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# I. The Hamilton Solution to This Crisis

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MANHATTAN DIALOGUE

## Hurricane Harvey Disaster Made by Wall Street

*The following is an edited version of the dialogue which took place at the LaRouche PAC Manhattan Project meeting on Saturday, Sept. 2, 2017. Brian Lantz of the LaRouche PAC Houston office was the special guest speaker.*

**Diane Sare:** Good afternoon. I would like to welcome everyone here on this Labor Day weekend Saturday. As people are aware, Kesha Rogers, who is very well known around the country for having won two Democratic Party primaries for Congress in Texas and having come near winning the primary for U.S. Senate, was scheduled to be our speaker, but she is unable to be here because of a terrible tragedy that occurred as a result of this completely avoidable damage caused by Hurricane Harvey. As many of you know, but some may not know, her father and stepmother were swept off a bridge in their vehicle, and both perished on Wednesday. I would like to express our condolences to Kesha Rogers and her husband Ian Overton, her family, and everyone there who is dealing with this. The *New York Times* heard about this tragic accident and came to interview family members of her father, who was a local minister. Kesha was interviewed, and she said look, this is something that is affecting everyone; it's not just my family. People are suffering and they're suffering needlessly. So, even in this crisis, she is taking the kind of leadership that we know her for.

With us today will be Brian Lantz, from our Houston office, who will be giving a report on the situation and what can be done about it. As people are aware, the LaRouche Political Action Committee has put out a policy statement on this, which I think is long overdue and urgently needed.<sup>1</sup> I am very sorry to say that the pathetic state of mind of our members of Congress is

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1. See editorial in this issue



Air National Guard/staff Sgt. Daniel J. Martinez

*An aerial view of extensive flooding in southeast Texas, Aug. 31, 2017.*

such that no one among them has thought to put out such a statement. The headline of *The Hamiltonian* newspaper this week carries that as the lead article: “Harvey Disaster Made by Wall Street! LaRouche Issues Emergency Plan of Action.”

There are many crises in the nation which are catastrophes on the brink of occurring. Since the assassination of President Kennedy, and really since the Presidency of Franklin Roosevelt, we have been so negligent in making those investments and those leaps in scientific progress that would allow us to be able to address “natural disasters,” weather conditions and so on before they occur. The city of Houston is far more populous than it was in 1948, at about the time the last dams and levees were built. Similarly, as people know, we discussed here a week ago the New York City transportation system. Penn Station was built for 250,000 people; it now carries 650,000, and it hasn’t been upgraded. You don’t have to be a genius to recognize that if a system is built for a certain number of people and you put triple or quadruple the number of people there and you make no changes or adjustments in that, that something is going to give way.

That’s the point that we are making—that this catastrophe, including the tragic death of Kesha’s father and stepmother, did not have to occur. I think really each of us should take those precious lives and the lives of others who have been lost in this, as a sacred trust that we will insure that no one ever dies in such a fashion ever again; that our nation is going to transform—to join the civilized world, which is right now led by China and Russia, and we are the ones who are going to have to make it happen, because particularly the Congress has been completely absurd in their response. I received an email this morning from the wife of Phil Murphy, who’s running for governor of New Jersey. You’d think that someone running for office in New Jersey, which was devastated by Hurricane Sandy, might have something future-oriented and important to say about what’s happening in Texas. Her letter was simply saying we are in solidarity with Houston; people helped us, so now you should donate to the Red Cross. Nothing of the nature of what is actually required.

Brian will have a lot more. I just want to now give you a little bit of a sense of where in the world we are and where all of this is occurring. First of all, I think everyone should remember and always have in the back of your mind, that until Glass-Steagall and Lyndon LaRouche’s Four Laws are acted upon in the United States and in the trans-Atlantic system, we are facing a spec-

tacular blow-out of the banking systems of the United States and Western Europe. More and more is occurring on this on a daily basis, and it’s fueling a kind of desperation and insanity in some of these decisions, which underscores this.

I watched this morning a very beautiful four-minute video about Port au Prince in Haiti. China is going to invest \$4 billion in the development of this city. I was thinking, China has built a lot of new cities in the last period, so this is not a new thing for them. It’s very well thought out; it is phenomenal. The video goes through—because this is another area prone to flooding—all of the systems that are going to be built in the re-construction of the city to deal with massive flooding, to insure that transportation is unaffected by this; that communications are not affected by this; that they are building a water treatment plant that can process 225,000 cubic meters per day, or something close to that, if they have such an emergency. It is beautiful, and I think you have to ask yourself—and this gets back to this Wall Street question—if Haiti and Chad now with the Transaqua project in the middle of Africa, if these places can collaborate with China to build massive water management projects and modern new cities—we have to ask what is wrong with us? Why are people not even demanding this?

