

LaRouche on Colombian Radio: Financial System Is Set To Explode

Orlando Supelanos of Radio Todelar, the second-largest national radio network in Colombia, conducted the following interview with Lyndon LaRouche on Sept. 12. It was scheduled for broadcast on "This Week in the World" Sunday program, on Sept. 17.

Todelar: Mr. LaRouche, we want welcome you on behalf of our audience here at Radio Todelar.

LaRouche: Delighted to be with you.

Todelar: For the past few months, Mr. LaRouche, you have been putting out very dark forecasts concerning the economic situation. I wonder if you could further explain what you mean by these dire forecasts you've been making?

LaRouche: Well, it's obvious to those of us who are in the center of things—for example, in leading circles in the Far East, such as Japan, Korea, China, and in the United States itself, among leading circles—that the world is in the worst strategic crisis in perhaps three centuries. We are in the final stages of the explosion of the present world financial and monetary system. All leading circles know this to be the case, but publicly, some of these leading circles—including the White House, the Presidency of the United States—are lying their heads off in saying that everything is fine. Many leading circles inside the United States, for example, are saying that this is all a lie.

So that's the situation. We're a very short time away from the biggest financial crisis in modern history, much bigger than 1929. That crisis is inevitable, but it's possible that, if governments were sane, we could take measures to reorganize a new monetary system, and thus avoid the worst kind of catastrophe. You see reflections of that among people in the ASEAN Plus Three [Association of Southeast Asian Nations plus Japan, China, and South Korea] group in the Far East, people who are discussing alternatives to the system.

You have something which is similar, in a recent conference in Brasilia, Brazil, where Peru's President [Alberto] Fujimori and others made important statements. And you also have, in the context of this, the qualification on the Fatima letters coming from the Vatican, in which the Pope and his representatives say clearly: The Fatima letter is not the prophecy of an inevitable event, but is a statement of the condition of the 20th Century, and now the 21st Century, in which we have a choice, of either correcting our mistakes or going

virtually into a Dark Age.

What we see today in Colombia, and in Ecuador with the dollarization, is essentially the process of pushing nations, one by one, into a Dark Age. And the financial crisis is simply one major aspect of that crisis.

Todelar: What you say is very worrisome. There have been a number of initiatives over the years to try to deal with this. One of them actually came from President Clinton, who himself was proposing international forums where countries could help one another overcome this sort of crisis. But this has not moved ahead; there was a lot of opposition to it. What's your reading on this?

LaRouche: Well, specifically in September 1998, when the President had become aware—in the middle of August—that I was right on the financial crisis and some other things, he gave an address in New York City, in which he warned of the necessity of taking steps to deal with reorganizing the international financial system. However, a few weeks later, he backed off from that, and has never returned to it since.

There were two factors involved in his backing off, to my knowledge. There may have been other things, but these things I do know: First of all, the U.S. government was terrified by what was behind the threatened collapse of the Long Term Capital Management fund in New York City. They were also frightened by a number of other things, including the then-coming Brazil crisis of February 1999. But since that time, October 1998, the United States has become the leader of a group of nations engaged in a hyperinflationary pump-priming operation to try to save the financial system, to keep it alive another day. And since then, the United States government, or parts of it, have been involved in increasingly hysterical, desperate, and terrible measures to try to keep the system alive for another day.

And what we're seeing right now, despite the lies from Washington, is the fact that the United States and other nations are involved in a great hyperinflationary spiral of commodity prices, not only including petroleum. I would hope that, when the crisis breaks out, the President will again realize that I was right and take appropriate measures. But I can't assure anybody that he will.

Todelar: Mr. LaRouche, what is your reading on the internal situation in Colombia, in particular on "Plan Colombia," in

which our President, Andrés Pastrana, and your government in the United States, are embarking to defeat drug-trafficking, and which has raised a lot of concern among Colombia's neighbors in South America?

