keep impeachment off the agenda until 2008. That's the problem."

June 25: LaRouche PAC issues a statement, "LaRouche to Speaker Pelosi: BAE Scandal Demands Cheney Impeachment Now!" New revelations show that Cheney has been behind the coverup of an \$80-100 billion criminal slush fund, run through the British arms cartel BAE Systems, which includes payoffs to Saudi Arabia's Prince Bandar bin-Sultan.t

July 13: LaRouche releases a statement: "If Hillary Clinton were to step forward to issue a clarion call for the immediate impeachment of Vice President Dick Cheney, she could win the Presidency by virtual acclamation."

July 19: LaRouche warns a closed-door meeting of diplomats, that Cheney is driving for war against Iran. "This not yet August," he says, "but as I think back to Augusts in the past, I think of August 1914, August 1939.... My view is that we have to somehow get rid of Cheney."