The last thing I’ll just say is what we’ve seen, as we saw on September 11th, and what we’ve seen around hurricane Harvey—there is a spirit of the American people, a spirit of generosity, a spirit of self-sacrifice, a spirit where people absolutely come together in a crisis. All of the nonsense that the FBI and George Soros were trying to release after the staged Charlottesville events, has now been submerged under about twenty feet of water and we have now a potential. I think we have to take this moment of this storm and the tragedy that occurred with Kesha’s father and stepmother,—probably the death toll is going to rise as they’re able to get to more people and discover the damage—and say “OK. We will take this to pull our nation together.” This is the inclination of the American people in their better selves. Lyndon LaRouche has been putting forward the program for this for forty years. Had then FBI Director Robert Mueller not led a witch hunt against Lyndon LaRouche in the ‘80s when LaRouche had been working with President Ronald Reagan; had LaRouche been allowed to become the President of the United States, you can imagine what the United States would look like today. We have an image of that, because the projects that Lyndon LaRouche has been fighting for for the last 40 years—the Kra Canal, the Transaqua project, and

FIGURE 1



others—are now being built, and we can do this here in the United States.

With that being said, I will turn this over to Brian Lantz from our Houston office.

**Brian Lantz:** Good afternoon. Thank you, Diane. It's good to be with our friends there in New York. This is both a solemn moment, but also one of real potential; a cause of real optimism. We saw this last week as we were being inundated. We saw photos sent down to us from the field organizing teams up there, including near Rockefeller Center, with these giant signs—"Houston: We Have a Solution!" You can imagine that this was sent out widely around here, circulated. And La-Rouche's Four Laws, of course, are that solution. Kesha Rogers suggested that I stand in for her; and I'm going to do that here today. Certainly, I will be glad to take your questions. Another addition, in terms of New York—I believe the first emergency help that we had, emergency volunteers coming in to the greater Houston area, were from the New York Fire Department; certainly they were among the first. I think that's definitely worth mentioning here right off the bat.

### The Storm and the Response

This is an enormous, unfolding crisis. I'm going to try to take you through some of this. I want to emphasize this is a blow to the whole country, to the world. This is not something to be taken as something just happening

here. We certainly don't look at it that way ourselves. But, this is still unfolding. At last report we have 130,000 homes surrounding Houston that are on boiling water notice; that's 130,000 homes, and that's probably an understatement. That's just what's known to the state agencies at this point. Beaumont—1.5 to 2 hours to the east of us down Interstate 10—is underwater. They've been evacuating the evacuation centers because the waters are still rising from the Neches River. Port Arthur: this is still unfolding right now. Rescue operations are continuing; it's not over.

Waters are rising, including here in Houston, in the bayous. Buffalo Bayou, which runs through the city of Houston, is still slowly rising because water has to be released—controlled releases—from the Atticks Reservoir and the Barker Reservoir, which are within the Houston city limits, but also over the emergency spillway at Atticks. We'll come back to that later. That water has got to go into the Buffalo Bayou, and it's got to go

down that bayou to reach the Gulf ultimately. This is striking everyone. The Buffalo Bayou flows through the Memorial City area, some of the nice areas shall we say, of the city, and they're underwater. Just yesterday, Mayor Sylvester Turner ordered further evacuations out of that area because of the rising waters, and because resources are stretched; manpower is stretched. I think those are just a few elements, and we'll come back a little more to the physical economy of this in a minute.

There's been a tremendous outpouring of aid, of help, of person-to-person effort made in the course of this unfolding disaster. I'm sure you've heard some about it, so I'm not going to belabor it; but we've had the Cajun Navy in here from Louisiana—a large, informal ad-hoc volunteer group of private boat owners who assist in flood search and rescue efforts. This is hundreds and hundreds of men and women with their boats and their high-rise vehicles towing their boats—coming in here, getting as close as they can into Houston; but now also into Port Arthur and Beaumont which is right there on the Louisiana border. Portions of Louisiana have been hit over the last few days as well, as the storm moved north to Louisiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee. Hundreds and hundreds of volunteers, at the request of law enforcement agencies, the mayor, the state, came in. This is going on up and down the coast.

If we go to the slides there, the first one [Figure 1] is a picture of downtown Houston, taken a few days ago. It just gives you a quick snapshot impression;

