

Leading figures in Europe, Russia endorse LaRouche for President

Lyndon LaRouche's campaign for the Democratic Party Presidential nomination reports that it has received a number of endorsements from influential figures in Europe and Russia. Below is a selection of material from the campaign's press releases.

Russia—Academician Dmitri Lvov, a prominent Russian economist, has released a letter to Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., pre-candidate for the Democratic Party nomination for the U.S. Presidency. Academician Lvov's statement on LaRouche's "critical analysis of the real situation . . . in the world economy as a whole," is the latest endorsement of the American economist's candidacy from inside Russia, where LaRouche is known as the author of *Physical Economy* and the leading advocate of a "New Bretton Woods." Fourteen Russian scientists issued an endorsement of LaRouche in February (see *EIR*, Feb. 18, 2000).

Dmitri Semyonovich Lvov is the current Academic Secretary for the Economics Division of the Russian Academy of Sciences. He is the longtime Deputy Director of the Central Mathematical Economics Institute (CEMI) of the Russian Academy of Sciences, having worked closely with Academician N. Fedorenko, co-founder of CEMI.

In recent years, Academician Lvov has battled to save Russia's real economy, its industry and skilled manpower, from destruction through the neo-liberal monetarist assault that is misnamed "reform." In April 1996, together with Academicians Nikita Moiseyev, Gennadi Osipov, and Boris Raushenbakh, Academician Lvov issued an appeal to Russian Presidential candidates to seek "national conciliation," because, "The country is in danger; it is on the brink of social catastrophe." A separate statement, titled "A New Economic Policy for Russia," calling for the state to exercise some guidance in economic policy, was circulated in 1996-97 by Academician Lvov, together with Academicians Leonid Abalkin, Oleg Bogomolov, Valeri Makarov, and others, and U.S. recipients of the Nobel Prize for Economics Lawrence Klein, Wasily Leontieff, Robert Solow, James Tobin, and Kenneth Arrow.

At parliamentary hearings in June 1997, Academician Lvov testified that Russia was "in the grip of a profound financial crisis. The real economy is not working. As a result, the real tax base is shrinking and, effectively, we are cutting our economy off from the possibility of economic growth." More than a year before the financial collapse of August 1998

in Russia, Dmitri Lvov proposed an array of maneuvers, to activate idle industrial capacities in Russia, and identified the untenable situation, wherein over two-thirds of investments were going into strictly monetary profiteering in the financial sector. In May 1998, Academician Lvov chaired a national conference, "An Assessment of Russia's National Wealth." After the August crash, he initiated an "Open Letter to the President, Federal Assembly, and Government of the Russian Federation" (September 1998), from the Economics Division of the Russian Academy of Sciences, elements of which were used as a policy guideline by the Primakov government (September 1998-May 1999).

Academician Lvov's letter to Lyndon LaRouche, below, is translated from Russian.

Dear Mr. LaRouche,

It is with great interest, that I am following your participation in the Presidential electoral campaign. Your bold and profoundly argued addresses to American voters have impressed me greatly, as does your critical analysis of the real situation not only in the U.S.A., but in the world economy as a whole, including Russia. I can understand, therefore, the obstacles to the growth of your popularity among American voters, which are set up by your opponents and the mass information media, serving them.

Knowing you personally and sharing your economic ideas, I believe that people such as yourself, Mr. LaRouche, are best suited to the spirit of our time. Today, we need to have in power highly qualified politicians, who are capable of tackling extraordinarily complex social and economic, moral, financial, and political problems. This is important for the U.S.A., for Russia, and for the whole world.

I sincerely wish you success in your difficult political struggle!

Italy—Gen. Luigi Ramponi is a four-star general Ramponi who has been, among other things, General Commander of the Italian Finance Police (Guardia di Finanza) between 1989 and 1991, head of the Italian military secret services (SISMI) in 1991-92, and a senator in the Italian Parliament in the 12th Legislature.

