

LaRouche Youth Movement Unleashed: ‘This Is *Our* Time’

by Susan Welsh

The LaRouche movement met in Reston, Virginia on Presidents’ Day weekend, preparing members to take leadership in a world exploding with revolutionary change. About 750 people—more than 200 of them youth—attended the semi-annual conference of the Schiller Institute and International Caucus of Labor Committees (ICLC), in the midst of the worst blizzard to hit the U.S. East Coast in 40 years.

As the meeting convened on Feb. 15, many millions of people were demonstrating around the world, against an Iraq war. The evening before, the United Nations Security Council session, hearing the reports of the UN inspectors in Iraq, had erupted in opposition to the Bush Administration’s war drive.

Six months ago, Lyndon LaRouche had stood alone among world policymakers, insisting that this war was *not* inevitable. Many agreed that a war would be foolish, even catastrophic—but impotence and cynicism resigned them to what they considered an unstoppable juggernaut. Thanks to LaRouche’s persistence and many flanking initiatives, others finally began to glean that war really could be stopped. The LaRouche Youth Movement played a vital role in this shift, circulating millions of leaflets and other literature issued by their candidate’s 2004 Presidential campaign committee, lobbying state capitols, and organizing on the campuses on five continents.

‘A Sense of Immortality’

The central focus of the conference was the youth movement: the spark that will make victory possible, for the ideas that LaRouche and his supporters have fought for, over more than three decades. Every effort was made (successfully) to raise the funds to make sure that every youth member in the United States could attend, as well as delegations from Germany, France, Peru, Mexico, Australia, the Philippines, and other locations.

In his keynote speech, published below, LaRouche laid out the strategic picture of a bankrupt world economy and a morally destroyed nation; he elaborated the qualities of leadership required in this period of danger and great opportunity, most



Young people attending the conference listen intently to an answer to a question posed to Lyndon LaRouche, in the dialogue following his keynote.

particularly the requirement to reject the tyranny of “popular opinion,” and to be governed instead on the basis of the Platonic principles of creative discovery.

“The most important thing,” LaRouche explained, “is to produce, among young people, when they are entering maturity, a sense—a true, deep sense—of immortality.” If the younger generation, the “no-future generation,” can grasp that sense, then they in turn can inspire their parents’ generation with a true sense of historic mission for humanity. We can then proceed to put the economy through bankruptcy reorganization, implement a New Bretton Woods, build great infrastructure projects such as the Eurasian Land-Bridge, the Super-TVA, and the exploration of space: a real future! “I think we’ll find,” he concluded, “the world is ready for us. It’s ready for us to play a leading role, once again.”

Helga Zepp-LaRouche’s keynote speech on Feb. 16, also published below, presented “The View From ‘Old Europe,’ ” using the works of the great poet and playwright Friedrich Schiller to show how a beaten-down population can be elevated to the plane of the sublime, through Classical art. As one young member of the audience exclaimed later, “Helga, I think that you are restoring the soul of the United States, in the same way that Schiller restored the soul of France by writing *The Virgin of Orleans*, after Voltaire had destroyed its soul by writing attacks on Jeanne d’Arc and Leibniz.”

The conference featured an evening of music, poetry, and drama, “A Celebration of the Beautiful and Sublime Life of Marianna Wertz,” a leader of the LaRouche movement who passed away last month; an afternoon of open

discussion with the LaRouches; and a panel presentation of “pedagogical exercises” by leaders of the youth movement, “Shattering Axioms, Fighting for Our Future!” All these presentations will be published in future issues of *EIR* and/or *New Federalist* newspaper. The two-day public meeting flowed into a business session of the ICLC on Feb. 17, and then a cadre school with youth participants, in which the LaRouches developed more fully the array of “big ideas” presented at the conference.

Descending on Capitol Hill

By the morning of Feb. 19, the nation’s capital had more or less dug itself out of two feet of snow—and Capitol Hill was hit by a new “avalanche”: A militant force of 125 members of the LaRouche Youth Movement arrived for an ear- and earth-shattering demonstration, with such chants as, “When you’ve run out of cash, and you’re digging in the trash, LaRouche’s Super-TVA will save your hungry ass.” They then divided up into ten squads and flooded the Congressional office buildings with organizing delegations, hitting the offices of 50-75 Congressmen, with campaign literature and discussions on the war, the economic crisis, immortality, and the nature of man. Organizers reported, “Having international youth really added an element that is generally missing, which is more of a world view on the crisis outside the United States, and most importantly, how Lyn’s leadership is resonating throughout the world.” This was also the first time that the East and West Coast youth contingents had intervened together in this way, as a unified body, and participants vowed, “This is just the beginning.”