

opened up (they have since nearly doubled again). Lautenberg charged then that Halliburton's contract padding "would make [Enron chairman] Ken Lay proud."

'Drives Me Nuts'

Cheney is not simply engaged in profiteering off of war, however. He has been promoting a policy of "perpetual imperial war" for the United States after the collapse of the Soviet Union, since about the same time he began his financial relationship with Halliburton in 1991. Cheney's faction of "chicken-hawks," many of whom have similar conflict-of-interest problems, pushed the hardest for war against Iraq—unsuccessfully before Sept. 11, 2001, and successfully since then.

However, Cheney is beginning to feel the heat. In an interview with right-wing commentator Armstrong Williams, reported in the *Washington Post* on Dec. 17, Cheney lashed out at "cheap-shot journalism" about himself and the Bush Administration, complaining that "it drives me nuts. . . . People don't check the facts." The Vice President was particularly incensed about press coverage of Halliburton, complaining that journalists have not tried to find out "the real facts" when writing about his favorite company. "There are an awful lot of people in the press who don't understand the business community. I think our political opponents have spent a lot of time hammering away on trying to find some allegation that Halliburton got favoritism on contracts, or trying to make some kind of connection they've never been able to make. There's no evidence to support anything like that, but if you repeat it often enough, it becomes sort of an article of faith."

Washington sources have told *EIR* that Cheney has become obsessed with Lyndon LaRouche's campaign against him, and that he blames LaRouche for the attacks on his war and profiteering policies, which have been picked up repeatedly in elements of the mass circulation media, most notably in a series of articles by investigative journalist Seymour Hersh in the *New Yorker*.

LaRouche's commented on Cheney's outburst: "What about that stinking dead meat that Cheney and Halliburton are sitting on top of? This stinking dead meat that he's trying to feed to U.S. soldiers? While Bush is parading around with an imaginary turkey, they're feeding rotten meat to the troops."

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3:00-4:00 p.m. Eastern Time
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LaRouche Ballot Drive Is On Target

by Marla Minnicino

Already qualified for the primary ballot in one-third of his campaign's 36 target states, Democratic Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche is now considered one of the "major" Democratic candidates, though the Democratic Party would still prefer not to admit this ironic truth.

On Dec. 17, when LaRouche was certified for the Feb. 10 Virginia primary ballot by the state Democratic Party, wire services reported: "Dems certify nine candidates for February primary." In fact, the Democratic Party had no choice but to certify LaRouche along with Lieberman, Kerry, Edwards, Kucinich, Gephardt, Clark, Dean, and Sharpton



"D.C. stands for Dump Cheney!" The LaRouche Youth Movement has been everywhere, from the city buses, to the Congress, to the neighborhoods, mobilizing for a primary victory for LaRouche in the nation's capital—a strong shove to get Cheney's neo-cons out of office.

