U.S. Labor Day Conference
LaRouche: ‘A Fight To Turn The Course of History’

The semi-annual conference of the Schiller Institute and I.C.L.C. in the United States brought together approximately 900 people at locations in Northern Virginia and Southern California over Labor Day weekend, Sept. 4-6, 2004, to deliberate on how to save the United States, and the world, from disaster—specifically, the re-election of George Bush and Dick Cheney on November 2. As Lyndon LaRouche expressed it in his keynote address, entitled “A Moment of Epic Decision,” this was not a fight to win an election, but “a fight to turn the course of history.”

Speaking before a polemical conference banner that read, “The Crash You Were Hoping for Is Here!,” LaRouche developed the key ideas which define how this fight for the nation could be won. These ideas were then returned to in subsequent conference panels. Later that day, Helga Zepp LaRouche, leader of the German political party Civil Rights Movement-Solidarity, and founder of the international Schiller Institute, gave the second keynote, on the theme, “The Crash Began in Germany.” She stirred the audience with a lively account, aided by extensive audio-visuals, of the development of the 1989 Peaceful Revolution in Germany, which led to the fall of the Berlin Wall, and laid the basis for the growing mass strike ferment, in which the LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) was playing a leading role.

On Sunday morning, September 5, three members of the Executive Intelligence Review economics team, Marcia Merry Baker, John Hoeftle, and Paul Gallagher, gave a powerful historical review of the rise and decline of the U.S. physical economy, in the form of visual animations called for by LaRouche to awaken the lower 80% of income brackets of the United States into action in the coming election and beyond.

That afternoon, LaRouche joined with his national spokespersons Debra Freeman and Harley Schlanger, to present “The War Plan for November,” an outline of the strategy by which the LYM, in particular, could create the conditions for LaRouche to shape both a landslide victory for the Kerry candidacy, and a Kerry Presidency armed with a team capable of dealing with the economic, financial, and strategic crises that confront the world.

This was followed in the evening by a music panel celebrating the life of the late vocal coach Sylvia Olden Lee. This panel served as a pedagogical demonstration of the power of Classical music, and the quality by which an individual achieves immortality by devoting his or her life to truth and the welfare of future generations.

Change the Course of History
In his 90-minute keynote, LaRouche hit relentlessly on the idea that the republican tradition of the United States must
Webcast: Beauty, Real Economics Are Needed To Save the Nation

On November 9, one week after the disastrous 2004 election, Lyndon LaRouche put forward, to an overflow audience of 225 people in the nation’s capital, an exhilarating remedy to the crisis thus created. His words were carried simultaneously, via Internet webcast, to audiences across the globe.

Many of those in the room—among whom were 80 members of the LaRouche Youth Movement, and 20 additional LYM guests—had worked their hearts out to elect John Kerry, and to defeat the Bush Administration. Also present were state legislators and city councilmen; community and constituency leaders, and several representatives of foreign governments.

The event began with a performance by the Boston LYM Chorus, introduced by LaRouche as, “an opening, integral part,” of his keynote. Under the direction of John Sigerson, J.S. Bach’s motet, “Jesu, meine Freude,” was performed by the 19-person chorus. The complex polyphony of the 11-part motet was conveyed with great beauty and transparency by the singers, who had been working for two hours a day, over several months, to perfect the piece.

As LaRouche explained, following the performance, there is a “very definite purpose”—indeed, “many purposes”—to the work on Classical music, “and they pertain to saving the nation and civilization from the threatened catastrophe which has just occurred: The announcement of the re-election of the world’s worst idiot, George W. Bush.”

The study of Classical art, combined with the discovery of universal principles in science, beginning with Carl Friedrich Gauss’s 1799 Fundamental Theorem of algebra, is the basis for the self-education of youth, LaRouche stated. “The secret of the Bach motet is ‘performing between the notes,’ in order to get the connection of the whole composition to each part within it, and how the parts relate to this whole idea.”

Thus inspired, the audience was given a lesson by LaRouche in the kind of leadership required now. Using historical examples, such as those of Frederick the Great at Leuthen and Douglas MacArthur at Inchon, LaRouche illustrated how a commander-in-chief must sometimes take great risks to achieve victory. Unfortunately, John Kerry, with his “Hamlet problem,” lacked those qualities—although, LaRouche said, with the right team around him, he could be revived, in order to save not only our own nation, but the world. “Winning this election is not winning a prize,” he said. “It is moving in, at a moment of crisis, to save humanity when humanity might not otherwise survive.”

