

Revive the American Intellectual Tradition! Fight for the General Welfare!

Friedrich Schiller's poem, "Longing," so beautifully captures the world's present predicament: We are oppressed in a gloomy hollow, and long to fly to a land eternally green and young. Our vision of that distant land refreshes us, but a raging torrent keeps us from it. A small skiff offers the means of escape, but it lacks a helmsman. No external gods are here to guarantee our rescue—salvation depends entirely upon our having sufficient faith and daring to take decisive action immediately, to seize the opportunity to rescue ourselves. Nor is Schiller advocating a faith which is blind and irrational. Rather, as for St. Augustine before him, Schiller's faith, is to "think with assent," to "consent to the truth." Only a miracle of our own making can bear us to the longed-for wonderland.

As this issue of *Fidelio* goes to print, the collapse of the world financial system, uniquely forecast by Lyndon LaRouche, is in process. We face, not merely a recession, but rather a systemic breakdown crisis, worse than anything that has occurred in three centuries, or perhaps since the Fourteenth-century New Dark Ages.

As in Schiller's poem, no helmsman is present. Two of the "Three Musketeers" (Greenspan, Rubin, and Summers) who allegedly saved civilization during the 1998 LTCM hedge-fund collapse, have retired, and the third, Fed Chairman Greenspan himself, has clearly lost his "magic" touch. In fact, Greenspan will forever be known as the architect of the biggest, burst speculative financial bubble in history.

The question is, Will we have the faith, and the daring, to join Lyndon LaRouche, to take decisive action, while the opportunity presents itself, to construct a new, just world economic order? Or, will the raging currents so daunt us, the rising torrents so horrify us, that we are rendered impotent?

We have arrived at a critical turning point in world history, where only a miracle based on reasoned action can save humanity from accelerating destruction. On a global scale, only three nations or national cultures are capable of taking responsibility for the condition of the world as a whole: the United States, the British Empire, and Russia. Given that the British are committed to the very free-trade and globalization policies responsible for the financial crisis to begin with, the only possibility for

overcoming the current collapse, is to forge an alliance between the U.S. and Russia—in partnership with Europe and the nations

of Asia—centered on the creation of a New Bretton Woods system, and the construction of the Eurasian Land-Bridge.

Were such a community of principle established, long-term agreements among the U.S., Russia, Western Europe, China, Japan, Korea, and Southeast Asia would be possible, which would offer the prospect of genuine economic growth in a post-financial-collapse world. What we require, in essence, is to emulate on a global scale, the intent of the policies implemented in the U.S. by President Franklin D. Roosevelt during 1933-45, and to finally put in place internationally the anti-colonialist policies which he intended at the end of World War II.

To accomplish this, however, means developing a political movement in the U.S. under LaRouche's leadership, with sufficient political bite to force the Bush administration to abandon the policies it has so far adopted. U.S. citizens must stop acting like slaves, fighting for a few pitiful concessions from the slave master. They must fight instead for their lives, their children's lives, their future, and for the dignity of all humanity.

EDITORIAL

Key to this fight, is the fundamental principle expressed in the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution, the commitment “to promote the General Welfare,” otherwise known as the common good. As you will read in the News Department of this issue, the two action issues around which the fight for the General Welfare is now being waged in the U.S. by the LaRouche movement, are the fight to prevent the shutdown of D.C. General Hospital in the nation’s capital, and the fight to re-regulate the energy industry. Both are life-and-death issues.

In this light, we conclude with remarks made by Lyndon LaRouche at a Washington, D.C. seminar on March 21.

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“The United States cannot live with Enron. It cannot live with that kind of deregulation of energy. We cannot live with the destruction of our health-care system. We cannot live with the destruction of our infrastructure. We must put it back into order. And, the present administration must simply give up its lunatic ideas.

“Our job is to get people to do what they must do: To think and act like citizens, who have the right given to them, by the Constitution, to act in their own vital interests, for the best interests of the nation.

“We have to have a sense of *national mission*. The idea of the United States cooperating with Western Europe, with Eurasia as a whole, to restart the world economy; the idea of taking that on, as a 25-year, long-term credit mission, rebuilding a new financial system, like the old Bretton Woods system.

“If we can get that concept across, among enough Americans and others, I think the citizens of the United States will return to the American intellectual tradition which Franklin Roosevelt invoked, in his election campaign of 1932. Let’s revive the American intellectual tradition, in which our nation was

Longing

Ah! from out this gloomy hollow,
By the chilling mists oppressed,
Could I find a path to follow,
Ah! I’d feel myself so bless’d!
Yonder glimpse I hilled dominions,
Young and green eternally!
Had I wings, oh, had I pinions,
Thither to the hills I’d fly.

Dulcet concords hear I ringing,
Strains of sweet celestial calm,
And the tranquil breeze is bringing
Me its sweetly fragrant balm,
Golden fruits I see there glowing,
Bobbing ’midst the leaf and root,
And the flowers yonder growing
Will not be the winter’s loot.

Ah, it must be fine to wander
In eternal sunshine free,
And the air in highlands yonder,
How refreshing must it be!
Yet the current’s raging daunts me,
Which between doth madly roll,
And the torrent rises sharply,
To the horror of my soul.

I perceive a small boat swaying,
Ah! but look! no helmsman’s there.
Quickly in and no delaying,
For her sails are live with air.
Now you must have faith and daring,
For the gods accord no bond,
Only a wonder can you carry
To the lovely wonderland.

—Friedrich Schiller

founded, in cooperation with other nations of the world, and let’s rebuild this planet. And, let the American citizens stop thinking of themselves as a poor person, here or there, and think of themselves instead as citizens of a nation which is doing that; let him or her take pride in being a citizen of such a nation with such a commitment. If we can mobilize that, we can save this nation, we can save this world, from one horrible mess.”