

## Editorial

### *Cheney's Lies of State*

On Sept. 20, 2002, in the wake of the Bush Administration's issuance of its pre-emptive war policy as the "National Security Strategy of the United States," Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche issued a statement about Vice-President Dick Cheney, which concluded as follows: "In summary, Vice President Dick Cheney's recurring wet dreams of a U.S. worldwide Roman Empire are, in and of themselves, the world's greatest single threat to the continuation of civilization in any part of this planet today. These facts demand that Cheney's prompt resignation be sought, and accepted."

Had this step been taken at that time, one year ago, how many lives would have been saved! How much ill will against the United States would have been prevented!

Now, one year later, we finally begin to see a gathering storm against the Vice-President, in recognition of the pivotal role he played in directing the actions of President Bush—by disseminating one lie after another—to induce an unjust, illegal war. On top of that, Cheney's personal venality as a war profiteer, through his relationship with Halliburton Corp., is becoming a national scandal.

- It is an open secret that Congressmen and Senators are in the process of carefully preparing hearings to expose the outright, and impeachable lies which the Vice-President told the President and the nation, about alleged Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

- The international attention to Cheney's role is also increasing, as reflected in the introduction of a parliamentary question into the Italian Senate this week, by a group of nine Senators, led by Sen. Oscar Peterlini. The question, directed to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defense, calls for a clarification on issues raised about manipulation of intelligence justifying the Iraq war, and seeks the distancing of the Italian government from that U.S. policy.

It reads in part: "The American press mainly, but also representatives of American and other countries' institutions, are raising questions on the primary role

played by U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney, in using dubious information eventually leading to justifying the war against Iraq." The text then mentions: Joseph Wilson's mission, and his statements that Cheney received his reports; Senator Byrd's June 24 intervention in the Senate; Henry Waxman's letters to government and Congress on Cheney and the Wilson mission; and Robin Cook's *Guardian* interview.

- At the same time, a ruckus is being raised in the United States Senate about Cheney's outright lies on his financial relationship with Halliburton, the chief profiteer among U.S. corporations in Iraq. In his Sept. 14 appearance on national television, the Vice-President claimed he had "severed" all his ties, and any and all "financial interest," in Halliburton, of which he was previously CEO. Yet, a Congressional Research Service report, released by New Jersey Democratic Senator Frank Lautenberg on Sept. 25, confirms that the deferred salary and stock options which Cheney has reported receiving from Halliburton over the past three years, constitute a "financial interest" in the company.

If one judges by the demeanor of the Vice President on that "Meet the Press" show on Sept. 14, he is not in the least bothered by any exposures. He feels confident not only in the protection of the banking interests for which he is a spokesman, but in the fact that the President's inner circle continues to consider Cheney an asset in George W. Bush's re-election drive.

Here, Karl Rove and others advising the President are miscalculating badly. Cheney, who played a crucial role in the energy piracy against California as well as in the Iraq strategic debacle, has the ability to bring down the President, if he continues to purvey his Satanic, neo-conservative policies from high and controlling office.

It is not just the Bush Presidency that is at stake here. As long as Cheney is calling the shots on this Administration's policies, even if he is embattled, he and his fellow chicken-hawks represent a clear and present danger of new—including nuclear—wars, and global devastation. As LaRouche said a year ago: To save civilization, Cheney must go.