

# National News

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## LPAC Expands Mobe For Economic Recovery Act

From California to Capitol Hill, the LaRouche Political Action Committee expanded its efforts in the week before the Memorial Day recess to give Congress the moral courage to pass legislation to launch a fullscale economic recovery, centered on retooling the increasingly idled auto sector, and using it to rebuild the delapidated industrial infrastructure of the nation.

LPAC and the LaRouche Youth Movement have increased the density of their organizing with unionists, local Democratic leaders, mayors, city councilmen, state legislators, Congressional staffers, and Members of Congress.

Some 64 auto plants across the country are slated for closure in the coming months. Without the advanced machine-tool capability embodied in the auto section, the nation quickly would head toward Third World status.

The focus of their organizing is LPAC's pamphlet, "The U.S. Economic Recovery Act of 2006," available at [www.larouche-pac.com](http://www.larouche-pac.com). Hundreds of thousands of copies are being distributed throughout the country.

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## Axiom-Blind FTC Found No Gas-Price Gouging

The axiom-challenged Federal Trade Commission announced May 22 that it found no evidence of major gas-price gouging in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina's destruction of Gulf Coast refineries. After an extensive study, the FTC determined that there was no gasoline price manipulation and only isolated gas price-gouging in the wake of Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

The result is not surprising, given that the FTC began by eliminating the idea that there is an oil cartel, thus making it incapable of conducting a competent investigation. As the FTC stated in a footnote to its 200-page study: "Even the largest private oil companies control only a very small fraction of

world crude oil production, and significant price manipulation through control of crude oil by private oil companies therefore appears highly unlikely." If you leave out the organizing principle, the organization is much harder to find.

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## Murtha, Mora Given JFK Profile in Courage Award

Rep. John Murtha (D-Penn.) and Alberto Mora, a former Navy general counsel, received the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award May 22 in a ceremony at the JFK Library in Boston, attended by several members of Congress and the Kennedy family. The release on the award says: "Murtha, a decorated combat veteran and conservative Democrat with a long history of supporting he military, broke ranks with the Bush Administration in November, when he called for withdrawal of troops from Iraq. Murtha's change of heart helped shape the public debate over the war, because of his reputation as a Democratic hawk and retired Marines Reserves colonel who enjoyed easy access to Presidents." The award committee said Murtha's decision "made him the target of withering political attacks and resulted in efforts by political opponents to discredit his Vietnam War decorations. Murtha is quoted as follows: "Today my words of Nov. 17, 2005, and the many that followed, reflect not only my gut consciousness, but that of many in our military and the majority of this country. I am proud to be the messenger of those who at one time had no voice."

The release characterizes Alberto Mora as follows: "Mora, formerly one of the Pentagon's top civilian lawyers, fought a two-and-a-half year behind-the-scenes battle with Pentagon brass and civilian leaders over U.S. military policies regarding detainees—policies he said could invite abuse." Mora commented; "We need to be clear. Cruelty disfigures our national character. It is incompatible with our Constitutional order, with our laws, and with our most prized values. Cruelty can be as effective as torture in destroying human dignity, and there is no moral distinction between one and the other."

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## Health Care Fixers Indicted for Fraud

Seven top officials of National Century Financial Enterprises—the financing arm of the corrupt firm designated by the Lazard-controlled D.C. Financial Control Board to take over hospital services from D.C. General Hospital in 2001—were indicted May 22 in Columbus, Ohio for money laundering, conspiracy, and securities fraud in the amount of \$3 billion.

*EIR* in 2001 had repeatedly exposed the fact that National Century and its partner, Doctors Community Healthcare Corp. (DCHC), had been investigated for fraud and racketeering in numerous jurisdictions. Nonetheless, the Control Board gave the National Century-financed DCHC the contract to privatize D.C. General's services.

National Century bought up accounts receivable from health-care providers and hospitals, and then bundled them into asset-backed securities and marketed them. When National Century went bankrupt in 2002, more than \$3 billion was found to be missing. At least 275 health-care firms went bankrupt in the wake of National Century's collapse.

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## Dem Progressives Say 'No' to Nuke First Use

Members of the House Democrats' Progressive Caucus held unofficial hearings May 24, and are gathering signatures for a letter to President Bush in opposition to a pre-emptive U.S. nuclear strike against Iran.

Testifying at a hearing on the question "Would war with Iran help or hurt U.S. national security?" were Samantha Power, former executive director of the Carr Center for Human Rights at Harvard, and Dr. Jessica Tuchman Matthews, president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

The 62-member caucus, co-chaired by Reps. Barbara Lee and Lyn Woolsey of California, plans to continue holding ad hoc hearings and public forums, including on the

question of pre-emptive warfare as a national security strategy. Reps. Peter DeFazio and Dennis Kucinich also took part in the hearings.

