École Polytechnique in 1931, graduating first in his class two years later from this elite French science school. From there, Allais entered the National Mining Corps (Corps National des Mines), because it was (and still is) from this Corps that France's industrial leaders were drawn. He then completed a year of military service in the Alpine Army, and two years at the National School of Mines (École Nationale Supérieure des Mines) in Paris, beginning work as an engineer in 1936. A year later, when he was only 26, he was in charge of the mines and quarry service in the Nantes region, and also of the general and local railway systems.

At the outbreak of World War II, Allais served briefly again in the Alpine Army on the Italian Front, returning to his mining duties after the French armistice in 1940, working in Nantes, which was then under German occupation. In 1943, he moved to the Bureau of Mines Documentation and Statistics Office in Paris, where he remained until 1948. It was here that he began his economic study and writing, working at least 80 hours per week, and writing the works on which the 1988 Nobel Prize was based. He worked intensively for 30 months during what he called "the darkest years of World War II," the German occupation of France, when his work as a mining official was slow.

An engineer by training, Allais taught himself eco-

In Memoriam: Maurice Allais

by Jacques Cheminade

PARIS, Oct. 11, 2010—I just learned last night of the passing away of Maurice Allais. The only French Nobel Prize laureate in Economic Sciences has left us, without the written press of this morning paying him due homage.

Indeed, for a certain time, *Le Figaro* refused to publish his articles, and only *l'Humanité* (the French Communist Party daily) and, last year, the weekly *Marianne*, had opened their pages to him.

Today, *Le Figaro* is more prolix, but no media mentions that Allais was always a defender of the separation of the activities of investment banks and deposit banks (his vision of the Glass-Steagall law), and that he had explained, demonstrated, and forecast for more than a decade, in numerous books and articles, the world financial catastrophe which occurred during the Summer of 2008.

Logically, Allais became associated with the wide public debate begun by Lyndon LaRouche, in favor of radically refounding the credit system and the international monetary system, underlining that, on essential points, Mr. LaRouche and his organizations had "often supported ideas close to my own proposals for fundamental reform of the international monetary and financial system." In a letter of Nov. 27, 2009, he authorized us to make this statement public (see full letter).

This "liberal socialist," who, to me, was neither one nor the other, but rather an expert in fundamental physics who looked at the economy from the standpoint of equipment and production, and not simply from a monetarist vision, liked to state that only one of his students lived up to that name, Gérard Debreu. Many other leaders and French officials . . . had also followed his classes.

. . .During my early years of study, I was immersed in the spirit which the works of Maurice Allais had inspired in our country.

Let this spirit be reborn, beyond the present disarray and incompetence, and inspire those who are aghast at the dominant financial system, that they find a way to come out of it, from the top-down, not through the issues of a regressive past, but in a future of science and innovation, which is at the heart of what Allais always defended: an economy in which man is responsible for his species and for nature, discovering, applying, equipping, and producing.

There is urgency, an extreme urgency, because a world whose financial system is disintegrating and decomposing, needs a new generation of leaders, in the image of such a person of character as Maurice Allais.

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