



LaRouche in Louisville: “Bush doesn’t give a dam,” he charged on the eve of the Louisville Aug. 9 closing of Ohio River traffic. The aging and accident-prone condition of U.S. waterway installations is a direct result of decades of Federal government neglect of infrastructure, pushed to the extreme in the last three years of the Cheney/Bush Administration.

LaRouche was in Louisville in May, when the contract to repair the McAlpine Locks and Dam was left unfunded; labor leaders questioned him on the matter. He called for full funding of water management projects both to meet water, navigation, and environmental needs, and to produce electrical power, of which the nation is running short under deregulation. LaRouche also proposed mass production of small, next-generation nuclear plants for power and desalination.

Energy Task Force. The Nature Conservancy oligarchs and the American Rivers Alliance lobby as “dambusters”—the name of American Rivers director Andrew Fahlund’s favorite movie. On Nov. 30, 2003, the Nature Conservancy issued an anti-infrastructure report on the Upper Mississippi (partly funded by the EPA), which called for restoring 47 sites to their “natural” (i.e., regularly flooded) state. The Upper Mississippi flooded disastrously in 1991 because it *lacked* the flood-control infrastructure built by the Corps on the Lower Mississippi.

The American Rivers outfit put out a July 21 release promoting its “solution” to no infrastructure funding: “More than 145 dams have been removed [in the United States] since 1999. . . . This promising trend is the result of two converging developments—a growing appreciation of the ecological benefits . . . and the aging of much of the nation’s dam infrastructure.”

LaRouche: Build Up the Army Corps

LaRouche’s views on the urgency of full funding for the Corps were communicated by *EIR* to the Corps’ Briefing Ses-

sions, held in June in the Mississippi Valley and Washington, D.C., to take public comment on its proposed “Preferred Integrated Plan” for improvements in the Upper Mississippi. This outlines a program to replace 7 of the 37 locks and dams, and thence proceeding to the rest over the next 50 years. *EIR* testimony to the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure—which held a June 24 hearing on the Upper Mississippi proposals—presented LaRouche’s proposal “to unleash the Army Corps for its original mission, to build internal improvements—and to assist nations internationally in the same task.”

The testimony reported LaRouche’s stress on the special character of the Army Corps and its work; namely, its potential role in *training youth* for skilled employment. On an international webcast Oct. 22, 2003, LaRouche discussed his perspective (in answer to a question related to restoring the draft): “Despite our healthy abhorrence of war, national military service is an integral part of citizenship in a functionally sound republic. The urgent need for building up the Army Corps of Engi-

neers at this time is a relevant example. We have a social problem of first magnitude of importance among the generations of young Americans who have little or no qualification for the kind of productive employment in which they could expect to support a normal family household. In Franklin Roosevelt’s time, we attacked this kind of problem with the quasi-militarized Civilian Conservation Corps. . . . Our experience with World War II war-time selective service, when combined with the experience of the CCC’s, shows us the road to transforming presently marginally employable young Americans into a quality of employable labor force needed for a successful national economy recovery effort overall. Since more than half of the economic recovery effort needed today will be in basic economic infrastructure at the Federal, state, and county/municipal level, the combined role of an Army Corps of Engineers with auxiliaries resembling the CCCs, is an obvious leading element of the national economic-recovery process.”

At present, the LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) is on the scene in Louisville and other key Midwestern sites, organizing around LaRouche’s *Real Democratic Party Plat-*