

## Battle Report: Electricity Deregulation Is Under Attack

by Anita Gallagher

Abraham Lincoln's famous saying, "You can't fool all of the people all the time"—although you can fool all of the people some of time, and some of the people all the time—aptly describes how electricity deregulation got passed in 25 states so far (see **Figure 1**), as well as why it is now becoming "unpassed."

*EIR* has consistently exposed the fraud of deregulation—in trucking, airlines, and banking, to name a few. Our Aug. 18 issue contained a 20-page *Feature* on energy deregulation, including an exposé of the ties of Presidential candidates George W. Bush and Al Gore to the "robber" conglomerates that are buying up legislators and energy capacity, as well as the history of Franklin Roosevelt's successful fight against Wall Street to regulate energy in the 1930s. That package has been widely acclaimed as invaluable in the fight against energy deregulation.

At an Emergency Town Meeting on Oct. 7 in Los Angeles, attended by about 100 people and sponsored by Lyndon LaRouche's FDR-PAC, Nevada State Sen. Joe Neal (D) presented an unassailable study on the fraud of deregulation. Senator Neal came fresh from his victory a few weeks ago, in engineering the executive postponement of the electricity deregulation law enacted by Nevada's legislature. We present here the masterful study of the issue in Senator Neal's speech, which can be used as a primer by anyone fighting to repeal deregulation or stop it from being passed. Senator Neal is now drafting repeal legislation for introduction into the Nevada legislature's 2001 session. As he notes, at the time the legislation was enacted earlier this year, only he and one other legislator voted against it. Now, only few months later, a hue and cry has been raised against deregulation's effects which elected officials dare not ignore.

Repeal of deregulation is urgently needed in California,

as the doubling of electricity bills in San Diego, as well as the exponential increases in power costs that the utilities in northern California are now trying to pass on to consumers, clearly demonstrate.

In Montana, although deregulation is just beginning to be implemented, and will not be completed until 2002, its bad effects, such as layoffs in electricity-dependent industries, including mining, have already become manifest. But as the case of Nevada shows, the finality of "a done deal" can shift very rapidly. The following speech and interview offer the basis to "unfool" yourself and others.

## It's Time To Reverse Deregulation Policies

by Joseph M. Neal, Jr.

*The following "Address on Domestic Retail Electric Competition" was delivered by Nevada State Senator Neal (D) to an Emergency Town Meeting in Los Angeles, sponsored by Lyndon LaRouche's FDR-PAC, on Oct. 7. Subheads have been added.*

The current rich man's rage sweeping the United States is competition in the electric generation sector. The only real competition is to see who can gouge the deepest and loot the most from consumers. Electric restructuring is merely the latest in a succession of industry deregulations that began in the late 1970s and early 1980s, starting with airlines, transpor-