lar, and France, in making agreements with the United States to work jointly on the SDI. That was the major effort of FEF branches all over the world during that time.

Our analysis of what the Soviets were doing was shaped in part by the hysterical response they had to that whole process—all 125 of these conferences. Many of them the Soviets attacked; many they attended and tried to disrupt. In the United States they relied upon networks in the media to find out who we were working with in relevant governments, so that they could finger these individuals in order to hinder their work on the SDI. They would publicize their names, and slander and scandalize them by claiming that they were collaborating with a neo-Nazi extremist group—FEF. NBC was active in this campaign against LaRouche and against the FEF. They did everything they could to break our working relationships with scientists and officials in government.

At the same time that the Soviets and their collaborators in the West were doing this, the Soviets were conducting a military buildup which, as LaRouche analyzed at the time, would either lead them to launch a war or drive them to economic bankruptcy. LaRouche was concerned that the United States might be caught unprepared in the event of Soviet aggression.

White: So, ironically, now the Soviets are suffering the general breakdown that LaRouche forecast, but the U.S., which sabotaged its own development of the SDI is also going through a similar, if at the moment, less severe breakdown crisis. Whereas, if LaRouche's policies had been followed, both countries could be flourishing economically.

Gallagher: This can be seen very clearly by the fact that the budget for the SDI actually stopped growing in 1986, and has been declining since. It is now declining substantially even in unadjusted dollars, let alone after adjustment for inflation. The rate of growth of the Manhattan Project during World War II which led to the development of the atomic bomb, was 10 or 15 times greater, from one year to the next, than the rate of growth that the SDI had in its first few years, and since then it hasn't even grown. At no time was there a crash program-level of investment in the SDI. This was because of the economic policies of the Reagan administration, which we could not change, and which undercut the SDI, so the SDI was a strategic factor, but never became the economic factor which it should have been.

I would just like to conclude this interview by emphasizing again, that I am being prosecuted in part for the debts which the FEF incurred during the SDI campaign. These debts were made "permanent and unpayable" by the government's illegal liquidation of the foundation. The FEF is now taking part in a damages suit against the Justice Department, to put the burden of repayment of those debts where it belongs. It is not I, but the government, and the "Get LaRouche" task force, who are responsible for any suffering which was caused by our failure to repay these obligations.

The SDI as a policy to guarantee peace

"During World War II, the American economy was lifted from depression into unprecedented productivity growth through the use of new industrial technologies, new metals, materials, and assembly-line processes that had been known previously *but not used,* and the use of much more electricity for higher quality production. Today the national necessity—really an international necessity—to end the unstable balance of thermonuclear terror by developing defense against nuclear weapons can be the 'science and technology driver' for an economic recovery without war. And the energy, particle, and plasma beam technologies we develop to meet this necessity can unleash a process of economic development that will uproot the deepest causes of war. . . . The immediate spinoffs to industry of a successful crash program for development of beam weapons include magnetohydrodynamics for energy conversion, superconducting power transmission, magnetic levitation of trains for land transportation, laser and particle beam metal working, and robotics.

"The second decade of a beam weapons development program would generate more advanced technologies: the fusion-fission hybrid, nuclear steel making, integrated nuclear agricultural-industrial complexes (nuplexes), high-energy laser and beam applications to drilling and materials processing, and plasma torch technologies.

"The economics of the 21st century, provided we reach the 21st century, will be dominated by the commercial application of nuclear fusion energy and by the use of coherent radiation beams and particles for more and more industrial agricultural work. We can even foresee the time when each skilled worker will work with tools that can transmute the basic composition of matter. . . . At first sight it seems ironic that the solution to man's problems of economic development might come out of a military development program. But such a role for the armed forces and their engineering corps used to be a tradition in advanced nations. Real national security rests on economic growth, technological development, and human advancement that simultaneously provide a strong military and make war unlikely."

—From *Beam Defense, An Alternative to Nuclear Destruction,* by Fusion Energy Foundation, Aero Publishers, Inc., 1983, pp. 153-54.