

Editorial

EIR Was Right: No Bush Defense Buildup

A good deal of paper has been wasted on scare stories about the Bush Administration's plans for a massive military buildup, and the so-called "revolution in military affairs" that would see a total top-to-bottom overhaul of the U.S. superpower futurist military machine during the first few years of the Bush Presidency. A lot of useless speculation could have been avoided, had people simply read *EIR*'s assessment—first published just three weeks after the Bush inauguration—that the Bush super-military buildup was a hot-air balloon, because the Yahoos populating the White House were fixated on their mega-tax cuts, that would leave the Federal government with no spare cash for America's defense needs, real or imagined.

On Feb. 16, we wrote, "While much of the world contemplates with horror, the consequences of the Bush Administration proceeding, unilaterally, with the National Missile Defense provocation, inside Washington the Administration's war hawks got doused with a bucket of cold water, in the form of threats of a freeze on any new military spending. . . . While the issue remains unsettled, the incident underscores the accuracy of Lyndon LaRouche's assessment that the so-called 'Bush coalition' would come apart at the seams very early, with the fanatical right-wing 'Yahoos' who comprise a large part of 'Dubya' Bush's social base and electoral coalition, demanding draconian tax cuts and other 'anti-big government' measures, that would undermine some of the pet programs of such senior Cabinet officials as [Secretary of Defense Donald] Rumsfeld and Secretary of State Colin Powell."

Not only *has* the GOP "Bush coalition" majority come unglued; the plans for an overhaul of America's military force structure and doctrine have also slowed to a crawl. The Fiscal Year 2001 supplemental Pentagon budget, a paltry \$5.6 billion (Pentagon brass had been pressing for \$70 billion in supplemental funds this year), is almost totally eaten up by added costs of health care for military personnel, and energy costs alone—and both are the result of Bush's cronyism with his Texas energy cartel, pharmaceutical, and "pri-

vatzation" backers.

FY2002 will see some increased spending, at least for now. But budget analysts are now forecasting that, even under the most optimistic case, by the third year of the Bush Presidency, the loss of tax revenues from the U.S. recession will throw the Federal government back into debt, and will likely curtail *any* prospect of substantial added military spending. Add the fact—also reported weeks ago in *EIR*—that the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) and other top uniformed military brass were already in revolt against the thrust of the "top-to-bottom strategic review" by RAND Corporation veteran Andrew Marshall, and you have further cause to ignore the hysteria about an American Military Imperium coming to your theaters soon.

The Marshall study, as soon as it began to circulate, in classified form, among the JCS and the CINCS (commanders in chief of the global military theaters), caused a firestorm of protest. As *EIR* also reported, exclusively, in May, Marshall's underlying presumption of an inevitable future war with China, prompted Adm. Dennis Blair, the Commander of the Pacific Command, to give an on-the-record contrary interview to the *New York Times*.

Admiral Blair's public assault on the still-classified Marshall scenario did not result in his firing as CINC-PAC, or even a public dressing down from Secretary Rumsfeld. Instead, Secretary Rumsfeld launched a series of non-stop consultations with the Chiefs and the CINCs, and it now appears unlikely that the Marshall document will ever see the light of day—unless it is drastically revised.

In the real world, as opposed to the fantasy land, in which many utopian military "strategists," like Marshall, reside, "revolutions in military affairs" do not occur overnight. They require serious thinking, consultation with the military leaders who will have to carry out the changes, and large expenditures over a number of years. As *EIR* told you last February, the money ain't there, and so this revolutionary train is on a very slow track.