

Editorial

Patriotism And The 'Economic Recovery'

Thanksgiving Day in the United States is always followed by discount sales; this year, however, there was not much to advertise in that way, since virtually everything from automobiles, to Apples, to large and small corporations themselves, were being offered at distress-discount prices already before the holiday.

Instead, all the major newspapers decided to sell "economic recovery" forecasts. This indicated that a certain number of "leading economists" had been whipped into line by Alan "Greenspin," the Fed Board of Governors, and similar powers, and told to stare into the economic gloom and discover a recovery coming in 2002. To those who haven't lost their medium- and long-term memory since Sept. 11, it recalled very strongly the public statements being made by Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill at the end of May, immediately before the tax-refund checks started going out. We could "bank on it," said O'Neill then, a full-blown recovery was coming in the Summer.

And the simple explanation for the appearance of this new crop of Paul O'Neills in late November, would be that there is a lot of deliberate fraud and economic lying going on (nothing new at all levels of the "analysts" profession) to get American consumers to keep going further into debt and spending through the Christmas season. (If you'll buy such a consumer fraud as these economic forecasts, the idea goes, you'll buy everything else.)

But Secretary O'Neill's "forecasts" quickly discredited themselves; The healthy laughter they provoked tended to remind Americans that the administration had no competence to stop the economic collapse, and to draw attention to the need for competent leadership which did understand that collapse—Lyndon LaRouche. It was before the Sept. 11 attacks, not afterward, that the signs emerged of a potential paradigm shift, between White House and Congress. That shift, toward using public credit for recovery projects, and away from the mantra of deregulation and "privatization," showed itself around the shockingly bad unemployment and production reports of Sept. 7.

The new "recovery forecasts" are more dangerous than anything that came from O'Neill. Now they are cloaking themselves in the American flag. They are

even claiming that the U.S. achievements in bombing Afghanistan are the leading factor pointing to the recovery which so many "analysts" have seen in the distance all at once. It's your patriotic duty, they insist, to spend and to believe in that recovery.

Bombing is very dangerous as a spectator sport. Take your eyes off the endless television reports of it, and recall that events since Sept. 11 have not changed the reality: The United States is not in a slump, but in a financial and economic blowout with more destructive force than the 1930s Great Depression.

The truth is that on the vital question of economic recovery, Americans' national duty is *not to accept* or support any of the nonsense coming from the Congressional leadership or the White House in all their late "bipartisanship," but to oppose it; to think, discuss and act for themselves.

All of the "economic stimulus" talk in Congress is a fraud—there is nothing being voted on but war and security expenditures; talk of new economic infrastructure spending by a few Senators is being kicked aside by the incompetent posturing of both parties' leaderships. This in the face of a cascade of mass layoffs going on since July without let-up, and more than a year of continuously falling production in the country. Absolutely nothing is being done in Washington to cause the economic recovery which the "analysts" are being paid to predict.

Americans' patriotic duty on economic policy is to *resist and oppose* government policy, White House and Congress alike; to think and act for a sane alternative policy by which the nation has a chance for durable economic survival. Lyndon LaRouche's track record in forecasting this bust is uniquely vindicated by events of the last 12 months; and he has long put forward the only powerful recovery ideas. The nation not only needs to shift its thinking completely, to spending and credit for new infrastructure projects of its own. More important, it needs cooperation with those nations of Eurasia, which many are telling you should be next on the enemies list!

The suicidal economic nonsense will not stop in Washington, unless you *patriotically* oppose it. Start with the latest forecasts of "economic recovery."