

# *Will Ireland Pull the Plug on the Empire?*

Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny will tell the leaders of the EU, at their heads of state meeting March 24, that Ireland can't pay the debt of the private banks, according to the March 20 *Irish Mail on Sunday*. If the Irish government does what it says it intends to do, it will do the world an inestimable service—by toppling the bankrupt British financial system.

The startling news came from an interview with Irish Agriculture Minister Simon Coveney, who said that both parties in the governing coalition, Fine Gael and Labour, have determined that it's not "fair or equitable that Irish taxpayers should be required to take on all of the debts associated with the mistakes made by Irish banks, and by banks who lent money to Irish banks." The private bondholders will have to take a "haircut"—because Ireland won't sacrifice its people to pay.

The Irish government position is not a total surprise, of course. In the recent parliamentary elections, those political leaders who agreed to the onerous bailout and austerity package were thrown out on their ears, and the nationalist Sinn Fein party emerged as the voice of the opposition. Sinn Fein declared from the beginning, that Ireland distinguishes between the sovereign debt of the nation, and debt contracted by speculating private banks. "Burn the bondholders" was Sinn Fein's policy for the latter.

Now the incoming government appears to have been forced to adopt Sinn Fein's approach. In effect, Ireland is implementing a Glass-Steagall principle, by differentiating between the debt incurred by its government, and the debt of a foreign bank operating in Ireland.

"We have to make that rude distinction," LaRouche insisted. "These are non-Irish banks. This is not an Irish debt. It is the debt of foreign banks

which have been operating in Ireland. Ireland is going to default on obligations to pay the *non*-Irish debt, which is the debt of the Inter-Alpha Group. These debts that are being demanded be paid by the Irish government, are *not* debts of the Irish government. They are debts of a foreign private banking system—the British banking system. They are not debts of the Irish."

The Irish people, of course, understood this distinction all along. It took enormous pressure from the IMF and the European Union to force Ireland to agree to put the nation in hock, in order to bail out the failing private banks, among them the Inter-Alpha's Allied Irish bank. Those private banks had been in the lead of building up the global speculative bubble, which engulfed Ireland, as it did the rest of the trans-Atlantic community. Like those same banks in the United States, they demanded "bailout" and they got it.

But now, if Ireland insists upon asserting its national sovereignty against these international predators, the process can be reversed. If Ireland exerts its rights, will Portugal, Spain, Greece, and even Italy roll over and submit to the bankrupt international bankers? Ireland's action will mean that any debt *not* voluntarily incurred by a government will be called into question. National sovereignty will tend to trump supranational looting, and bring that global system down.

And the United States?

The equivalent of the Irish assertion of sovereignty in the U.S. is nothing less than what LaRouche has insisted upon: the immediate reimposition of FDR's Glass-Steagall principle. Money-center banks will crumble in response, but, what of it? Free of illegitimate debt, we'll be prepared to save the states, and rebuild the nation.