LaRouche: You've got two things involved. First of all, on the narrower issue: The drug-trafficking in Colombia and elsewhere, is a direct result of an operation like the Opium Wars of the early 19th Century against China. This is an operation which I first warned about internationally in 1978, and if you read what was published in that period in the book *Dope, Inc.*, that's that side of the problem.

The other side is that you have this drive, since 1989-90, to destroy all sovereign nation-states, and to set up a world empire, like the British Empire, based on a few English-speaking nations. These are the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States. A sort of English-speaking Roman Empire, so to speak. They speak English instead of Latin. In this process, the intention is to destroy the sovereignty of every nation on this planet, and immediately, every nation in this hemisphere. For example, you have NAFTA [the North American Free Trade Agreement] which is a creation, really, of the Bush Administration, which Bill Clinton had initially opposed, but which Al Gore, his Vice President, had pushed through.

What is happening there [in Colombia] is not happening as the result of an internal situation as such; just like the dollarization of Ecuador, which just went into effect, this is a matter of a strategic policy of an international financial oligarchy, which thinks it's going to set up a globalized world empire. And the governments that are the victims of that, are terrified into submitting, under threat, to the orders to go, step by step, in this direction.

Todelar: Mr. LaRouche, some other thinkers are of the opinion that, with this globalized world, we are all a little bit Colombian, a little Mexican, a little Panamanian, a little American. What you are proposing may not be the most appropriate thing to do, because, in this globalized world, we must all learn to be like our neighbors.

LaRouche: Well, in that case, we will all learn to be like slaves. The sovereign nation-state, with its protectionist measures, as was first introduced in that form in the United States itself, is the institution which lifted humanity, or which at least started European civilization, out from under slavery. Without the sovereign nation-states and their protectionist capabilities, most people will go into a state like slavery.

The sovereign nation-state is a creation of modern Christian civilization, in which we insist that all people have the right to be developed to their full potential, and the state must protect the people's right to have that development. Without that protection, the people become the slaves of an international financial oligarchy, as we see around the world today as a pattern.

So, either we go back to the nation-state, or the world population will probably drop very quickly to less than 1

billion people worldwide, in which the entirety of the world goes into a Dark Age worse than that which Europe suffered in the middle of the 14th Century. And the question today, is to find leaders who have the courage to take leadership against this evil.

The unfortunate thing is that most people think of themselves already as slaves. If they're not yet in prisons or concentration camps, they are in concentration camps of the mind. Thus, humanity depends upon a few of us who are leaders, who recognize that, and are willing to lead the people up from slavery. I can only join the Pope on this. Many times we think of weeping for all humanity. This is the great mission before us. We have to save humanity.

Todelar: Mr. LaRouche, the President of the United States has been, for the past years, the most important world leader. Who do you think is better, for the rest of the world, to reach the Presidency of the United States: Al Gore or George W. Bush?

LaRouche: One is worse than the other. If either Al Gore or George Bush were to become President of the United States, the effect on the world would be the same. It would be evil. Only in the case that alternative leadership is assembled from other nations of the world, and under the condition that a U.S. Congress is elected that would make a George Bush or Al Gore a virtual political prisoner, is there any likelihood of avoiding a Dark Age.

You see, people console themselves with illusions. It's like the person who is going to be eaten by cannibals, who is trying to beg for good conditions from the cannibals. George Bush and Al Gore are representatives of the cannibals. Which one do you want to be eaten by? There really is no difference. They are both owned by the same people. They are rivals, but of the same family.

So, I am with those who are fighting to try to get a counterforce in the world, to try to save the United States and save the world. I cannot promise any success, but I am extremely optimistic. I see potential for doing just that. And being an old fighter, I have nothing else to do but be an old fighter.

Todelar: Well, thank you very much for this opportunity, and for this exclusive interview you have granted us. We are very grateful, and we hope we will soon have another opportunity to talk to you, because what you have said is very important, and these are important issues over which to hold a dialogue. Thank you very much.

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