FIGURE 2



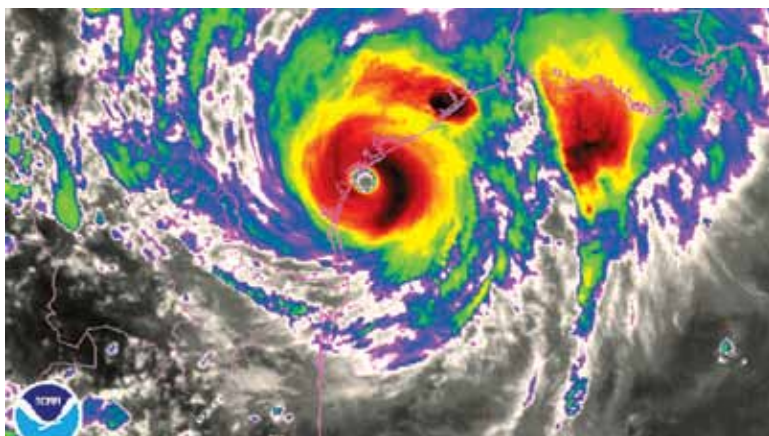
you've seen others, I'm sure, in the media. [Figure 2] is a scene I believe that was taken by LaRouche PAC member Peter Bowen the other day. This is what's going on in terms of the recovery effort. People are back to their homes; they're trying to tear out the sheet rock, get the carpet out. They're trying to rescue their homes. A matter of days underwater, and a house just quickly begins deteriorating. Mold and so forth, but also just physical deterioration. If you look down the street, you can see that at house after house after house, this is going on, even at the same time that rescues are still going on elsewhere; particularly in the perimeter now increasingly of Houston proper.

FIGURE 3



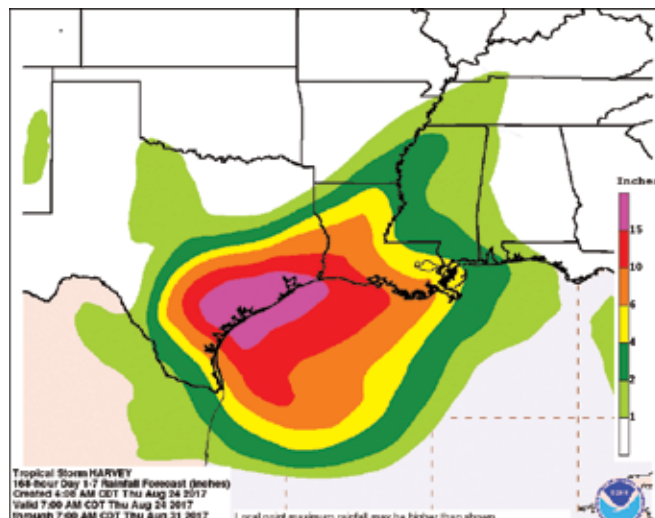
The next slide [Figure 3] is from one of the evacuation centers. We have somewhere on the order of 30,000 (and counting) people in evacuation centers to just get water, food, a dry place to sleep for their families, for themselves. Most people don't want to be in an evacuation center; you can't do anything for your house, you can't do anything for your neighbor, you can't do anything for your extended family, while you are sitting in an evacuation center. So, these are desperate circumstances. The numbers in these centers are beginning to drop now; at least in the Houston area. Beaumont, Port Arthur is another question.

FIGURE 4



To step back, I think the next slide [Figure 4] is of Hurricane Harvey coming onshore. That was a week and a day ago, in Rockport, a small commercial and sports fishing town that was completely wiped out. It's near Corpus Christi, quite a ways down the coast. But as you see, the outer bands of that storm to the east, to the right of that picture; those bands were coming in more or less simultaneously with the arrival of the storm, the direct hit in Rockport itself. Those bands are carrying the massive amounts of water that came in, roughly from 30 to 50 inches. Something on the order of 9-10 trillion gallons of water fell as a result of Hurricane Harvey over

FIGURE 5

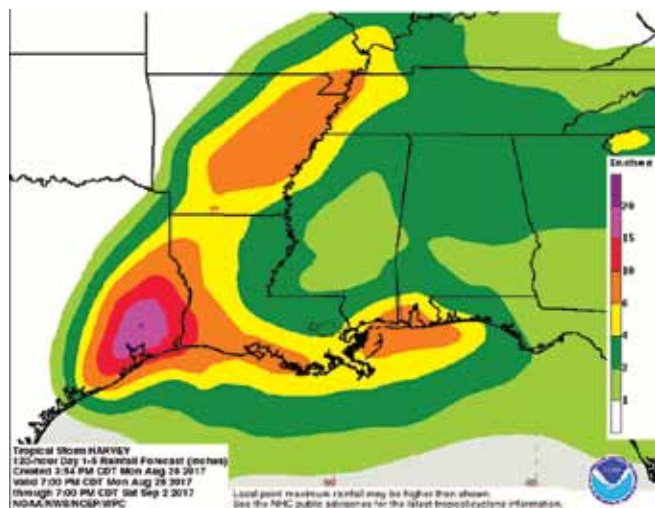


this large area, stretching from Corpus Christi up to Beaumont, Port Arthur, and beyond over to Lake Charles in Louisiana. [Figure 5] gives you a picture of the storm and again, a sense of that radiating impact. Note the gauge on the right; this was only forecast as it was coming onshore. The top of the gauge is 15 inches. [Figure 6] is, as the storm moves farther out. You see the rain gauge. Of course, it went way beyond that as well. That gives you a running sense of this thing.

