

Call for Resistance Vs. Financial Fascism

Nov. 25—Members and activists from throughout France assembled in Paris on Nov. 16 for the annual Congress of Solidarité & Progrès (S&P), the French party associated with the international LaRouche movement. The speakers all called, each in his own way, for ending the current dictatorship of speculative finance, and for re-establishing the spirit of the World War II Resistance, when men and women from very different political backgrounds joined hands to defeat Nazism, and then to bar the re-emergence in the post-war period of the same financial “feudalism” which had paved the way for the fascism of the 1930s in most of Europe.

The guest of honor was Charles Paperon, who joined the Free French Resistance in 1943 at the age of 17, and is today co-chair of the Association of Resistance Veterans. He is also a co-initiator of the 2010 call for the creation of a new National Council of the Resistance. At the S&P Congress, the venerable Paperon charged that the “predatory financial powers today” are “even worse than fascism, because the Nazis were clearly identifiable for the population, whereas finance has no face, and infiltrates all of society, without being seen.”

Paperon, who insisted on travelling to the Congress in Paris in spite of his advanced age, made a solemn commitment: “As long as I live, I will be at your side, to fight against this financial oligarchy which continues to inflict harm worldwide.”

Christine Bierre, editor-in-chief of *Nouvelle Solidarité*, the bimonthly newspaper of S&P, who opened the morning session, welcomed the “justified anger and revolt” in the country, against those who “have degraded all of our moral, political, and economic treasures.” She mentioned many industries that have had to shut down due to globalization and to the “low-cost” economic policy. Politically, France, which used to be independent, has become

“allied to the most reactionary powers in the world, such as Saudi Arabia and Netanyahu’s Israel.”

In addition to Paperon, the Congress was addressed by Jacques Cheminade, who resumed the chairmanship of the party after the 2012 Presidential election in which he was a candidate.

Documenting the Financial Atrocities

Gérard Faure Kapper, the president of the APLOMB association, which supports citizens in their legal battles against banking abuses, gave the example of penalties for overdrawn accounts, which are often usurious. In the 500 cases handled by APLOMB, the rates charged for overdrafts went from 33% to 535%, and sometimes up to 2,300%. The average amount taken by banks in overdraft fees is EU3,000 euros (about \$4,000)!

Mohammed Bouznada is the deputy mayor of Poissy, a city outside of Paris with a population of nearly 40,000, where the PSA (Peugeot Citroën automaker) factory, which used to employ 17,000 workers, is now down to 6-7,000. Bouznada has decided to run as an S&P candidate in the 2014 municipal elections on an independent slate.

Eugène Perez, mayor of the small town of Chamouilly in the east of France, explained how difficult it is to prevent villages from becoming ghost towns, because the lack of employment forces people, in particular, younger workers, to leave. Since he was elected in 2008, four companies in his village of 872 inhabitants have shut down. Nevertheless, if we work together, he said, “we can have beautiful accomplishments. We need to reindustrialize. That’s why I joined S&P.” Perez



EIRNS/Julien Lemaître

World War II Resistance leader Charles Paperon joined S&P chairman Jacques Cheminade on the podium, at the party congress Nov. 16.



EIRNS/Julien Lemaître

Former Michigan Congressional candidate, and LaRouchePAC Policy Committee member Bill Roberts, spoke about the destruction of the city of Detroit as a harbinger of what is to come for all of the United States.

was the initiator of the Arzviller Declaration of European elected officials for Glass-Steagall last August.¹

Participants also heard first-hand from a representative from the United States, Bill Roberts, former LaRouche National Slate candidate for Congress from Michigan, who received 41% of the votes in the Democratic Primary election Aug. 7. The destruction of the city of Detroit, he said, is but a foretaste of what is planned for all of the United States. With a few figures, he drew a dramatic picture of the breakdown of an urban center. While Detroit was the fourth-largest city in the U.S. in the 1950s, with a solid middle class among a population of 1.8 million, today, "one-third of the houses are abandoned or completely run-down, and almost 47% of the remaining 700,000 inhabitants are illiterate. The crime rate is 11 times higher than that of New York City, and the average waiting time for police intervention is one hour, while only 10% of the crimes committed are ever solved." Roberts called on all the participants, and in particular, the mayors, to resist the fiscal austerity imposed by the banks.

Jacques Cheminade closed the morning session with a call for "artists in policy" to change the world. He began his speech with a quote from Andrew Huszar,

a former Federal Reserve Official, who, in a Nov. 11 *Wall Street Journal* article, apologized to America, because the Fed's quantitative easing (QE) policy had let Wall Street line its pockets, while loans to Americans became fewer and more expensive.

Our job, Cheminade said, is to free the world from the grip of a financial oligarchy, which has taken the entire world hostage. "David can defeat Goliath, provided he take up his slingshot and hit the enemy's heart, which is in the City of London and Wall Street."

Today, the equity of major French banks on their balance sheets is only 2-5%. How can the "consumer society" work, Cheminade asked, when consumers are strangled by austerity, "rigor," and "budgetary constraints"? The official unemployment rate is 10-11%, but the employment rate—i.e., the number of people with permanent employment—is only 63.9%.

Cheminade also addressed the alarming progression of poverty in France, with one in seven Frenchmen officially poor, while public services are being slashed.

The time has come to react, he concluded, recalling the spirit of those at the time who rose up against fascism to join the Resistance.

The Al-Qaeda Executive

Financed and deployed by the British-Saudi Empire, al-Qaeda has been protected by the Obama Administration to accomplish the Empire's global war. In this feature [video](#), LaRouchePAC documents President Obama's use of the al-Qaeda networks to overthrow Qaddafi in Libya, and to carry out bloody regime-change against Assad in Syria, by the same forces who attacked the U.S. consulate in Benghazi.

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1. See "French and German Local Officials Launch Initiative for Glass-Steagall," *EIR*, Aug. 23, 2013.