

‘Incompetent Oligarchy’ Is Destroying France

The following interview was conducted on Feb. 3 by Christine Schier of our Wiesbaden bureau.

EIR: Jacques, I would first like to say that all your friends abroad, in the U.S., in Germany, Italy, Scandinavia, were very happy to hear that you had announced you had 500 pledges from mayors to endorse your candidacy for President. This should provide a crucial flank in the overall strategic situation, as your program and warnings go out in the media.

Cheminade: Well, this is only the beginning; we should not be too euphoric about it. But what’s interesting is that the reactions are not of the same type that they were in 1995 [when Cheminade ran for the Presidency for the first time]. There are some persons who are trying to launch defamatory accusations, but many people react immediately by supporting us. They recognize that I was the victim of a terrible injustice in 1995, and that the time has come to let me speak out, because I was the only French political leader who announced that a crisis would break out in the next 10 to 12 years, and 12 years later, it did.

The mayors appreciate that very much. They gave me their pledge, officially called a “presentation promise,” because they see that I was right, and the others were wrong. Moreover, they saw that the young activists who came to see them were very determined, had a good deal of humor, and were actually defending a cause, rather than repeating phrases or things that had been dictated to them.



EIRNS/Julien Lemaître

Presidential candidate Jacques Cheminade campaigns in Paris, Nov. 22, 2011. He was subjected to a vicious campaign of slander and judicial assault during his 1995 campaign, but today the climate is different—so far at least. People remember him as the man who told the truth about the oncoming financial crisis.

They were creative, and respected the mayors. They did not approach the mayors as simple “machines to produce signatures,” but as human beings with whom they wanted to conduct a real republican dialogue.

A ‘Buzz’ in the Media

We have had quite a lot of media coverage, although it shouldn’t be overestimated. On Canal Plus, for example, a well-known journalist, Jean-Michel Apathie, said that my candidacy was totally useless, and he repeated it several times, but that completely discredited him. He was strongly attacked afterwards. Many people were disgusted with how rude he was, and they thought I did very well in responding to him. They liked the fact that I called into question the “incompetent oligarchy” which has put France into financial receivership, with the help of the “state nepotism structures.” There was a buzz about that on Internet. In fact, the Internet is changing part of the campaign.

There were also attacks, for example from a Socialist Senator, Patrick Mennucci, who said on RMC [Radio Monte Carlo] that I was anti-Semitic, from the far right, and that I regretted the death of bin Laden. It was so stupid that people can only laugh about it. But I asked [Socialist Presidential candidate] François Hollande to have Mr. Mennucci withdraw his accusations, because they are false. And this morning, the same RMC allowed me to answer, and for five minutes, I demolished the slanders of this moron. A journalist

from the radio said that he himself had been affected by the rumor, then checked out our website, and saw absolutely nothing related to anti-Semitism or right-wing extremism.

EIR: Are the journalists generally interested in the solutions you propose in the current crisis? Or are they trying to silence the debate?

Cheminade: I have been asked what the difference is between what François Hollande proposes and my proposal, because he is also calling for a separation of banking activities. But he proposes that those activities remain under the same roof, while I say they must be different banks, under a law of the type of the Glass-Steagall Act, or what we had in France after the Liberation.

I have been asked who else in France thinks that way. I answered, Maurice Allais, for example, yesterday morning. It was one of his most constant proposals, and he approved of my approach, and that of Mr. LaRouche. Some counter that Lyndon LaRouche is a heretical figure. I say, I’m glad he is! Anyone who attacks the financial oligarchy and the City of London is labeled, by all those who follow their policy line, a heretical figure. This is to be expected, because we are in the midst of combat, and no holds are barred when it comes to us.

I added that, in terms of the political movements in France, I am at the intersection of the Social Christians of Brittany’s “Democratic Abbots,” and of Marc Sang-

nier; the Gaullism of June 1940 and de Gaulle as a representative of the Free French during the Resistance; the socialism of Jean Jaurès, and to a certain extent of Léon Blum, who supported de Gaulle during the Resistance; and also of the Radical Party, in particular the current around the solidarism of Léon Bourgeois, which is very different from that of other countries. Bourgeois said: We have a debt towards the generations of the past, which we have to pay for the sake of the future generations. I would add, a debt to the future, but not to the investment banks, the institutions of Wall Street and the City [of London], who brought us the crisis we are in.

At first, I did not have a chance to bring these issues up; the journalists mainly want to know why I'm running, and how I got the mayors to sign. That is the big question being asked: how I got the signatures, whereas Marine Le Pen doesn't have them. There's a cartoon which was published in the Feb. 2 *Nice Matin* and *Var Matin*, which shows Marine Le Pen looking into a mirror, asking: "Mirror, my beautiful mirror, tell me that I'm the most desirable candidate." And the mirror answers, "Even Jacques Cheminade is more successful than you!"

There's a tremendous buzz around this issue—that I managed to get the signatures, and the others didn't. I explain that it's because of our young activists, and their qualities, because I had forecast the crisis that was coming, and also because of the international character of my campaign, the opening in which domestic policy and foreign policy, international policy are a unity; it's not limited to simple crisis management.

So that is immensely commented upon, everywhere. On political blogs, there have been many attacks against the people who have interviewed me. I must say, that one interview was very honest and fair, on RMC Matin, by Jean-Jacques Bourdin, and again on Feb. 2 on LCI TV. On France Culture, there was one

program which brought up the question of cults, and I threw them back on their starting blocks through actual quotes of the Miviludes (the official anti-cult agency in France), which said that there is absolutely nothing of substance behind the accusations against me.

