

Editorial

A Shot Across the Bow

The challenge delivered by the Congress to the certification of President Bush's re-election, during the joint session of Congress on Jan. 6, should go down in history as the beginning of the end of the Bush Administration. Despite the fact that the totally questionable Ohio vote, and the election as a whole, were ultimately certified, the open defiance of an arrogant administration, which carried out a de facto coup against the Constitution, has put the Bush-Cheney team under a cloud, and begun to shred their claim to legitimacy. And they know it.

Lyndon LaRouche made the crucial point back on Nov. 9, when he first raised the issue of the *vote suppression* which the Republicans had used to secure their electoral victory. What's important, he said, is to put a spotlight on the criminal actions, and tell the truth. Perhaps such a course would result in an effective block to the election certification; but even if it did not, the raising of the issue would create the conditions for mobilizing the Democratic Party, and sane Republicans, to take their country back.

No one should doubt that Bush has been hurt by the election challenge, and hurt badly. Enormous pressure was put on Democrats not to act, especially on Senators, pressure which failed. You could tell by the more-enraged-than-ever scowl on Dick Cheney's face that he was not amused. In truth, he clearly expects more to come. Undoubtedly, Cheney is also aware that the real leadership of the opposition he faced comes from an antagonist who will not rest until victory is won, Lyndon LaRouche.

If the Democratic Party understands its mission—that of turning George W. Bush into a lame duck as rapidly as possible, and reasserting an FDR-style national policy—the fight over certification will be just the start of a total onslaught on the Bush Administration, and its fascist plans. The vulnerable flanks on which Bush can be hit are huge.

One, of course, is the Gonzales nomination to become Attorney General, one of the most brazen acts of defiance of morality and law that this Administration,

or any other, has ever taken. While the popular wisdom remains that Gonzales will be confirmed, no matter what, this is *not* inevitable. Consider, for example, the fact that one of the sharpest attacks on Gonzales's condoning of torture came from *Republican* Sen. Lindsey Graham, an Air Force Reserve Judge Advocate General who braved massive pressure from the Republican Party in order to challenge the Administration's nominee. Bush already looks bad for having nominated Gonzales, but a real fight to *win* could hurt him even more.

Most important, however, is the President's drive to implement the Chilean model of Social Security privatization. President Bush has made this the touchstone of his Administration, despite the fact that he is opposed by significant sections of his own party, and the fact that his plan is a blatant embrace of *fascist* policies that will devastate the retiree population of the United States. LaRouche has identified Bush's Social Security program as his Achilles' heel, the vulnerability which can turn him into a politically dead duck.

It is absolutely crucial that the Democratic Party move immediately from the concentration on the Bush Administration's voter suppression, to smashing the President's Social Security fraud. The key, as with the vote fight, is to *tell the truth*: What Bush is proposing is the Pinochet model of Social Security reform, and thus a foot-in-the-door for imposing fascism in the United States. If that message gets through to the American people, they are not about to accept it. Even the confused people who voted for Bush, did not vote for him to take their Social Security away!

Thus, the short, but spirited fight over the certification of the election is appropriately seen as a shot across the bow, the first skirmish in the war which sane Americans are prepared to wage against the fascist insanities of the President, and for a real economic recovery. We who are defending the U.S. Constitution, have wounded our enemy morally, and we must follow up with new assaults. New victories are achievable, and soon, if we follow the leadership of Lyndon LaRouche.