

Editorial

A Phase Shift Toward Roosevelt

The phase-change that has occurred within the Democratic Party was probably best represented on Feb. 3, when, in a powerful metaphor that commemorated the best tradition of the Democratic Party, a unified Senate Democratic Caucus, led by Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada and Chuck Schumer of New York, stood before the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial on a cold, damp Washington day, and invoked the spirit of America's greatest Democratic President, to voice their staunch opposition to the Social Security privatization scheme that Bush made a cornerstone of his State of the Union speech.

The symbolic gesture was the finishing touch on the shift that has occurred, over the course of the last four years, during which the leading advocate for the Roosevelt tradition in the Democratic Party, Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., has taken the lead in battling the disastrous direction taken by the Bush Administration. Although many difficult battles lie ahead, one thing is indisputably clear: LaRouche has won the argument on what the character of the Democratic Party is to be.

It wasn't very long ago that a Democratic Presidential nominee argued that it was time for the Democratic Party to put the legacy of FDR to rest. And, although that nominee was responsible for G.W. Bush's first win, that view continued to be a point of debate during the 2004 Presidential campaign. Indeed, in some of the first public policy debates since the election, Gene Sperling and Bruce Reed, both associated with the Democratic Leadership Council, had indicated that they were willing to negotiate the end of Social Security benefits—that is, until they were beaten into line, and forced to publicly reverse themselves, by a reinvigorated Democratic Party.

Again invoking the spirit of FDR, Congressional Democrats, joined by their friends in the labor movement and other constituency groups, have vowed to take this fight directly to the American people over the next three weeks, in a series of street actions and town meetings across the nation. The turn toward a policy based on Constitutional principle has also been dramatically shown in the way Senate Democrats debated the nominations of Condoleezza Rice and Alberto Gonzales, and

then voted in large numbers against them, to uphold the honor of the United States.

LaRouche has emphasized that winning this fight against the dismantling of FDR's most lasting program, Social Security, is the key to everything, and, in order to win it, the Democratic Party has to escalate, or face virtual extinction. The U.S. population has to be re-educated as to the basic principles of American history and American System economics, and taught how to both fight against the fraud of Social Security privatization, and to fight *for* the programs of infrastructure development and economic growth which were also the hallmark of the FDR years.

So far, the lesson has been primarily applied to domestic policies, but it will soon have to spread to the international domain as well. It was FDR, after all, who pushed through the original Bretton Woods system, devised to provide the mechanism for rebuilding the world economy after World War II, and who established the principles of economic cooperation, not Hobbesian competition, as the touchstone of a true American foreign policy. FDR's vision of the United States cooperating in massive infrastructure development, including greening the desert in Africa and the Middle East, remains the appropriate inspiration for today as well.

Decades of slander against FDR, and the adoption of an anti-FDR post-industrial society, have created potentially disastrous results. Early polls show that a majority of Hispanics and African Americans have been seduced by Bush's hollow promises of the "golden egg" of private accounts, a shocking reflection of how much our poorer citizens have bought into the "casino society" mentality of "every man for himself." Exposing the fraud of this White House pitch will be a focal point of the LaRouche PAC drive to defeat the Social Security privatization hoax.

LaRouche has won the argument on FDR, but winning the war to save this Republic is a much larger task indeed. It's worth quoting LaRouche from his Jan. 5 webcast: "Go for the gut. Get them out. And show people you have the courage to fight. And then, maybe, they'll have the courage to join you in supporting the fight. That's our only chance."