The Future of the Euro

EIR: On economic policy, is your position on the euro unique compared to the other candidates?

Cheminade: Yes and no. It is not, insofar as Marine Le Pen has a line which is similar to Dupont-Aignan. They are both against the euro. But what I say is that the

euro is already destroying itself in any case, so what we need is a great project for the future. And that's where the really major difference comes in. It's on the issue of productive credit, and great projects for the future. We need a Glass-Steagall to clean out the "Augean stables," to begin with, and we need productive state credit. In that way, Europe becomes meaningful, and can be integrated into a world of great infrastructure works.

But for that to happen, we have to repeal Article 123 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, and repeal the French law of Aug. 4, 1993, which abrogated the law of Jan. 3, 1973,

which prohibits the Banque de France from advancing credit, or from buying the debt of the Public Treasury in order to finance economic development. And the law of May 12, 1998, which prohibits the Banque de France and Board members from taking orders from the government, or from any other authority.² So



*National Front (NF) candidate Marine Le Pen saying to her mirror, "Mirror, my beautiful mirror, tell me that I'm the most desirable candidate." The mirror replies, "Even Jacques Cheminade is more successful than you!" From the websites of *Nice Matin* and *Var Matin*, Feb. 2, 2012.*

2. The 1973 law forced the state to borrow from private financial institutions taking interest on the loans, whereas the Banque de France, a state bank, did not take interest. The 1998 law turned the Banque de France into an entity independent from the state, with the task of ensuring monetary stability and not economic development. And the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU prohibits central banks from loaning interest-free money to the member states.

the Banque de France has become a central bank, instead of a national bank.

In France, there is now a big debate on the issue of a national bank. There are a number of articles on leaving the euro, but I insist that it should be a positive exit from the euro, and not for the fun of it.

There's another important point: the attacks against Germany. People say, "Merkel is Germany." I reply that that has nothing to do with my vision of Germany, which is that of Schiller, of Heine, and of Helga Zepp-LaRouche.

Interesting is that my campaign, as Lyndon LaRouche pointed out, is producing in Europe a rift in the agreement on going for austerity and rigor. And from that standpoint, it is useful that François Hollande attacked the world of finance, even though the attack is limited. He denounced austerity, but he did not back that up with the measures to be taken, as I do. So I find myself in a position of *avant-garde* of all this.

People ask, "How could this guy, who only received 0.28% of the vote in 1995, gather 500 signatures, while Marine Le Pen, Hervé Morin, Dominique de Villepin, and Christine Boutin don't have theirs." What is our secret?

A clip came out on the first channel TF1, which lasted 40 seconds, in which they completely changed what I had said, but it comes out effectively, because it shows Marine Le Pen lamenting, in front of the Senate, "Oh, I only have 340 signatures, it's awful." And then it shows me, when I was asked how come we got the signatures, and I answer, "Because we're intelligent," and then I burst out laughing.

So, all of this is going on. For the moment, I haven't been able to develop the real issues too much, except for the Glass-Steagall and state credit. When I bring up the danger of war, everybody is astonished, in the world of the media.

So, we're not yet in the heat of the race, but we've come out of the starting block. We've got our foot in the door, and now we have to get the most important part out: that is all of the ideas.

'A Community of Principle'

EIR: We understand that your candidacy has been heartily endorsed by Lyndon and Helga LaRouche. Would you describe your relationship with these two political figures?

Cheminade: It is a longstanding relationship that

has inspired my intellectual and political life. The first thing that opened for me a new vision on what was happening in the '70s of the 20th Century is what Lyndon LaRouche had to say on economics and culture. He was then the only one who foresaw that ultra-liberalism in economics, under the rule of the financial oligarchy, promoting the looting of labor and tangible production to the benefit of short-term profits, was supported and driven by a destructive counterculture, based on an emotional "short-termism." His understanding of the fight of the British Empire against the American Republic, and of what Benjamin Franklin and Alexander Hamilton really represented, gave me a key to understanding where I was, together with the writings of Allen Salisbury³ and Graham Lowry.⁴

At the same time, our work on science and art, from Riemann and Leibniz to the German Classics in music and the Italian and Northern Renaissances, defined for me a new track in my mind, not in opposition to what I was before, but as an outreach into a new realm. The present work of the "Basement" scientific team, which leads us into the future through the exploration of the past, creates for me an opportunity to find new friends in the past and in the present, like Sky Shield, whom I enjoyed meeting in Europe, or our team of young candidates to whom I never have actually talked, but who are closer to my fight here, than many others more available to my senses.

As for Helga Zepp-LaRouche, I owe her for having led me to explore Friedrich Schiller and Nicholas of Cusa, without whom I would never have been what I think I am.

Journalists keep asking me here if I am the representative in France of Lyndon H. LaRouche, seeing that as a sort of functional or bureaucratic link. I answer them that unfortunately they are silly and cannot understand what a relation of a true human mind to other human minds could be, and that even when we don't talk or see each other, there is something beyond, which is a community of principle. That community of principle is a joy forever.

3. W. Allen Salisbury, *The Civil War and the American System: America's Battle with Britain, 1860-1876* 2nd edition (Washington, D.C.: Executive Intelligence Review, 1992).

4. H. Graham Lowry, *How The Nation Was Won: America's Untold Story* (Washington, D.C.: Executive Intelligence Review, 1988).