

Editorial

It's Cheney, or the Constitution

Events in Congress this week further underscored what has been asserted, increasingly emphatically, by *EIR* and Lyndon LaRouche himself over the past nearly four years: as long as Vice-President Dick Cheney is in office, the U.S. Constitution is on its way to becoming a dead letter. And if the U.S. Constitution is destroyed, the same fate awaits our nation itself. We've said it before, but it must be said again: For the United States to survive as a thriving, constitutional republic, Dick Cheney has to be removed from office.

Dick Cheney, himself simply a tool of the Synarchist banking consortium which also controls "Democrats" such as Felix Rohatyn, has displayed two obvious intentions since he gained office. The first has been to project the power of the United States globally as an *empire*. As the report he commissioned as Secretary of Defense back in the early 1990s insisted, a Cheney-led United States is determined to brook no challenge, militarily or economically, and is determined to bully the world into submission.

Cheney's second intention, which is coherent with the first, is to impose a dictatorship within the United States, ripping up the separation of powers, and other safeguards of the U.S. Constitution—not to mention, the substantial commitment of that document to the general welfare of our nation, and our posterity.

The symbol for this drive for dictatorship is the "unitary executive" theory, by which the Presidency is allegedly empowered to take whatever actions it wants, regardless of any constraints or contrary decisions by the Legislative and Judiciary branches. President Bush, under Cheney's influence, has implemented this doctrine consistently, by flagrantly declaring his intention to ignore laws passed by the Congress. If a law is passed that he doesn't like—and particularly one that Cheney doesn't like, like a ban on torture—President Bush simply issues a "signing statement" which nullifies its content.

The LaRouche movement ripped the respectable facade off this Presidential practice back in January, during the fight around the confirmation of Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court, when we nailed this theory of executive power as being *Hitlerian*, as that practice was defined by

Hitler's Crown Jurist Carl Schmitt. It was most unfortunate that those in the Senate, Republicans as well as Democrats, who knew this to be true, decided to pull their punches, and let the Alito nomination go through.

In recent weeks, the uproar about the President's, and the Vice-President's, arrogant assertion of unconstitutional power has gotten louder. No less a leading figure than former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor is on tour giving speeches about the threat of dictatorship, through the violation of the independence of the Judiciary. Democrats in Congress, and leaders of the legal profession, are issuing blasts at the White House over the fact that the President is violating the intent of Congress, through his signing statements, or simply the ignoring of enacted laws.

And now, we have, as documented in our National section, Senator Arlen Specter, Republican Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, who has issued a sharp challenge to the Vice-President's attempt to ride roughshod over his committee's Constitutional powers of oversight over the Administration's surveillance program. Specter is clearly on the mark when he says, "We press this issue in the context of repeated stances by the Administration on expansion of Article II power, frequently at the expense of Congress's Article I authority."

What we are talking about is *not* a question of abstract Constitutional law. The Vice-President, and his puppet the President, are aggressively committed to launching wars, suppressing dissent, torturing prisoners, and pushing through economic looting policies, even if they cannot get the agreement of the Congress or the Courts. This is what could be called a "dictatorship in process."

Right now, this process can still be stopped, by the mobilization of American citizens who still have the power to elect, or un-elect, their Congress, and to force their Congress to take up their Constitutional duties, including impeachment. But time is running short, and, at any moment, the Vice-President and his Synarchist circles could provoke a new crisis—war or terror—that would provide the pretext for even more rapid dictatorial repression. Defend our Constitution now—while we still have a chance!