

## Editorial

### *Senator Kennedy Signals a Shift*

The hard-hitting, thorough indictment of the Bush Administration's conduct of the war in Iraq, given by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) in the Senate on Oct. 16, represents a shift toward the political demise of Dick Cheney and his neo-cons, if not of President Bush himself. This speech will be a point of reference for the developments of the next weeks, which are likely to come to a head in November.

Looked at in historical perspective, Kennedy's speech could be compared to the decisive intervention by Edward R. Murrow in 1953, which started the landslide against the witch-hunter Sen. Joe McCarthy. A parallel process, Watergate-style, is also under way, around the questions of the criminal leaks of the name of undercover CIA operative Valerie Plame. While it is not knowable which will be successful, it is clear that LaRouche and his publication have played a major role in catalyzing the growing fight.

Senator Kennedy began his speech by characterizing the invasion of Iraq as "an unnecessary war, based on unreliable and inaccurate intelligence," and described it as "mindless, needless, senseless, and reckless." "Before the war, week after week after week, we were told lie after lie after lie," Kennedy charged.

He then turned to attacking the idea that the United States should become a colonial power. He said:

"Surely, in this day and age, at the beginning of the 21st Century, we do not have to re-learn the lesson that every colonial power in history has learned. We do not want to be, we cannot afford to be, either in terms of character or in terms of cost, an occupier of other lands. We must not become the next failed empire in the world.

"The Administration seeks to write a new history that defies the lessons of history. The most basic of those lessons is that we cannot rely primarily on military means as a solution to politically inspired violence. In those circumstances, the tide of history rises squarely against military occupation. The British learned that lesson in Northern Ireland. The French learned it in Algeria. The Russians learned it in Afghanistan and are re-learning it every day in Chechnya.

America learned it in Vietnam, and we must not re-learn it in Iraq. . . ."

But the virtual knock-out punch came when Senator Kennedy quoted President Bush's father, President George H.W. Bush, and his National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft, from their joint memoir on the 1991 Gulf War. This quotation reflects the fact that, behind the scenes, leading representatives of the elder Bush's Administration are working with traditionalists like Senator Kennedy in trying to stem the disastrous course which the Cheney-controlled Administration is taking. The Senator said:

"In their joint memoir, *A World Transformed*, President George H.W. Bush and his National Security Advisor, Brent Scowcroft, reflected on their own experiences with Iraq and the Gulf War in 1991. They had been criticized in some quarters for halting that war after their dramatic victory in Kuwait, instead of going on to Baghdad to depose Saddam Hussein.

"Here is what they wrote: 'Trying to eliminate Saddam, extending the ground war into an occupation of Iraq, would have violated our guideline about not changing objectives in midstream, engaging in 'mission creep,' and would have incurred incalculable human and political costs. Apprehending him was probably impossible. . . . We would have been forced to occupy Baghdad and, in effect, rule Iraq. The coalition would instantly have collapsed, the Arabs deserting it in anger and other allies pulling out as well. Under those circumstances, there was no viable 'exit strategy' we could see. . . . Had we gone the invasion route, the United States could conceivably still be an occupying power in a bitterly hostile land. It would have been a dramatically different—and perhaps barren—outcome.' "

A reiteration of that evaluation cannot fail to strike any thinking person, as it did Senator Kennedy, as describing precisely the situation into which the Cheney policy has led the United States. It now remains to remove the chief enforcer of that policy, the Vice President, before he and his cohorts expand it to accomplish broader destruction. In this aim, Senator Kennedy is playing a crucial role.