America has saved the world from disaster before, LaRouche continued, beginning with its founding in the Eighteenth century. Abraham Lincoln did it in the Nineteenth century, and FDR did it again in the Twentieth century, by leading the war against fascism. But, over the past 40 years, we have destroyed ourselves, by adopting a post-industrial ideology that has driven the economy into financial bankruptcy. “With the introduction of free trade, and worse, with globalization, we have destroyed private capital, on which we depend for employment, and for improvement of the productive powers of labor.” The only solution lies in dumping the system, and going back to Hamiltonian, American System methods.

“In fact, the planet as a whole would not survive, without an intervention by the United States, of the type that Washington and Hamilton, and others made in that time of crisis; the kind of intervention which Abraham Lincoln made—which was not simply something in the United States, it changed the world for the better, very quickly, throughout Europe and elsewhere; the kind of critical change made by Franklin Roosevelt. We, in the United States, must make that kind of intervention.”

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The Schiller Institute held its European conference in Idstein, Germany on Sept. 24-26, 2004. Among the more than 300 participants, were guests from over 30 countries, including members and supporters of the LaRouche movement from around the world, representatives of European and Asian institutions, and a large contingent of youth who form the growing LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) in Europe. The presence of over 100 LYM members was the defining characteristic of the conference, as it represented a significant step forward in the movement’s ability to mobilize the population of Europe to halt the global economic collapse and the drive for perpetual war led by Dick Cheney and his cohorts in the Bush Administration.

The conference came in the wake of a breakout in the movement’s activity in Germany, represented by the election campaign in the eastern German state of Saxony, and the mass protests against austerity which were launched by the LYM and Helga Zepp LaRouche, Schiller Institute founder and leader of the Civil Rights Movement-Solidarity party in Germany (BüSo)—protests which eventually involved tens of thousands and spread to 240 German cities, as well as to Paris, Vienna, Switzerland, and across the Netherlands.

This intervention, in which BüSo candidates quadrupled their vote in Saxony and forced the so-called “major” political parties to address the financial establishment’s attempt to dismantle the European social welfare systems, has thrust the LYM into the center of German political life, and demonstrated the potential for bringing about a radical shift in the population during this period of crisis.

In his keynote address to the conference, Lyndon LaRouche told those listening in the conference hall and around the world on the Internet, that we are living in a time whose importance exceeds that of any in the memory of any living person on this planet. “What will happen between now and the date of the inauguration of the next President of the United States, will be the greatest turning point in history, for better, or for very much worse, in a very long time.”

Strategic Context
LaRouche then gave an in-depth presentation of the strategic context in which the conference was taking place. The fight, he said, is between the principles embodied in the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution, and the British imperial system, which has looted the world and attempted to reduce human beings to the level of cattle. In the Eighteenth century, the faction which sought to create a true republic was unable to do so in Europe, but they achieved their goal through the creation of the United States of America, as “a beacon of hope and a temple of liberty for all mankind.”

LaRouche explained the philosophical background to this fight, and the challenge before us today in guaranteeing the immediate survival of our civilization.

The following day, Helga Zepp LaRouche addressed the conference, detailing the shift which the BüSo has forced in German politics, and comparing it to the revolutionary ferment which led to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. Dennis Small and Lothar Komp used data and animations developed by EIR’s economics staff to document the drastic collapse of the physical economy in the United States and Germany. On the same panel, representatives from Italy, the Czech Republic, Slova-
could have been a good President.

How did it happen, then, that a George Bush, a “certified mental case,” was re-elected as President? This is the tragedy of the American people today. Therefore, LaRouche said, we must talk about the remedy: Americans must relearn real economics. We must go back to the physical-economic policies that Franklin Roosevelt carried out, to bring the United States out of the Great Depression.

The Remedy: Real Economics

“You are the remedy,” LaRouche challenged the audience. “Your freeing yourselves of the shackles of illusion, is the remedy. Your giving up belief in money, is the remedy.” What you need, LaRouche said, is housing, food, clothing, education, medical care. “The dollar in your pocket is imminently worth nothing!” His comment that, “It’s like the mathematician who married a plastic dummy, because her measurements were nice,” produced uproarious laughter.

