

Reality Hits!

Immediately after Aug. 15, 1971, Lyndon LaRouche made perhaps his most memorable long-range forecast: If measures are not taken to reverse the post-industrial economics of looting which the decoupling of the dollar from the gold-reserve system represents, the world will be headed toward fascism. As subsequent developments have borne out, LaRouche was absolutely right.

As we head for the 36th anniversary of that catastrophic Aug. 15 decision to end the Bretton Woods system, a stock-taking is in order. The financial system of floating exchange rates and usury which George Shultz put into effect under the Nixon Administration is still nominally in effect—but it is imploding. Trillions of dollars of worthless debts have been generated, but the apparatus which permitted them to appear to be paid is breaking down. Indeed, the system of global financial flows is in the process of freezing up, threatening to take the whole world banking system with it.

At the same time, the consequences of the looting of the physical economy of the planet, which has been a necessary consequence of the speculative binge, has reached the breaking point. Examples abound, particularly in the developing sector, but there is perhaps no more dramatic incident to prove the point than the collapse of the Interstate 35W bridge at Minneapolis, Minnesota on Aug. 1.

Like the global financial meltdown that is under way, the collapse of the bridge was a catastrophe waiting to happen. This bridge, like more than 120,000 others around the United States, has been rated “structurally deficient,” but was deliberately left without repair. Such an immoral policy is replicated nationally in many other sectors of physical infrastructure as well—just look at the situation in New Orleans, two years after Hurricane Katrina!

Nor is it surprising that President Bush has reacted to the Minneapolis disaster in the same way that he did to Katrina, mouthing sympathy, but acting to cut back the very resources that are required to solve the problem.

While the toleration of the destruction of the Bret-

ton Woods system is the long-term cause of these disasters, there are two immediate causes:

- First, there’s Dick Cheney. It was Cheney’s pressure for extending and broadening the Iraq War, which has directed attention away from maintaining and improving our infrastructure—not to mention carrying out the necessary bankruptcy reorganization of the world financial system. To solve this problem, Cheney must go!

- Second, there’s the failure of the Democratic leadership in the Congress. Both in the Fall of 2002, and the Spring of 2005, LaRouche and his political campaign made a major drive for a crash infrastructure-building campaign, in which the replacement and repair of the nation’s bridges was one major facet. If Congress had saved the auto industry, instead of listening to Rohatyn, now-unemployed auto workers could have been put to work on our crumbling infrastructure, and this disaster could have been prevented.

The lesson to be drawn is clear. If the Democrats and sane Republicans fail to act to remove Cheney, and to push through the needed financial and economic reforms, a lot of people are going to die. *Cowardice kills people.*

But the overall context must be kept in mind. The world system as a whole is in its death throes, and no matter how many kinds of fictitious assets are concocted to try to preserve it, the system is going to collapse. The collapse can be delayed, but it cannot be prevented, except by changing the world monetary system.

Which brings us to the *good news*. Unlike in 1971, there is a worldwide constituency around a concrete plan to not only reconstitute the monetary system on a sound basis, but also to launch a 50-year economic development program. This program, put together by Lyndon LaRouche, in consultation with collaborators all around the world, could go into effect tomorrow, if the political will to oust the major obstacle, Dick Cheney, were mustered.

The first step is to face the reality of the breakdown crisis, and the fact that LaRouche was right. The next steps will be easy indeed.