

Editorial

The Fight for Peace

More than 120 American cities—Los Angeles the latest and the largest—have passed resolutions expressing the real hope of the American people that a new Iraq and Mideast war can be prevented. The story of a hearing on one such resolution, in a major city, with a Republican majority, which has *not* yet passed it—Houston—illuminates how these resolutions have not been pro-forma expressions of sentiments, but fights for peace.

After several weeks of demands by Houston citizens, Mayor Lee Brown put two anti-war resolutions by city councilmen on the agenda for a vote Feb. 26 by the city council. About 40 Houstonians spoke before the city council on the resolutions during the regular public comment section, including Michael Maddi representing the LaRouche in 2004 Presidential campaign. Only three of 40 were for war against Iraq.

The hearing was chaired by Councilman-at-Large Gordon Quan, a Democrat and the sponsor of one resolution which opposes a “unilateral pre-emptive strike” while the UN inspectors and Security Council work to avoid war. There was a wide cross-section of people supporting the anti-war resolutions. There were several people who identified themselves as businessmen or war veterans who opposed a war, including a Green Party leader who is a veteran of the 82nd Airborne Division. One woman identified herself as a retired attorney who served in the first Bush (41) Administration and supported the Gulf War in 1991. She said there is no basis for an attack on Iraq now. There was a Baptist minister who worked in the civil rights movement in the 1960s; a representative of the Catholic diocese Office of Peace and Justice to present the official opposition to war of the U.S. Catholic Bishops and the Pope; a representative of Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee; and three professors from local colleges, including a military history professor from the University of Houston, who noted the opposition of both the uniformed military leaders and Wall Street.

All the speakers hammered away at the lack of evidence for a pre-emptive attack, especially while there is still an active inspections process going on. They also hit hard on the economic crisis facing the city budget

and the nation at large, which would be worsened by war. Republicans on the city council argued that they have no say or power on the matter and that it’s a waste of time to vote on; the speaker answered by pointing to the over 100 other cities who have taken that responsibility.

The chairman of the newly founded Democratic Anti-War Group (DAWG) whose founding members include LaRouche organizers, made it clear that DAWG would actively support Democrats on the city council who had the courage to vote against war. Councilman-at-Large Carroll Robinson, who touted himself as a Democratic Leadership Council (Liebermanite) leader among local elected officials, taunted the DAWG leader: “Well, it looks like Lieberman, Gephardt, Edwards, and Kerry are all going along with war.”

LaRouche spokesman Maddi firmly corrected Robinson: “You are wrong in stating that the Democratic candidates are all supporting war. LaRouche has warned, as we have heard from people here today, that there must be no war as long as the UN and most of the world’s governments want a peaceful resolution. He has also stressed that the biggest threat to this country is the devastated economy, as seen in budget crises in our city, state, and nationally and in crises around the world. A war will only make these problems much worse.” Maddi then spoke at length on the threat of a nuclear first strike by the United States in this war. He gave all participants the *EIR* articles in this issue which expose the imminence of that threat, along with LaRouche’s State of the Union speech of Jan. 28, and his open letter to the Democratic National Committee.

Robinson was forced to concede that candidates Dean, Kucinich, Sharpton and Moseley-Braun, along with LaRouche, oppose war, so “there are five Democrats who oppose the war.” But he claimed there was “nothing new” in planning to use nuclear weapons first against America’s enemies.

The resolution has yet to be voted on in Houston. But the majority of Americans are making their voices heard.