On President Trump, I think it's important to say, that compared to what we saw with Obama, where he turned a cold shoulder to Haiti, despite proposals from the Army Corps, from the Joint Chiefs, and from the LaRouche organization, for a massive mobilization in the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake—nothing was done from the top down. Instead all you had was NGOs and self-help, and the Clinton Foundation and so forth. The point is, Haiti is now *worse off* than it was before that earthquake, certainly from before. Think also of Bush and Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Compared to that, there's been a mobilization. There are something like 12,000 National Guardsmen active, most from Texas, but also coming in; that number will probably peak at around 24,000, according to Governor Abbott. There are also approximately 12,000 members and officials from FEMA, and they're already beginning to cut checks that simply help people pay for hotel rooms and food. This is just the beginning. There are also Coast Guard and police—we've seen hundreds and hundreds of police come in in vehicles from around the country, really as brigades to relieve offi-

FIGURE 6



cers here, men and women who haven't slept in days. There has been a lot of pre-positioning of resources, a lot of deployment of resources; getting people into evacuation centers, getting them water, food, and related emergency needs. All of that has been ongoing.

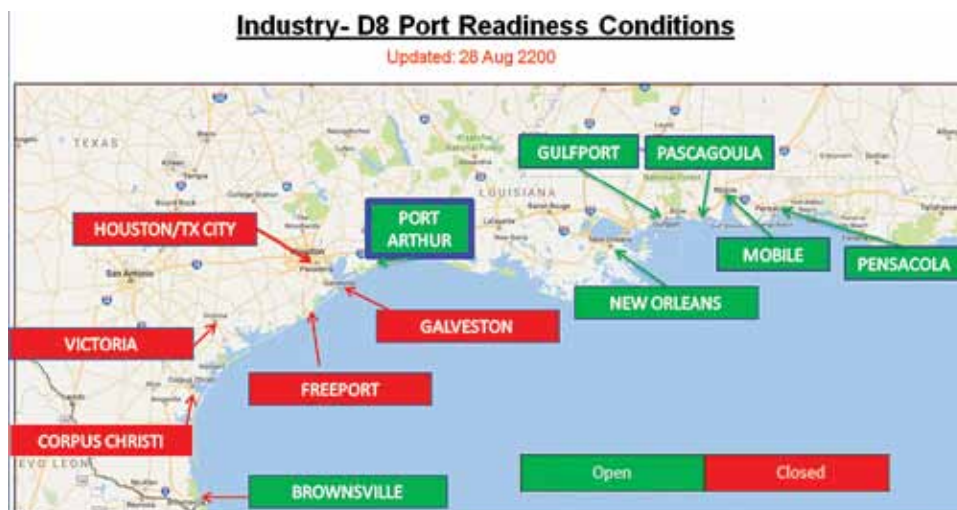
### Economic Devastation

On the physical economy side of this, this is obviously not just a human tragedy, this is a body blow. I want to mention right off, agriculture. Thirteen or more of the fifty counties directly affected in Texas are agricultural; they're cotton producers, and those bales of lint, of raw cotton, are now ruined. The storage facilities they were in, the roofs were blown off. You can just imagine the extent: the rice crop and so forth, all of these things are affected, affecting farmers, ranchers, and their families.

Now we get to oil and gas. Colonial Pipeline, as we've mentioned over the past couple of days, is *the* major pipeline in the United States. It stretches from the Houston refineries, taking in fuel from as far away as Lake Charles; it takes it all the way right up to Atlanta, Washington, D.C., and also to the Port of New York. That pipeline is shut down. It normally carries diesel fuel, jet fuel, and gas. This complex of pipelines is now all shut down. They're hoping to have it opened up by the end of this weekend, but this is 20%, maybe 30% of U.S. refining capacity that is currently shut down, with major ramifications for the economy. That's worth bringing into the picture.

The port facilities: The next slide is a simple map

FIGURE 7



marking out the ports along the Third Coast [Figure 7]. That’s the Gulf Coast, nicknamed “the Third Coast,” which is 930 miles long, from Florida around to Harlingen and Brownsville and the Mexican border in the South.

Eight out of the 12 largest ports in the United States, by tonnage, are on that coast, from Mobile, Alabama on around to the West. We’re talking about Beaumont and Port Arthur. Port Arthur is now closed, and shown in red, as all of the closed ports are. Houston is the second largest port. The largest is in Louisiana, the South Louisiana port between Baton Rouge and New Orleans. On around to Corpus Christi are smaller ports, including the barge port of Port Victoria, a city of 65,000 people. It’s now on boiling water notice. Beaumont lost their water system. They can’t get to it to repair it because it’s under water, both of its major components, so obviously, people have got to get out because there’s no water—period. No water. This port complex, and its tonnage and its role in the U.S. economy, is a very important and staggering dimension that Hurricane Harvey brings into focus.