“We’re now in the greatest depression in modern civilization’s history. What I have to do, in this process, is to get Americans to understand what economics is,” he said, and illustrated, with a series of animations, the collapse of the physical economy, using the state of Ohio as a case study. The principle of animations, he explained, “is to take what is happening, or will happen, in an economy, over a period of years, or months at least, and to accelerate that into a lapsed-time picture of the actual changes occurring over that larger period of time.” This was done in Cleveland, at a recent Larouche PAC town meeting, and the audience understood for the first time what had been done to them: “They saw Ohio being transformed from one of the richest industrial states in the United States, over a period of about 10-15 years, into a rust-bucket, based on cheap, hotel maids’ jobs and restaurant jobs. And they saw it! And they were shocked by it.”

Using these methods—Classical art, science, and animations to educate our people in real economics—we will be a catalyst in reorganizing the Democratic Party. “For the fact is, that Bush is going to fail. The war in Iraq is lost. It’s finished. The financial system, of the world, is collapsing. It’s finished. There’ll be a general financial collapse, worldwide, beyond anything that most of you in this room could even begin to imagine—and it will come on fast.”

Therefore, LaRouche concluded, “We have to put the positive side, we have to bring the spiritual side forward, in the real sense, not this fake, tent-show, snake-oil, sense that we get from these fundamentalists. But, the real sense: That man is a creature made in the image of the Creator! And that man must be respected as that; man must be developed as that. Man must have regard for other human beings based on that. Nations must cooperate on that basis. Cultures must be developed on that basis.”
The base of the Democratic Party itself must be changed, LaRouche stressed. After all, it is the action, or inaction, of the party, and its traditional constituencies, which has tolerated the slide of the United States into the condition it has now reached.

Mass Political Movement

This change can not be brought about by sticking to the usual strategies of electoral politics, said LaRouche. Instead, a mass political movement must be generated. This will require the intervention of the LYM, which has a proven capability of getting underneath the skin and inspiring people.

Right now, LaRouche said, people act like human cattle, occasionally complaining about the quality of the grass, but basically content to be controlled and not think—certainly not to think about governing. What youth can and must do, is to inspire these very people to rediscover the fact that they are immortal. Citing the examples of Jeanne d’Arc and Martin Luther King, LaRouche put it this way: “When we come to a crisis like this, we have to awaken in the mind of the individual on the lower echelons of life—who feels that he can only beg for favors, or blackmail the boss—to get him to look at himself in a higher sense. We have to say, ‘What’s important to you?’ He says, ‘What I feel. What I sense.’ We say, ‘But, you’re going to die. We’re all going to die. Therefore, what’s important to you, if you’re all going to die? What can you take in life, as a mortal being, that you can keep? When you’re dead? Is there something which you, as a human being, in the image of the Creator, must desire above all other things? To be a permanent part of creation, by contributing to creative knowledge, and a creative act, which only a human being can do.’”

Dealing With the Economy

Using this approach, the LaRouche movement will carry out an intense campaign on the issue of physical economy, LaRouche went on. We’re going to show people how an economy actually works, and how ours has been taken down over the past 40 years. The principles which determine the health of an economy will be made clear.

LaRouche used a discussion of the tax issue, a premier “hot-button” issue of the Cheney-Bush campaign, to illustrate this point. What do these free traders do, to be able to cut taxes? They slash infrastructure—transportation, education, health care. Let’s “save money,” they say, by cutting out the long-term investments in basic economic infrastructure. In this way, Bush commits more abortions—another campaign “hot button”—than any President
As the warm morning sunlight shines through the stained-glass windows of a Nineteenth-century church in Cambridge, Mass., it reveals a group of young people, appropriately named the “raggedy-pants elite” by Lyndon LaRouche. These young people, who come from the same sinister culture as pop-star Britney Spears and death-metal singer Marilyn Manson, are bridging the gap between science, politics, and beauty; by reliving the unique discovery of the bel canto singing method. Many of them are timid, others have never sung before, but all are eager to learn from their patient, devoted guest: the distinguished Mexican bass, and voice doctor/teacher, Maestro José Briano, who came to Boston Dec. 10-18, 2004 to intensively train 95 organizers from the LaRouche Youth Movement.

