Editorial

The Collapse Could Stop the War

Lyndon LaRouche speaks to an international webcast from Washington on the afternoon of Sept. 11, to provide the quality of calm leadership—as he did on national radio during and after the attacks of last Sept. 11—to a nation more and more anxiously on edge over the threatened war on Iraq, and the ongoing economic collapse.

The two are directly related, as millions of Americans suspect. LaRouche knows exactly how they are related, having forecast in a webcast in July 2001—when the economic plunge had begun—a major terrorist attack in the United States that September.

On Sept. 4, as markets and employment resumed their Summer dive after a few weeks pause, he put it succinctly: "As you've noticed the past several days, we're having a grand collapse of the financial system. . . . It will be finished, as I knew this was going to be a tough month, September. We have a race, as to whether the depression will stop the war in time, or not. It's a race. Now, I think about a 20% collapse of the financial markets, the U.S. financial markets, this week, might be tough enough to stop it."

The President has been through a series of failed economic speeches and "summits," losing allies on both his economic and war policies. LaRouche, who calls Bush's role thus far in the economic debacle "Hoover II," has challenged the President and the Congress by issuing emergency economic recovery measures of infrastructure rebuilding, which must be passed urgently—a "November emergency program."

But at this point, LaRouche said, "the President is in outer space—has got himself talked into the idea that since he's made up his mind to *have* the war in Iraq, it's going to happen. Every time someone comes up and says, 'Well, there's no reason for this, it's not going to do anything,' Bush responds, 'We're going to have the lynching. We don't care what the truth is. We're going to have the lynching anyway.' The military say, use caution. He says, 'We're going to do it anyway.' So that you have a train out of control, and the dead man rides to work, and the train is running down the track at full speed, and the bridge is out ahead, and that train is going. And the question is, what will stop it? Show him the bridge, that isn't there. And that's the situation we have."

What can stop this, LaRouche emphasizes—aside from all the mobilization of forces and allies against the war—is the September acceleration of the financial markets crash:

"This is going to change the cultural paradigm in the United States. You see, people have been in a state of wishful denial. 'No, no, it won't *really* happen. No, they will do something. It won't really happen. I can not believe that something isn't going to step in, and prevent this from happening! I would lose all my money! It could never happen!'

"But what's happening right now is, the crash. The deeper it gets, produces two effects. One is very dangerous, the other is positive. The dangerous one is the situation in which people think the situation is hopeless. So, therefore, they do one of two things. They can realize that they've been fooled, and say, 'We're not going to be fooled. Obviously, we were wrong. We were mistaken. So, we have to change what we believe. We have to change the way we behave.' [Or] they say, 'My money, my money, my money!' and they're going to go crazy."

This includes, most obviously, the lunatic faction of advisers around the President who have decided that their answer is war.

But the acceleration of the economic plunge can also force a sudden paradigm shift towards sanity. As LaRouche expressed it, "If Americans say, 'Well, we're going to lose the money, but are we going to survive? Are we going to have a place to live? Are we going to have a place to work. . . ? Are we going to be able to eat? Is there going to be medical care? Or, are we going to sit back and let the money kill us?' Let the money go, as long as we have politically a system under which we can survive. Then you can begin to think about alternatives, which are options. And my function is to do precisely that."