Even though many in Italy are shutting their eyes to an international financial reality that is becoming ever more unstable and threatening, dreaming about magical profits and easy

wealth (in recent weeks, the new Italian Internet company Tiscali achieved a stock exchange capitalization equal to that of the giant FIAT, replicating similar examples in the international financial markets), the danger of explosion of the “speculative bubble” is undeniable. From an authoritative standpoint, among other things, we were also reminded about this by Bank of Italy governor Antonio Fazio in an interview he gave recently.

Having followed for years the analyses of the magazine *Executive Intelligence Review*, and having had the honor to meet Mr. LaRouche in a long private conversation, and during seminars and conferences organized here in Rome, I find myself on the same wavelength with analyses that expose the evident damage which an uncontrollable “financialization” is inflicting on the real economy, not only here in Italy, but to some extent, everywhere around the world.

As a military man who has served his country in various high-responsibility functions, including abroad, such as military attaché at the Italian Embassy in Washington in the late 1970s, it is easy for me to share Mr. LaRouche’s view, that economic instability internationally, accompanied by increasingly adventurist ideologies, also threatens international peace, and that the spread of local and regional conflicts since the end of the so-called Cold War, is an evident demonstration of that.

It is because of all this, that I support Mr. LaRouche’s programmatic efforts to define great infrastructural projects, such as his idea of a new “Silk Road” for the integrated development of the Eurasian continent, as the solution to the economic crisis, and as an economic development antidote to geo-political instability.

The United States needs the ideas of a man like LaRouche.

Luxembourg—The **Robert Schumann Center for Europe** (Centre Robert Schumann pour L’Europe) is named after the economic leader Robert Schumann, who was instrumental, together with Italy’s Alcide de Gaspari, Germany’s Konrad Adenauer, and others, in the immediate postwar period, for launching policies that brought the previously warring nations of continental Europe together, around programs for economic, scientific, and technological development. The 50th anniversary of the “Schumann Plan,” which consolidated and furthered this development process will be celebrated in May 2000.

The Center released the following statement on Feb. 28, over the signature of its Director, Bernard Zamaron:

Having studied his political action over the last years, the Robert Schumann Center for Europe supports the program of economic and financial restoration and of Eurasian cooperation promoted by Lyndon LaRouche in his Presidential campaign.

Italy—**Prof. Alberto Servidio** is former President of the

Cassa del Mezzogiorno (1976-78), the state banking institution created after the World War II to promote the industry, agriculture, and infrastructure development of the southern regions of Italy; he spent most of his career as a high-level manager of various Italian state participating banks and large construction and industrial companies, including Italstat, Condotte, and Bonifica. He was one of the leading organizers of the Christian Democratic party immediately after the war, and from 1964-73 was a member of its National Council. He was President of the Naples region of Campania in 1972-73.

The candidacy undertaken by the economist Lyndon LaRouche for the Democratic nomination in the U.S. Presidential primaries deserves more attention, at least at the moment, than what the mass media are giving it.

Two particular merits of this candidacy must be recognized: first, of having taken part in creating an unusual level of voter participation, which demonstrates a willingness of the voters to reassert their rights to make decisions, outside of the logic of the political apparatus; second, that of having raised concerns about the threat of a financial crisis as a possible result of a process of globalization which has allowed speculation to run rampant, to the detriment of the real economy.

If the changed attitude of the American electorate in the primaries has an essentially domestic value, then the shift in the electoral debate toward a discussion of the limits of the “global village” is a question which concerns the entire world, and especially the developed countries, which have everything to lose in a crisis.

The globalization of trade and finance is certainly positive, inasmuch as it represents an alternative to war and the traditional power politics in the competition between peoples and nations for progress and well-being; but it can also mean, as it has, due to the absence of regulations, the perfect environment for the expansion of speculation which damages the real economy.

The solution is the return to an international financial system, such as that created at Bretton Woods in 1944, which facilitates trade linked to investments and productive activity, and penalizes trade directed at merely speculative operations.

Freedom doesn’t mean arbitrariness or anarchy. A system of freedom is necessarily a system of limits, in order to avoid any prevarication that damages the rights of the individual, and of the whole.