The Port of Houston, the second largest port, is still closed down. It’s opened for truck traffic now, but the port itself is shut. The San Jacinto-Brazos Basin drains into the ship canal and otherwise into the Galveston Bay, from the northern end of that inlet of water, a man-made connection. That stream of water is now carrying debris, it’s carrying silt; the storm itself produced a 15-foot surge—nothing like Hurricane Ike that produced a 38-foot surge, but nonetheless, there’s a question of whether, and how soon, ships can get back in there to

deliver cargo or take cargo out. The Army Corps of Engineers has to go in there. Emergency dredging may be required. Debris has got to be cleared. The current is another factor. This is ongoing.

The oil refineries are going to be closed, probably at least in part, for weeks to come. All this is the consequence, as we’ve emphasized in the LaRouche PAC emergency statement, of not building, maintaining, and improving the nation’s infrastructure and training and deploying a qualified work-

force that goes with it. This is another body blow to our immune system, that’s been continually weakened ever since the death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1945. Lyndon LaRouche’s [Four Laws](#)—Glass-Steagall, national banking and National Bank, to issue national credit, and a science-driver program around fusion energy—is the only way this can be solved, top down.

In regard to the port and the trucking end of things, the getting in and out of the port is a problem in and of itself. A lot of highways are still shut down at various points. Sections of railroad track are under water. Texas has 10,000 miles of freight railroad track. more than any other state. But if you can’t get in and out of the ports, because the rail lines were built on low-lying land in the first place, now you pay a multiple of what you thought you saved before. And the port’s containers, all that’s shifted in the course of the storm, and there’s all the muck to be cleaned out. Again, this is going to be an ongoing process.

### Science versus Irrationality

What I want to do at this point is to proceed and look at this from the standpoint of the engineering, a little bit of the science, but mostly the engineering—in terms of the infrastructure of this situation and perhaps put it under a microscope.

First of all, when you take into account the whole coastline that you saw in the course of those last few slides—the Gulf Coast coastline is all littoral, it’s all low lying. The lay of the land has to be kept in mind. It’s not something that can just be walked away from, it’s something that has to be approached rigorously and sci-

entifically—again, from the top. It’s a vast flood-plain, is another way of putting it. The *highest point* in Houston is fifty feet above sea level; so for example, a dam that you build in Houston is not the Oroville Dam up there in Northern California. Lake Conroe reservoir in Texas that holds about 14% of what is behind the Oroville Dam, because there’s no canyon behind Lake Conroe; it just spreads out. The capacity of dams is a major engineering issue in this area.

FIGURE 8



We’ve had only four Category 4 hurricanes hit the United States since 1970. In the thirty years prior to 1970, we had fourteen Category 4 storms, so this is not new. This is not a freak accident, which some people may think, or you may have read somewhere that Harvey was a 1,000-year storm. Dr. Roy Spencer is a noted meteorologist, Ph.D., who worked for NASA for decades, and is a top expert on weather. As [Dr. Spencer points out](#) we don’t know if this is a “1,000 year storm,” because we weren’t around here 1,000 years ago. We weren’t really around here 100 years ago, if you’re talking about Houston—at least in terms of records, we weren’t around here. Downtown Houston has seen higher water; back in December, 1935, it was 15 feet above what we saw with Hurricane Harvey. These are escape hatches, to escape not the water but to escape from responsibility, or more importantly from thinking through solutions; these have to be recognized as mirages.

On the other side, something you haven’t heard about, is the South Texas Nuclear Project. This is right down there in Matagorda County, right down close to the water, not on the Gulf exactly, but it’s right there on the Colorado River that runs through Texas (not the other Colorado River). There are two nuclear power plants in this facility; I believe it’s the second largest in the United States. And Matagorda Bay is not far from Rockport and Corpus Christi; it was close to where Hurricane Harvey came ashore. This nuclear power station continued to operate right through Hurricane Harvey without a hitch. They had some advantages: They didn’t need any fuel. They’re halfway through their current cycles, they don’t have to refuel until 2018. They didn’t have any wet coal sitting out there being

drowned by Hurricane Harvey. They didn’t have to wait for the sun to come out. And they had their team, about 250 men and women on site manning that facility, fully equipped, and they rode it out. I bring that up to inject the sense of optimism we rightfully should have, concerning our ability to master such crises, as opposed to getting the heebie-jeebies and running in the other direction, or simply falling into irrationality.

### 70 Years of Non-Development

How has this situation developed? **Figure 8** is a map of the Army Corps of Engineers project from 1940. That project resulted in the construction of two major dams. What you see, the total area there, that’s now Houston; but you can see how small Houston was then, a few hundred thousand people in 1940 when this plan was drawn up. This is essentially the same system, minus some, that we have today. And there are some pluses. To the left you can see two crosshatched areas, which are the Barker and Addicks Dams. Farther around going clockwise, you can see a smaller one called the White Oak Reservoir, that was proposed but never built. The first two projects, Barker and Addicks dams were built, and those are the major dams on the Buffalo Bayou that have kept Houston itself from just completely drowning. Again, this is a flat, flood-plain area; Houston is laced with bayous. Houston’s old nickname is the “Bayou City.” This flood-plain geology and its bayous extends all along the coast from Louisiana and Mississippi through to Texas.

