

‘A First Obligation To Serve’

There is no hint of exaggeration in comparing the current world crisis in all its dimensions, to that which the world faced from the Hitler regime in 1940. Then, the Hitler regime, having been put in power by evil financiers in London and Wall Street, was on a full-fledged military offensive which threatened the world with a new form of slavery. Today, the still surviving British financial empire threatens to bring down civilization itself, by insisting on the continuation of a doomed system which condemns the entire world to chaos, starvation, and war—perhaps even thermonuclear war.

Now, as then, it is the role of the U.S. republic which will determine the success or failure of the financial oligarchy’s plans. Will U.S. leaders emerge in time to stave off disaster, to implement the only program that can do so, that laid out by economist Lyndon LaRouche? Or will they remain passive as a de facto British puppet, Barack Obama, takes the United States itself into oblivion?

In 1940, our nation, and the world, were fortunate to have President Franklin Roosevelt at the helm, prepared to take the responsibility to do what was required. The question today, is whether sufficient political forces, small as they are in number, can mobilize themselves to do the same. The small number is not a problem; society’s leadership is always concentrated in a relative handful. The question is the quality of the thinking and commitment of that leadership—and that remains in question.

In an extraordinary speech to the Democratic National Convention in 1940, Franklin Roosevelt expressed the outlook and commitment required for victory then, and now, in a very personal way. It is the same challenge which confronts all Americans today, all of whom are called to respond to the crisis by changing their priorities to those which

humanity demands. Hear the words of FDR:

“In the face of the danger which confronts our time, no individual retains, or can hope to retain, the right of personal choice which free men enjoy in times of peace. He has a first obligation to serve in the defense of our institutions of freedom—a first obligation to serve his country in whatever capacity his country finds him useful.

“Like most men of my age [FDR was 58 at the time—ed.], I had made plans for myself, plans for a private life of my own choice and for my own satisfaction, a life of that kind to begin in January 1941. These plans, like so many other plans, had been made in a world which now seems as distant as another planet. Today all private plans, all private lives, have been in a sense repealed by an overriding public danger. In the face of that public danger all those who can be of service to the Republic have no choice but to offer themselves for service in those capacities for which they may be fitted.”

FDR, of course, concluded this speech by agreeing to serve a third term in the Presidency, one that could truly be said to have inflicted such damage to his physical health, that he died prematurely. He not only had led a victorious war effort, which made the United States the world’s industrial powerhouse, but a campaign for justice on all fronts, as his “Four Freedoms” Inaugural of 1941 laid out.

Today, we have no FDR, but our potential for victory is clear. A faction of powerful financiers has embraced part of the necessary program to save civilization; Obama is on the ropes; the LaRouche program for recovery is the talk of the Congress, and capitals around the world. What is required is for the nation, starting with its political leadership, to find the strength inside themselves to act.