

Now, More Than Ever: Impeach Dick Cheney

by Jeffrey Steinberg

"If Vice President Dick Cheney is not impeached by the U.S. Congress or otherwise forced from office during the immediate weeks ahead, the United States will probably not survive the onrushing global financial explosion that is coming before the end of the year, and before the November 2006 midterm elections."

This is the latest assessment from Democratic Party statesman and leading political economist Lyndon LaRouche. LaRouche's forecast of a global financial crisis before the end of the third quarter of 2006 has been seconded by many leading American and European economists, who see the combination of commodity hyperinflation, out-of-control hedge fund speculation, unsustainable levels of government deficits—particularly in the United States—and the collapse of physical production in the economies of North America and Europe, as nearing a break point. A systemic crisis is going to erupt before the end of the year—barring the kind of major policy change that can only come from the United States, and only after a radical, top-down shakeup in the U.S. Executive Branch.

In a series of speeches, interviews, and private discussions since the beginning of June, LaRouche has dramatically upped the ante, by calling on the U.S. House of Representatives to launch impeachment proceedings against Cheney, as a prelude to a complete change at the White House. "There are," LaRouche told one prominent Washingtonian in a June 14 discussion, "a number of members of the House of Representatives who agree with me that Vice President Cheney has to be impeached. There is as much anguish over the White House's misguided policies among House and Senate Republicans, as there is among Democrats. The bipartisan combination is there to do the job. Once articles of impeachment have been drawn up and voted by the House of Representatives, and passed to the U.S. Senate, Cheney will go."

"This seemingly inconceivable change in the institution of the U.S. Presidency," LaRouche continued, "will occur. It will be crisis-driven. The detonator is the now-unavoidable collapse of the global financial system."

LaRouche harkened back to the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on the U.S. naval installation at Pearl Harbor. LaRouche was 19 years old at the time of the attack, and was attending a Sunday business meeting in New York City, when the announcement came about the Japanese bombing. "Instantaneously, everything changed. The psychology of the American people changed, in an instant. Actions that seemed impossible just moments before, now were obvious. The nation mobilized for war, and the underlying republican culture of the United States—the unique outgrowth of our Constitution—was re-kindled." LaRouche asserted that the onrushing global financial crisis, when it hits, will have precisely this kind of "Pearl Harbor effect."

The Bill of Indictment

While White House political strategist Karl Rove was breathing a sigh of relief, following the June 12 announcement by his attorney, that Special Counsel Patrick Fitzgerald would likely not seek his indictment in the Valerie Plame Wilson leak probe, there was no joy at the Office of the Vice President. The decision not to indict Rove places the entire focus of Fitzgerald's efforts on the Vice President—personally. In a series of legal filings in *U.S.A. v. Lewis Libby* during May of this year, Special Counsel Fitzgerald spelled out his case for why Libby, who was Cheney's chief of staff, lied before a Federal grand jury and otherwise obstructed justice: to hide the fact that his boss, Dick Cheney, had gone berserk against former Ambassador Joseph Wilson, and had ordered a campaign of leaks and slanders, to discredit the former diplomat, who had presented damning evidence that the Admin-



White House Photo/David Bohrer

If voters are ready to clean house, Lyndon LaRouche said in early June, "it can spell doom for the likes of Cheney and Rumsfeld." They are shown here at a public event on June 13, where they lied, once again, about the Iraq war.

istration had lied to get the United States to invade Iraq.

In the original November 2005 Libby indictment, and in subsequent filings in Federal court, Fitzgerald identified Cheney as the person who told Libby that Ambassador Wilson's wife, Valerie Plame Wilson, was employed in the Counterproliferation Division of the Central Intelligence Agency's Operations Directorate. On July 14, 2003, eight days after Ambassador Wilson published a *New York Times* op-ed, exposing the Administration's lies about Iraq's purported efforts to obtain uranium for a nuclear bomb from Africa, syndicated columnist Robert Novak leaked Valerie Plame Wilson's identity. On May 12, 2006, Fitzgerald submitted, as evidence in the Libby case, a copy of Joseph Wilson's published commentary, with margin notes in Cheney's handwriting.

"The issue of motive is key to any criminal prosecution," LaRouche observed, "and Fitzgerald has Cheney nailed dead to rights. Libby lied to conceal the fact that Dick Cheney, in all likelihood, ordered the 'Get Joe Wilson, Get Valerie Plame Wilson' campaign. Congress has a long, and growing list of crimes of Cheney to act on. And many of them fit the category of impeachable offenses."

One new nail was hammered into the Cheney political coffin on June 15, when the conservative organization Judicial Watch received 100 pages of Army Corps of Engineers documents under a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) law suit, which revealed that Corp officials may have lied, when they claimed that Vice President Cheney had nothing to do with a 2003 no-bid contract that the Corps gave to Kellogg Brown and Root (KBR), a subsidiary of Cheney's old company, Halliburton. While Cheney personally denied, repeatedly, that he had anything to do with the multibillion-dollar no-bid contract, the new documents show that there were multiple contacts with the Office of the Vice President, and that this information had been hidden, by concealing certain embarrassing

documents that should have been earlier released to Judicial Watch under their FOIA filing.

An April 22, 2003 e-mail by Corps official Carol Sanders described a "60 Minutes" TV appearance by Robert Anderson, Chief Counsel, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), in which he denied that there was anything improper about the KBR contract. Sanders herself was quoted on "60 Minutes," saying "There was no contact whatsoever" with the VP's office. Yet, another e-mail, dated March 3, 2003, sent by another USACE official (name redacted), stated, "We anticipate no issue [with the KBR deal] since the action has been coordinated w VP's office."

Since taking office as Vice President in January 2001, Dick Cheney has continued to receive hundreds of thousands of dollars in annual deferred payments from Halliburton. In addition, as the result of more than \$20 billion in Pentagon contracts in Iraq and Afghanistan, Halliburton stock options, held by Cheney from Halliburton, have soared in value, raising further appearances of conflict of interest, in addition to the fact that Cheney has persistently lied about his continuing financial ties to Halliburton. The picture just keeps getting nastier and nastier.

Backlash in Virginia

In his June discussions, LaRouche emphasized that a bipartisan majority must gel in the Congress, to prepare the nation for the grave financial and political shock lying just ahead. And this must lead, long before the November elections, to Cheney's ouster.

One clear indication that the American people are ready for just such dramatic changes surfaced in the June 13th Democratic primary elections in Virginia, where former Ronald Reagan Navy Secretary James Webb won the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate, defeating Harris Miller, a state Democratic Party operative and multi-millionaire IT lobbyist. In November, Webb will run against incumbent Republican Senator George Allen.

Webb personifies what were formerly known as the "Reagan Democrats," conservative Democrats who abandoned the party and voted for Ronald Reagan over Jimmy Carter in the 1980 Presidential elections. This crucial swing-voter grouping is now in a state of revolt against the Bush-Cheney White House antics, including the Iraq War disaster. Webb quit the GOP in September 2002, in protest over what he saw as Dick Cheney's drive to invade Iraq. A decorated Vietnam War Marine veteran, Webb won the backing of leading Democratic Senators, including John Kerry (Mass.), who came into Virginia to campaign for Webb in the closing weeks of the primary campaign.

"This is a significant development," LaRouche said of the Webb victory. "It heralds a dramatic shift in progress. Voters are ready to clean house. It can spell doom for the likes of Cheney and Rumsfeld."

And none too soon.