Barker Dam was finished in 1945 and Addicks in 1948. Those earthen dams, were labeled in 2009 as essentially in catastrophic condition, by the Army Corps

of Engineers, which had built them and has maintained them as best they can with the resources they have been provided. Farther up to the left is the projected Cyprus Creek Levy. Around to the top on the right you see a canal labeled the North Canal, and down, again going to the right, you see a South Canal. They were all deemed a responsible approach by the Army Corps of Engineers way back in 1940.

There are no pumps in the system as it exists now. Houston doesn't have a pumping system in any significant way, and if you think about it, that's quite amazing, given Houston's location on the Gulf of Mexico and its history.

The Army Corps of Engineers can propose projects, but if the Congress doesn't pass them and if Presidents don't sign them into law, and if the American people don't demand them, they don't happen. They languish. And that's been the case here, as you can see from 1940. We didn't do then what was thought to be responsible. And now, the population of Houston is 2.2 million. The population of Harris County, which includes Houston, is 3.7 million. The larger region, which takes in six or seven counties, is an area larger than the State of New Jersey, just to give you some perspective on this.

But the Army Corps of Engineers operates from the standpoint that county Flood Control District staff work in conjunction with the State of Texas. They draw up plans, they propose how they're going to be built; they take these plans to the Army Corps. If they think they're competent, the Army Corps will sign off on them, and then it's up to these water authorities to then proceed, with the hope that Congress will then pass authorization to compensate the Districts for what they're building or want to build. This is the procedure as it exists today. The TVA would never have been built with this approach! Much of what exists across the United States—the Grand Coulee Dam, the Columbia River system, you name it—wouldn't be built under these conditions. The Federal appropriations coming in are what make these projects possible. I think that's a useful point to make.

## Moving Toward Sanity

In terms of solutions, first of all, there is no dearth of hydrologists and specialists down here on water. There is the SSPEED Center—Storm Surge Prediction, Education, and Evacuation from Disasters—at Rice University. Texas A&M has a program. You may have heard of the “Ike Dike.” After Hurricane Ike in 2008, there was an outcry, and visits were made to the Nether-

lands and also specialists from the Netherlands came here. It resulted in the drawing up of what became known as “Ike Dike.” There's a website <http://www.tamug.edu/ikedike/>. This was done in conjunction with Texas A&M University, to create a spine of sea surge protection barriers, man-made and otherwise, and then combining that with gates across the entrance into Galveston Bay, and on up into the ship canal that leads into Texas City, and then into Houston. This is minimally a \$15 billion project.

That is one part of what rational people would consider a solution; it's part of what has been put in place in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, although as you may know, they have problems again there with breakdown of virtually every pumping station inside the bowl of New Orleans there—again, lack of foresight, to say the least. You have the Ike Dike, or something like it, but that's against storm surges; it's not a barrier against hurricanes.

Secondly, as you may already have thought of on reflection, Hurricane Harvey was a rain event. This is a hydrological event, more than a meteorological event in terms of just a hurricane and storm-surge. Thirty to fifty inches of rain falling in a matter of four or five days onto a flood-plain. That 1940 diagram shows some of what could have been done to move water. That South Canal would have moved water from the region of the Brazos River, which comes down the west side of the city, moved it on over and out into Galveston Bay.

The canal across the top, not so applicable to this immediate situation, would have brought water over to the San Jacinto. But, the San Jacinto is still overflowing—there are controlled releases—but the river is overflowing and drains into the ship canal and, so that canal is not so relevant to this immediate situation. That levy in the upper right-hand corner would have been a component. As spokesmen for the Army Corps of Engineers have said, if you widen the canals, you widen the capacity and the linkages among these bayous and the drainage systems and you can move a lot more water fast. And so, all are components of the required system.

Just to mention it, after decades of delay, the Luce Bayou Interbasin Transfer Project is moving forward. It will move water from the Trinity River, one of the half-dozen rivers running from north to south, east of the San Jacinto River system, over to Lake Houston, to increase the water supply for the city of Houston and all the surrounding bedroom communities and otherwise—surface water, because we don't want to draw





Courtesy of Chase Boogie

From [drone footage](#) of a flooded expressway in Houston, taken Aug. 27.

down the water here on the aquifers. That's a \$5-6 billion project on the north side.

Another project—I just read an update on it in a Fort Bend publication—they're finally getting around to constructing the Allens Creek Reservoir project, which will be the biggest project on the Brazos River. You have flooding on the Brazos River, right now all the way up to close to Austin, from Bastrop on down. It's flooding now. Levees are breaking and being repaired; mass evacuations have occurred; mass flooding. These are large suburbs to the south of Houston proper.