Watching Maestro Briano teach is like watching a Classical painter lovingly study his subject, and then begin to paint with precision. The ten young male organizers line up, while the Maestro faces them, sitting at the piano. And one by one, each student repeats the vocalization. Those who can do the exercise best, go to the front of the line, while those who struggle, listen closely to the more advanced students, and imitate their idea. The eight or ten young people who have been leading, or want to take the leadership in the singing in the various cities, sit on the side, taking notes, with their eyes and ears fixed intently on the Maestro. He encourages the teachers to ask questions; occasionally, he asks them, “What is the purpose of this exercise?,” to make sure they understand the method.

No One Is ‘Tone Deaf’

Among the group of ten singers, there is one who consistently sings out of tune. A teacher in a music conservatory would throw up his hands in exasperation, accuse that student of being “tone deaf,” and conclude that student would never make it in the music world. But, the response of Maestro is to point out, “There is someone who is trying to be spontaneous!” He stops, and has each student sing the exercise, one by one, until he finds the one singing out of tune. Maestro works with that student patiently until he sings in tune. Then, Maestro smiles, and says, “muy bien,” and moves to the next student.

To another shy young singer, with a
lovely natural vibrato, Maestro says, “You have a voice of quality, but you need a powerful voice.”

The second time around, this organizer’s voice rings much louder, and he stands straight with confidence. The effect of this young man finding the strength in his voice, and with it, his increased ability to communicate, will give him confidence to lead others. With a combination of listening to each other, and Maestro’s meticulous guidance, these ten young men have advanced by leaps and bounds in just an hour. At the end of that hour, Maestro congratulates the young people and begins work with the next group.

Maestro Briano often compares singing to “going to the gym.” Each session consists of two parts: warm-ups, and vocal training. The warm-ups are intended to prepare the voice to do extensive training, which includes singing two-octave arpeggios in one breath, and repetition of high notes for the tenors. In one session, Maestro, with a twinkle in his eye, challenges the advanced tenors to sing a high note on five different vowels, “nu, no, na, ne, ni,” from five to ten times in a row, without breathing. Only two tenors are able to do this, but it creates a standard for which others can strive. In a different session, Maestro Briano challenges the sopranos to sing an exercise, first loudly, and then softly. The challenge of singing softly is to maintain a supported sound that can be heard.

Communication Through Metaphor

When asked how to create increasing degrees of freedom in the singing voice, Maestro Briano said, “You have to be careful with the idea of freedom, because for the voice to be truly free, there must be restraint.” The restraint comes from the register shift and the nasalization. Nowadays, when popular singers are supposedly “expressing themselves” and singing “freely,” they are just yelling, and the sound is ugly. As a result, they hurt their voices, or their voices will become hoarse. While no set of rules or formulas will yield the right method, there must be a standard for freedom, and in the case of bel canto, the standard is beauty! Maestro Briano has heard thousands of sopranos and tenors in his lifetime, all different, all distinguishable—for each voice is like a thumbprint, unique and irreplaceable. How, then, does he know what to tell each student? He says, “The medicine for each person is different.” But, that is not to say that what is right for everyone is merely relative, because then we would not be able to teach anyone to sing! So, what does Maestro hear in his mind after each person sings? Each recommendation he gives is precise, and produces an explosive result, of which the student is fully conscious.

By the end of the nine days, each youth has had the opportunity to work with Maestro for four days, for an hour each, with an additional intensive three-hour choral rehearsal every night with Schiller Institute choral director John Sigerson. Furthermore, ten or more of those youth have the intention of continuing this work in regional organizing centers around the country. Each young person who works with Maestro is given the confidence that, one day soon, he or she can fully understand the method he teaches, because it is non-technical. Therefore, these young people can assimilate his ideas because they are communicated through metaphor and not just “technical language.” The LYM organizers sense that Maestro really wants students to succeed and find the beauty in their voices. Thus, a deep love and respect developed between Maestro and his students, that overcame the language barrier (Maestro speaks Spanish). Throughout the week, these young people realized that the more powerful their voices became, the more politically powerful they will become.

—Jenny Kreingold
LaRouche Youth Movement

Aspiring teachers study how the Maestro guides students through vocalizations, in preparation for leading singing in different cities.