Over the course of the Presidents' Day weekend, Feb. 19-21, approximately 700 political activists from around the United States, joined by a number of international guests, heard the challenge presented by Lyndon LaRouche, and leaders of his political-philosophical movement: Americans must stop being fools now, or face total disaster.

In his keynote address, LaRouche said the problems we face in the economy, and strategically, derive from the fact that Americans are acting like fools, and that, therefore, we must get them to change on a fundamental level. “If you’re going to do what we have to do, you’re going to have to make the fundamental issue of politics, once again, the definition and knowledge of the difference between man and an animal.”

LaRouche reviewed the history of the United States, with special emphasis upon how Franklin Delano Roosevelt was able to cut through what had been the immoral folly of Americans of the 1920’s Flapper era, and mobilize the Forgotten Men and Women of that time behind his program.

LaRouche concentrated on his famous Triple Curve, which demonstrates the way in financial aggregates are growing at the expense of the physical economy. Tolerance for this process, he emphasized, is the result of the fact that the population has turned its back on sanity, and is living virtually like the Roman proletariat, wallowing in degenerate “entertainment.” People are dissociated from reality. It will take the equivalent of “a big, wet fish slapped in their face”—the collapse of the financial system—to get people to face reality, said LaRouche.

What must be reasserted, is man’s unique ability to exercise cognition, and each individual must locate his or her identity in this cognitive ability, the ability which permits us to change the universe for the better. By abandoning pleasure-seeking, and returning to a culture based on cognition, LaRouche concluded, we can not only lead mankind away from its current course to extinction, but perhaps end the recurring cycles of threatened doom, and resurrection, which have characterized the history of man.

Threat to the Children

“America’s Children Are in Mortal Danger” was the title of Schiller Institute founder Helga Zepp LaRouche’s report. She began with a strategic overview of the impulse leading toward war confrontation between the West and Russia and China. Utilizing Caspar Weinberger’s recent scenario book on the coming wars,
Italian Senators Initiate Drive For New Bretton Woods

On Jan. 12, eleven Italian Senators introduced a motion which asks the government of Italy “[t]o take the initiative of proposing to convene a new international conference at the level of Heads of State and Government, such as the one that took place in Bretton Woods in 1944, for the purpose of establishing a new international monetary system, and of taking those measures which are necessary to eliminate the speculative bubble, and of initiating programs for the recovery of the real economy.”

All the initiating Senators are from the opposition Alleanza Nazionale (AN) party led by Gianfranco Fini; this party, together with Forza Italia (FI) of the industrial magnate Silvio Berlusconi, forms the political and electoral coalition called the “Polo.”

The first signer of the motion is Sen. Riccardo Pedrizzi, deputy chairman of the AN Senate group, secretary of the Senate Finance Committee, and a member of the executive of the “Parliamentary Group for the Jubilee 2000.”

Since its introduction the number of Italian Senators sponsoring the motion has risen to 23, including Senators from all three of Italy’s important opposition parties—Forza Italia and the Centro Cristiano Democratico (CCD), in addition to AN.

Meanwhile, a similar Bretton Woods motion was presented at the Milan City Council Feb. 14, introduced by Aldo Brandirali of the Forza Italia. Brandirali’s motion has been co-signed by nine more members of the Forze Italia-AN-CCD conservative coalition, which runs the Milan city government.

On March 16, four Italian members of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, Cristiana Muscardini, Mauro Nobilia, Vitaliano Gemelli, and Mario Mauro, introduced a similar resolution to that body. The resolution will now be sent to committee, most likely the Economic and Monetary Committee.

The text of the Resolution to the European Parliament appears in the editorial on page 2.

Balkan Reconstruction, Eurasian Land-Bridge Presented in Bucharest

On April 3-5, an international conference on transport corridors linking Europe to Asia was held in Bucharest, sponsored by Romanian President Emil Costantinescu, and organized by Romania at the Crossroads Forum, chaired by presidential adviser Dan Capatina.

The conference brought together some 200 senior representatives from the Romanian government, businesses, and academia. Also present was a group of Western European business managers, who seemed mainly interested in the ongoing privatization process. Paolo Raimondi, from EIR’s Wiesbaden office, was the invited speaker on the theme, “Balkan Reconstruction in the Context of the Eurasian Land-Bridge: The Way Out of the Global Financial Crash.”

Addressing the conference, President Costantinescu stated that “the current reconstruction process of the Balkan area compels us to find a way to sustain the development of new, safe transport corridors between Europe and Asia. Within the present historic context, it is my belief that cooperation is much more important than competition.”
Peruvian CPA’s Hear LaRouche

On Feb. 25, Lyndon LaRouche spoke via videoconference from the United States, to a 500-person audience gathered at the invitation of the College of Public Accountants of Lima. Among those present were economists, foreign diplomats and other embassy representatives, high-ranking officers in the Armed Forces, politicians, and students—people from all across Peru. The speech and subsequent discussion were broadcast live on the Internet, in both Spanish and English.

Participating in the discussion as well was a distinguished panel, including: Patricio Ricketts, well known as anchorman for Peru’s Channel N TV; Guillermo Runcinman, a former debt negotiator for Peru; CPA Luis Lizarraga Perez; and EIR’s Luis Vasquez. Another contributor to the discussion was the Dean of the College of Public Accountants, CPA Julio Cesar Trujillo Meza.

In his speech, LaRouche emphasized: “We are going to have to face the reality of a general reorganization of the world financial and monetary and trade system in the near future. We will have to scrap globalization, and return to a system of relatively fixed parities among currencies, and we’re going to have to rely largely upon reestablishing the role of the perfectly sovereign nation-state, and its sovereign currency and monetary system.”

After his presentation, LaRouche took questions for nearly two hours.

Conference

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Linda de Hoyos spoke on the topic: “Where Are Our Children? What Are They Doing?” Using a series of charts and photos, she presented a horrifying picture of how children are being killed, or worked as slave laborers, or otherwise dehumanized, as a result of the current economic and political system.

The last two presentations, one on the global financial picture by John Hoefle, and another on the last 10 years’ deliberate destruction of the nation-state, by Jeffrey Steinberg, filled out the picture of the assault on national sovereignty.

The conference also included a presentation of Beethoven’s Mass in C, presided over by John Sigerson, performed pedagogically by the Schiller Institute Chorus of Leesburg, Va.