The Brazos is flooding. These rivers and bayous are not going to be receding for weeks in many cases; the refineries closed for weeks—you get the idea.

Coming back to the Luce Bayou and Allens Creek projects, in the case of Trinity and San Jacinto, they're beginning to do inter-basin linking of water, to move water not only one way, but vice versa: to move it where it is needed and to move it out of where it's not needed. India is already doing this.

Because there's not much in the way of mountains in between, we could move water west to the Ogallala [or other] Aquifer over toward San Antonio and that region there. The Ogallala Aquifer stretches way north out of Texas—but it's been drawn down for decades, and needs to be recharged.

Hal Cooper, of Cooper Consulting, whom many of you know, pointed to plans dating back to in the early '60s, when John Connally was Texas Governor, to

move water from the Mississippi system all the way to the Ogallala Aquifer. We can build a system of reservoirs, running east-west, connecting them via pipelines and canals, to move water to the Ogallala Aquifer, or other aquifers, when needed.

Texas has a general water shortage. Before Hurricane Harvey arrived, we had drought conditions here in the South-Southwest and the Southeast, so there's much need for surface water here, so as not to draw down existing aquifers. Imagine a network of these systems running east-west and moving water between these basins. That's part of the direction we can go.

On the [LaRouche PAC Webcast last night](#), Matt Ogden showed some of the photos of Tokyo's wonderful and massive underground system, the [Metropolitan Area Outer Underground Discharge Channel] that they have built. Tokyo is also essentially at sea level. We could do something like what Tokyo has done.

**Question:** Hi, it's Bruce from New Jersey. I have a background in construction. When I started working in the construction field in the '70s, what is now the Port of Elizabeth and Port of Newark, was swampland, which was built up by the dredging spoils that were brought onshore, built up the land area; and what was built there was huge shipping, transfer points, associated industries, all throughout that area. Looking at it now, you would never realize that from what was back in the '70s.

I think the major problem is not engineering or anything like that, it's the thinking of people within Congress. For example, Ted Cruz voted against the relief effort for Hurricane Sandy in New Jersey and New York. I have a lot of family in Florida, and congressmen there were voting against Sandy relief, and people were just astounded. There were letters to the editor in the papers, saying: "Are these people crazy? If they don't want to have the nation spend the money to help out people in New Jersey and New York—what happens when we get hit by a hurricane?" And really, that's what you're talking, in the case of Houston: There's no long-term thought on the question of whether it's infrastructure or whatever.

What was brought to my mind immediately was the vision of Kennedy dedicating a dam. I forget the exact name of the dam, but he was saying "this dam is here now, because people made the effort 20, 30 years ago, and that's what got us here today, and we've got to think about where we're going for the next 20 and 30 years." So you've really got to have the effort. There's more of a sense of the nation as a whole, versus this state's rights or "it's not my problem" kind of issue.

We have to redevelop that sense of the nation as a whole among people across the country, and particularly among legislators.

**Lantz:** As Helga Zepp-LaRouche has recently re-emphasized, why not build fifty new cities in the United States? And build them from 100, 200 feet underground going up, building in the kinds of systems needed for a population of a half-million to a million from the get-go. China's doing that.

It is a matter of looking from the future back to ourselves, and where we've gone awry. But let me also emphasize, this is a moment where we can move the country, not simply because of events here in Houston or the Gulf Coast, but because of events everywhere. The shocks are being delivered hard and fast, but there are also political shocks. We see it down here; you've got congressmen scrambling to fall into line. The *New York Times* had an article the other day on how suddenly the whole agenda going forth for the White House, as well as for Congress, is in flummox. The Republicans, including Ted Cruz, are now promoting massive Federal Funds for Hurricane Harvey relief, of course. A lot of these are Southern Republicans. But the point is, who's going to direct this to an effective solution? We've got some billionaires down here, including Michael Dell of

Dell Computer, who are already offering tens of millions of dollars toward Hurricane Harvey relief, and we've got football stars and Hollywood stars—but this is what Haiti got! You had Hollywood stars over there in Haiti. And it didn't amount to a hill-o'-beans as we used to say.

So I agree absolutely, but we should really be clear: We have a moment here in our history, and a capacity, a potential to unite with other leading nations, led by China, to unite with the Belt and Road, that didn't exist ever before. And so we've got to go with this. Our emergency statement for emergency action. Absolutely, as Helga emphasized, Trump should declare an economic emergency for the nation. That's what's required: Let's cut through the tape. If we can reconstitute the Oroville Dam in a matter of a few months, at the orders of a greenie like California's Gov. Jerry Brown, we can move mountains.

**Sare:** I'd like to add something to that, which is our plan of action and the headline on the paper *The Hamiltonian*, "Harvey Disaster Made by Wall Street." I don't know if the \$26 billion we've heard about would have covered all of the canals and the other projects that Brian showed, but it sounds like some aspect of that as he went through: this was \$15 billion, that was \$5 billion—\$26 billion dollars.

