

The Post-Cheney Era

On Nov. 16, 2005, Lyndon LaRouche delivered an international webcast address, declaring that “the post-Cheney era in world affairs” had begun. That webcast came less than three weeks after Lewis “Scooter” Libby, Vice President Cheney’s chief of staff and chief national security aide, was indicted on perjury and obstruction of justice charges by Special Counsel Patrick Fitzgerald. Fitzgerald was named in December 2003 to probe the leaking of the identity of undercover CIA officer Valerie Plame, to syndicated columnist Robert Novak and other journalists in July 2003. Plame is the wife of former Ambassador Joseph Wilson, who had conducted a CIA-sponsored fact-finding mission to Niger in February 2002, which disproved reports that Iraq had been seeking to illegally obtain uranium for a nuclear bomb from the African state.

The text of the Oct. 28, 2005 Libby indictment named Cheney as Libby’s source on Valerie Plame, and set the stage for a second-phase grand jury probe by Fitzgerald, focussing on Cheney as the target-in-chief.

Unfortunately, at precisely the moment that Cheney was

in the process of going down for the count, Congressional Democrats went limp. While Democratic and independent voters were going apoplectic over Bush-Cheney crimes and scandals—from the Iraq War quagmire and mounting death and injury toll, to the Jack Abramoff corruption scandal, to the National Security Agency’s illegal spying on American citizens, to the Medicare prescription drug blowout, to the Hurricane Katrina abject failures—Democratic lawmakers, with few exceptions, were nowhere to be found. While LaRouche called upon Democratic elected officials to hold 1,000 town hall meetings to rally the public during the year-end Congressional recess, the Democratic Party largely went on vacation. By the time the U.S. Senate reconvened in mid-January 2006, and immediately took up the nomination of Samuel Alito to the United States Supreme Court, the Democratic Party was in a full-blown state of regression, compared to its 2005 routing of the so-called “Bush mandate,” a routing that was catalyzed by LaRouche and the LaRouche Youth Movement’s active and leading role.

Nobody in their right mind could have presumed that the post-Cheney era would come in with a whimper. The Synarchist bankers who installed Cheney as their White House Grand Inquisitor, and managed him through more reliable and intelligent assets like George Shultz, moved aggressively, at the start of 2006, to launch global chaos through a stage-managed military confrontation with Iran. That confrontation had originally been scheduled for the August 2005 Congressional recess, but was postponed in the face of stiff U.S. military and intelligence community opposition and a LaRouche-led campaign to silence Cheney’s “Guns of August.”

Several factors changed between August 2005 and January-February 2006, driving the Iran military showdown. First and foremost, the global financial and monetary system moved rapidly closer to the breaking point—highlighted by skyrocketing raw-material prices, currency instabilities, and hedge-fund and private equity-fund moves to rapidly seize ownership over actually productive enterprises in North America and Western Europe.

As LaRouche warned a group of diplomats on Feb. 11, the London-centered bankers behind Shultz and Cheney are moving to provoke global chaos through a war against Iran, sure to drive oil prices up to \$100-150 a barrel overnight. British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw took the lead in accelerating the Iran showdown via a series of late-January 2006 provocations, including the British-sponsored drive to kick the Iranian nuclear program into the United Nations Security Council—a move telegraphed in advance by inflammatory statements by Shultz, in his capacity as co-chairman of the Committee on the Present Danger, a Cold War-era confrontationist front, which was recently revived to promote the “Clash of Civilizations” permanent war with Islam.

Two other factors also intervened. First, the election of President Mahmood Ahmadinejad in Iran placed a minority radical faction, centered in the Revolutionary Guard, into a

Cheney Bags His Limit

From the vast outpouring of humorous late-night TV and other commentary at the expense of Dick Cheney, here are EIR’s top picks:

Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.): “In retrospect, I got off easy.”

David Letterman, CBS TV: “We can’t get bin Laden, but we nailed a 78-year-old attorney. . . . The good news, ladies and gentlemen, we finally located weapons of mass destruction: It’s Dick Cheney. . . . But here’s the sad part—before the trip, Donald Rumsfeld had denied the guy’s request for body armor.”

Jay Leno, NBC TV: “I think Cheney is starting to lose it. After he shot the guy, he screamed, ‘Anyone else want to call domestic wiretapping illegal?’ ”

Ron Coddry on the “Daily Show”: “Jon, tonight the Vice President is standing by his decision to shoot Harry Whittington.”

Then **Jon Stewart** put things in historical perspective, noting that Alexander Hamilton was the last person shot by a Vice President. “Hamilton, of course, was shot in a duel with Aaron Burr over issues of honor, integrity, and political maneuvering. Whittington? Mistaken for a bird.”

Michael Goodwin in the *New York Daily News*: “He is the Dead Veep Walking.”