

LaRouche campaign spokesman tours Peru

The growing international demands to free U.S. political prisoner Lyndon LaRouche, and the increasing perception that his presidential candidacy is the best hope for the United States and the world, were clearly on display in late January in Peru during a tour by Dennis Small, the campaign's adviser on Ibero-America. In Lima, Small got a warm reception at a forum on the LaRouche case and his presidential campaign that was organized by members of the Congress of Peru, from several different parties. The forum was held on Jan. 15 in an auditorium of the Chamber of Deputies, the lower house of Congress.

"It is an honor for me to have been jailed with Lyndon LaRouche," said Small, himself a former political prisoner in the U.S. In the audience to hear the campaign adviser, were members of the Peruvian Congress, congressional aides, reporters, and other notables. "The U.S. government has more than 56,000 pages of exculpatory documents on LaRouche, which, if they were released, would overturn his conviction." The way to free LaRouche, Small said, "is to elect him President of the United States."

A program to end the Depression

Small—who was introduced by Congressman Oswaldo Bockos of the ruling Cambio 90 Party, one of the co-sponsors of the forum, and by Congressman Carlos Calderón of APRA—described the U.S. economic mudslide and LaRouche's program for reversing it, as soon as he is inaugurated, through massive investments to rebuild U.S. infrastructure, thereby creating 6 million productive, taxpaying jobs.

The same "flea market" economic policies that created the depression in the United States have destroyed the economies of Ibero-America, said Small. The alternative for Ibero-America is LaRouche's proposals for a debtors' cartel against the policies of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and for an Ibero-American common market, as detailed in his 1982 "Operation Juárez" proposal. Small urged the audience to endorse LaRouche's candidacy and to request that international bodies investigate human rights violations in the United States.

In a dramatic intervention, the secretary of organization of the Federation of Fishermen, one of the largest labor organizations in Peru, interrupted to announce his union's backing for the campaign to free LaRouche. He also announced, to much applause, that his labor federation fully supports

LaRouche's presidential campaign.

In 1976, the Federation of Fishermen, which had put forward LaRouche proposals to defend itself from a privatization scheme ordered by the IMF, was raided and many of its leaders thrown in jail. On the same day, on Henry Kissinger's explicit orders, the Peruvian offices of the LaRouche-affiliated New Solidarity International Press Service were shut down, as were those of LaRouche's co-thinker organization in Peru. NSIPS correspondent Gretchen Small was jailed for a week in the same prison as the Fishermen leaders. Seventeen years after that jailing, Gretchen Small was present to witness the union leader's declaration of support for LaRouche.

Congressmen endorse LaRouche

A number of prominent individuals and institutions in Peru have endorsed LaRouche, including, so far, a dozen members of the Congress. Among them: Congressman Bockos, of Cambio 90; Cong. Carlos Rivas Dávila, who was minister of economics during the APRA administration of former President Alan García; Cong. Gilberto Cabanillas, vice chairman of the APRA parliamentary delegation in the Chamber of Deputies, and another of the forum's co-sponsors. Also, Sen. David Sifuentes Ibarra, and congressmen Walter Robles Rosales, César Zumaeta, Francisco Palomino, and Lino Cerna, all of APRA; Cong. Gerardo López Quiroz, an independent, formerly of Cambio 90; and congressmen Mario Cavalcanti, Eduardo Salhuana Cavides, and Bladimiro Begazo, all from Izquierda Unida (IU). Juan Rebaza, former Minister of Fisheries during the García administration, former Sen. Josmell Muñoz, and the Confederation of Workers of the Peruvian Revolution (CTRP) also endorsed LaRouche's presidential candidacy.

While in Peru, Small also spoke at a seminar for businessmen in Lima on Jan. 16. He debunked the so-called "Chilean miracle." Harvard's "free enterprise" freak Jeffrey Sachs is a criminal, he said. What Sachs and his clones are doing by applying the Chilean model is the equivalent of destroying a multi-story building and then jerry-rigging a couple of stories and saying, "Look how things are growing!" Relative to the blowout destruction which went immediately before, you can fool some people into looking at your ramshackle replacement and believing that growth has taken place. But in comparison to what the Chilean economy *used* to be, before it was wrecked, there has been no growth. Harvard University must be shut down, Small declared.

On Jan. 17, Small spoke on economics to an audience of 100 people. He shared the podium with Pedro Huilca, leader of the Federation of Construction Workers and vice president of the General Confederation of Workers (CGTP); Gregorio Nicolás Esquivel, secretary general of the Federation of Fishermen; Luis Gallegos Portugal, of the Southern Cone Integration Institute; Congressman Calderón; and Javier Tanteán, of the Institute of Latin American Foreign Debt.