Now, remember 2008: Remember the blowout of the insurance agencies that were insuring the mortgage-backed securities and the so-called housing bubble, and the system was about to blow. And it's a financial system! If that had been allowed to collapse, it would not have killed people. I know we were told by then Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson, that they were going to have to impose martial law if the markets were allowed to crash—but the markets are simply a construct of human beings. The money itself has no intrinsic value. Now, to prop up something which was illusory, they came up with *\$700 billion dollars!* For nothing! For worse than nothing.

And then, I remember that Christmas, all of these crooks who should be in jail, who created this mess, were getting multimillion-dollar bonuses. And I think the most apt thing I read in some newspaper was from a barber in Connecticut who made the very apt analogy: He said, "You know, if I were cutting someone's hair and I accidentally chopped off a piece of their ear, I would not expect to get a tip! But the people who brought us this mess, got millions and millions of dol-

lars in bonuses; and they're probably all being awarded professorships at major universities so they can teach other people how to rip us off." *This worship of money is insane!* It is totally artificial; it is manmade.

There's a scientific principle from our nation's founders involved here. Benjamin Franklin wrote on the subject of paper currency; Alexander Hamilton emphatically had a profound—the best—scientific understanding of this, of anyone prior to Lyndon LaRouche: The purpose of money is as an *instrument* to allow the development of human creativity. And the source of wealth is actually not anything you can put your hands on. The things that we see, whether it's dams or high-speed rail or spaceships—these are like the footprints of another process, which is the development of the human mind! This is how the human species transforms itself, that it is literally the case that we should be a different species than the human species that had no electricity or running water four or five generations ago. You want to create a society which fosters human potential to do that—and that's the measure of wealth, not money.

Everyone here should be calling your congressman and your senator, saying, "cut the crap, we don't need a war with Russia. You've been insane, so far. We need this emergency program, and you should work with President Trump to get this done." And you should get the statement that's on the LaRouche PAC website under the headline "No More Houstons." It's in *The Hamiltonian* under "Harvey Disaster Made by Wall Street" Congress should be bombarded by American saying, "I got your stupid email: You're telling us to give money now to the Red Cross. That's fine, I'm sure they need it, but where were you, when we needed \$26 billion in flood control in Houston?" We just heard from Brian, that the Congress knew in 2009—eight years ago—that these levees were decrepit and dysfunctional. The Army Corps of Engineers told them so. We had *eight years*, and we did nothing?

But somehow we found \$700 billion in 24 hours to bail out a bunch of crap! I think Neil Barofsky, who served as the Special Inspector General in charge of overseeing TARP from December 2008 until March 2011, said the total bail-out was *\$23 trillion!* So we can find *\$23 trillion* so that the people who were snorting cocaine can keep their day trading jobs on Wall Street, but we cannot find a fraction of that, to actually address what's going on in the nation!

Everyone has to take this very personally. Don't be

intimidated, and don't take "No" for an answer: What happened in this country is completely unacceptable!

**Question:** It seems to me a paradigm unto itself that the scientists tell society what is needed and how to maintain it, and the bean counters, the management people, find a means and a way to jeopardize the systems that the people, the scientists have developed.

An example: My father was an electronic engineer for Bell Laboratories. He designed direct distance dialing (DDD) circuitry. In it, he had designed maintenance, which was almost automatic. At that time, we were still thinking economically in school, that "long term" was twenty-five years, and the "short term" was five years. Now the long term is maybe a year; and the short term is a few months.

It's the penny-wise, pound-foolish phenomenon: As soon as management has a say over what the scientists have developed over great research, they'll come up with something six bucks short. What can we do about that? This is endemic in this country. Why are we so backward? After Katrina they put in the sea gates, and some pumping systems—a little bit, not even everything that was needed! So you're talking about maybe \$9 billion compared to the \$130 billion loss in property and life (not that you could ever put money on a human life).

So it's the foolishness, the empty-mindedness of people saying, "well, according to my abacus, here, we can't afford this, but we'll put something else in."

**Sare:** I think that's very clear. I'll just say that Lyndon LaRouche has written paper upon paper about accountants, and why you would never have an accountant run a business. The accountant has a purpose, and LaRouche knew this because he did management consulting; he went into companies to find out what they were doing wrong, and why they were having trouble. One of the other things he said, is that whatever it is they tell you is going well, that's the first thing to check.

An accountant does have a purpose: to keep you out of jail. So there is something that is valid, but they should never, never be making policy direction decisions.

**Lantz:** I think we've covered the coastline so to speak, and more importantly we've covered what has to be done. Kesha Rogers sent in a message the other day: "Keep fighting." She wasn't speaking of rear-guard actions, she was speaking of driving for victory: It's within reach, we have the solutions. Let's get these ideas out there and recognize what's there to leverage, now.