

Editorial

Bush: Worse Collapse, Worse Provocations

The Bush Administration's announcement of mass FBI expulsion of Russian diplomats from the United States—because of the FBI's own fundamental intelligence failures highlighted by the Hanssen case—is another, powerful sign of a White House unhinged by the worsening economic crisis.

The Bush team's "Southern Strategy" political axioms make them incapable of solving, or even comprehending, the global economic collapse which is now, finally, coming home to hit the United States with full force. To distract attention from the economy's worsening plunge, and to appear to be wielding political power, "Dubya" and his managers and backers are lashing out with worse and worse provocations, domestically and internationally.

Lyndon LaRouche warned of "insanity in high places," in his webcast of March 21 on "The First 60 Days" of Bush. LaRouche has warned since November that the *direction* of this economic crisis-driven insanity, in such a "Southern Strategy" Presidency as that of Bush, would be toward a police state, and rapidly; he tagged Dubya with the name "Busholini." That direction is becoming more and more manifest.

The installation of religious fundamentalist, extremist John Ashcroft, as U.S. Attorney General, was the first clear sign of that police-state potential; *EIR* warned, during the mobilization to stop Ashcroft's nomination, that "emergency police powers" could be invoked against California, to prevent re-regulation, the only possible solution to the national energy crisis. Now, in March 20 hearings in the House of Representatives, following administration officials' fierce defense of the energy cartels' price-gouging, Bush backer John Barton (R-Tex.) called for Ashcroft's Justice Department to carry out police enforcement of lower energy consumption against consumers and businesses in California and other states.

This call came on top of a series of provocative anti-labor moves by Bush and the Congressional Republican leadership, including invocation of "emergency pow-

ers" to prevent strikes; and the aggressive attempt to rapidly force through Congressional approval of the nominations of 50 new Federal judges selected on clear, right-wing ideological grounds.

The so-called "Hanssen" expulsion of Russian diplomats is part of the Bush Administration's clear predilection for rapid multiple confrontations with Russia, China, Iran, and Iraq; it is looking for ways to flex the crumbling might of the United States against "adversaries," and it is itching for war in the Middle East. The "Hanssen" expulsions also express the domestic police-state impulse: They share only a pretense with the Hanssen case itself—of which, still, very little of any truth has been revealed—but are a powerful signal of increased powers and "open season" for FBI Director Louis Freeh and his agency.

What is needed to stop this, is demonstrated in the steadily escalating battle over the closing of Washington's D.C. General Hospital—a rapidly growing movement of Americans following the policy-guidance of Lyndon LaRouche, and fighting for the principle of the General Welfare. In this fight, and in the national battles for energy re-regulation which LaRouche first demanded, Democratic leaders are beginning to take LaRouche's direction, and citizen-activists are learning to take responsibility for their government, themselves. As one of the leaders of the "Save D.C. General" mobilization expressed it during LaRouche's webcast, public health policy in the city—in other words, what the U.S. Constitution refers to as the General Welfare—"has become the subject of dinner-table conversation" among the city's residents. Only Democratic Party leadership nationally can knock Bush off the police-state rails by organizing *this movement*, on LaRouche's lines. As for the leaders of nations such as Russia, essential allies in this crisis, yet under direct attack by the panicked Bush team, their diplomatic protests will not avail. They, too, have to back LaRouche in his "New Bretton Woods" initiative, if the U.S. crash is not to take all down to ruin.