Caucus member Ed Markey is gathering signatures for a letter to Bush. The letter raises concern about remarks made by Bush on April 18, indicating he might be willing to launch a nuclear strike on Iran. Markey's letter points out that such an attack would be a violation of a pledge made in a 1995 U.S. statement, and U.S. commitments to the U.N. Security Council. The 1995 document says the United States "will not use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, except in the case of an invasion or any other attack on the United States, its territories, its armed forces or other troops, its allies, or on a State towards which it has a security commitment, carried out or sustained by such a non-nuclear-weapon State in association or alliance with a nuclear-weapon State."

Markey's letter says: "We therefore urge you to make it clear that the U.S. is not actively considering first use of nuclear weapons against Iran in response to its efforts to obtain uranium enrichment capabilities."

## New U.S. Nuke Plants Move Closer To Reality

New Nuclear plants are moving closer to reality as a result of regulatory streamlining, plus technology innovation incentives packaged in the Energy Act of 2005.

Sen. Pete Domenici (R-N.M.), chair of the Senate Energy and National Resources Committee, held a hearing May 22 to assess the progress toward bringing new nuclear facilities on line. After hearing of plans by 16 utility companies for building 25 nuclear plants, Domenici said, "This is no longer a flash in the pan. Industry is very serious. They are doing the work and investing the resources." He commented that there is a nuclear renaissance going on in the world, and "we are in the early days of a nuclear power renaissance in this country."

Key to the advancement of nuclear plants are provisions in the energy bill, in-

cluding production tax credits, loan guarantees, and the re-authorization of Price Anderson Nuclear Industries Indemnity Act for another 20 years.

## U.S. Proposes New Nuke Material Cut-Off Treaty

Having refused to ratify the existing Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT) for years, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control Stephen Rademaker, at the 65-nation Conference on Disarmament in Geneva May 20, presented a three-page proposal which would bar the production of weapons-grade uranium and plutonium "to improve the world's leverage against 'hard cases' like Iran and North Korea."

According to Rademaker, the U.S. proposal left out verification measures to avoid years of protracted negotiations, and it said "government could use 'national means'—or intelligence—to detect violations by other countries. . . ." In reality, the reason verification measures were left out, is that the Bush regime wants to institutionalize the "pre-emptive attack" in an international agreement.

## Senate Dems Want Iran NIE To Avoid New Iraq

The Senate Democratic leadership has sent a letter to President Bush, asking for a new National Intelligence Estimate on Iran, to "avoid repeating the mistakes made in the run-up to the conflict in Iraq." They write, "We must have objective intelligence untainted by political considerations or policy preferences, and a comprehensive debate in the Congress about the best short- and long-term approaches to resolving the international community's differences with Iran." The letter was signed by Minority Leader Harry Reid (Nev.) and Senators Richard Durbin (Ill.), Jay Rockefeller (W. Va.), Carl Levin (Mich.), and Joe Biden (Del.).

### 'HOMEOWNER FUTURES':

Reuters reported, "The Chicago Mercantile Exchange launched its suite of housing futures contracts on Monday (May 22) in time for what some see as a full-fledged deflation of the U.S. housing bubble." Either way, a new boondoggle came on the scene with the Chicago Mercantile Exchange's introduction of "cash-settled" futures and options based on real estate prices in 10 metro areas: Boston, Miami, New York, San Diego, San Francisco, Washington DC, Chicago, Denver, Las Vegas, and Los Angeles.

**ENVOY TO MEXICO** denounced border barricade plan. At the University of Texas at Austin graduation ceremonies May 20, Ambassador Tony Garza said, "Simply building walls does not speak America to me. I know we can be both a welcoming society, and a secure and lawful one." While advocating tolerance for Ibero-American immigrants, he did not address the matter of immigration itself.

**U.S. MEDIA SILENCE** broken on global financial crash. After weeks of the U.S. media whistling past the abyss, the *Los Angeles Times* on May 23 at least mentioned the "deepening worries about the global economy" and "fears of a U.S. recession." But, this is mild in comparison with the London *Financial Times*, and other European media.

**U.S. HOUSE** voted to cut off all aid to the Palestinians, and declare the Palestinian Authority-administered lands a "terrorist sanctuary." The Jerusalem Fund, a pro-peace Palestinian think-tank in Washington, denounced the bill introduced by Clash of Civilizations warmonger Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.), as the most dangerous anti-Palestinian legislation ever passed. The House bill would also direct the World Bank to force all international financial institutions to cut off humanitarian aid to the Palestinians.