But this is not enough. A concomitant action aimed at repairing the damage caused to the real economy by the hijacking of resources in favor of the “speculative bubble” is needed. For that reason, it seems useful to re-launch a policy of infrastructure building at all levels, which policy would benefit the development of productive activity both directly and indirectly—directly, with the investments made available, and indirectly, through the opportunities created by a better equipping of the territory and by the large interconti-

mental systems created.

For these reasons, Italy has an interest in affirming the worries and initiatives regarding this crisis, and in reviving the types of intervention which were practiced in the past, although in a different political and institutional context, with the Cassa del Mezzogiorno.

The problems which were dealt with during the experience of the Cassa, are now posed to the country as a whole, and call for adequate and up-to-date actions. The evolution toward solutions in line with greater federalism is not in contrast with this need, as there is a need for the modernization and integration of national interest infrastructure systems which connect the nation with the areas of Europe and the Mediterranean.

Therefore, the role of the United States of America in this international context concerns questions which go beyond mere momentary problems, which explains why the events which are taking place in that country today should be followed in our area, which is often entangled in a squalid debate reeking of provincialism.

In this perspective, the battle which LaRouche is carrying forward concerns us, and interests us. Thus, I express my wishes for all possible success.

LaRouche Webcast

'Escape from fantasy into the hope of reality'

Democratic Party Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. gave a webcast videoconference speech on March 4 to simultaneous town meetings in New York, California, Massachusetts, Michigan, and Iowa. The following are excerpts from his opening remarks. The full text and audio are at www.larouchecampaign.org.

First of all, the general situation with the election is, we have a couple of bozos running, who don't amount to anything, and don't have an idea that means anything, as far as the nation's future is concerned.

We're headed now, as I've said before, and we're on the edge of it still, for the worst financial crisis in more than 100 years, probably worse than in several hundred years. It's going to hit very soon, it's rumbling.

We're in the phase-shift, or terminal phase of a phase-shift, in which this is inevitable. The only thing that is uncertain in this respect, is exactly when, and in exactly what form will the blow-out occur? It could come as a deflationary col-

lapse, such as a Wall Street collapse; it could come as a hyper-inflationary explosion; it could come through crises, social or political crises, which are triggered by this globally. Wars and so forth.

But very soon, it's going to hit the U.S. population with the equivalent of what we experienced on Dec. 7, 1941, with the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Bread and circuses

These Americans, who have been sitting, whether voting or not, behaving like the proletariat in the Roman Circus, living on welfare, in a sense, of one kind or another, handouts, bread and circuses, and watching entertainment, either in the Colosseum, that is, the stadiums, the sports stadiums, or the rock concert stadiums, or on television in the form of pornography and violence; the American people are doped-up on entertainment. They're so doped-up on entertainment, that they have lost sight of reality, even when they experience it.

You have people who are much poorer and aware of it than they were 30 years ago, 20 years ago, 10 years ago, senior citizens and others. People in the lower 80% of family income brackets are worse. The conditions of life in most cities for most people, is worse. The job opportunities, the industries, all are much worse.

And yet, these idiots say, "We've been living in prosperity," including the President of the United States, who babbles this nonsense on and on, when everyone in the country, or nearly everyone, knows we're worse off than we were before. So how can people mouth, "Well, how can you argue against the prosperity?" They're living with threats to health care, where they're trying to cut health care in the name of balancing it. That's called "prosperity." They're out to cut Social Security, in the name of "protecting" it and "improving" it, and they call that "prosperity." They're cutting all kinds of things on which we used to depend, and they're calling that a result of "prosperity."

So, we have to realize that the American population is largely disassociated, in the same way that Romans sitting inside a sick and dying civilization, the old pagan Roman Empire, were going to the circuses, living on bread and circuses, and imagining that they were in the most powerful country in the world, just like many of our Americans today.

That illusion is going to be popped, and we're not going to have much success with the American population, until that illusion is popped. And it's going to be popped soon.

Return to reality

The other side of the formula, is a crisis is necessary to shake the country up, to get it back to its senses, so people begin thinking about reality, not which candidate has some loathsome disease that makes them a "front-runner." They're going to start thinking about which candidate, or what candidates and what policies are needed, not which ones are popular on the news media, or on the entertainment media.