

Thousands 'raise hell' to save Presidency, appoint LaRouche

by Marianna Wertz

Following a week of escalating crises and treason against the U.S. Presidency and nation, on Dec. 17, Lyndon LaRouche issued a call to all Americans. Rephrasing French Gen. Charles de Gaulle's 1941 appeal to patriots during the Nazi occupation of his nation, LaRouche said, "Help me! Help me to save the honor and future of these United States!"

LaRouche was responding to the commencement of bombing of Iraq by Anglo-American armed forces the previous night, and the impending impeachment of President Bill Clinton, which may have already occurred by the time you read this article.

Mass-based political actions to stop the impeachment, to stop the ongoing coup on behalf of Vice President Al Gore, and to force President Clinton to bring LaRouche into his administration as economic adviser, crescendoed in intensity all during the week of LaRouche's call. The mobilization peaked on Dec. 17, with thousands of political, trade union, and civil rights forces rallying in Washington, D.C., joined by the LaRouche movement, to demand that Congressional Republican extremists stop the "cold coup" of impeachment dead in its tracks. Similar large demonstrations against impeachment occurred in cities across the nation all week.

Schiller Institute Founder Helga Zepp-LaRouche kicked off the week's mobilization at a Dec. 12 town meeting in Los Angeles, speaking via telephone from Germany. She challenged the audience of more than 100 people, including several Democratic Party officials, to "leave this room and organize like hell," as we approach "the most extraordinary crisis in the history of mankind." Zepp-LaRouche said, "We are not just looking at the danger of a total disintegration of the entire financial system," but at "a crisis of civilization, where every institution, every value, can go out the window in a very short period of time," unless the measures proposed by Lyndon

LaRouche for a radical reform of the financial system, and rapid implementation of the Eurasian Land-Bridge, are accomplished.

Getting personal, Zepp-LaRouche challenged the audience, "Permit me to say this. Get off your behind and mobilize like crazy to prevent the impeachment. Get across to Republicans and Democrats they will be roasted if they do this" to Clinton.

International 'Day of Action'

The Schiller Institute launched the historic week with an international "Day of Action" on Tuesday, Dec. 15. From the United States and Europe, to Ibero-America and Australia, thousands rallied, demonstrated, and gathered petition signatures, demanding an end to the witch-hunt against the Presidency and calling on Clinton to appoint LaRouche as his economic adviser. More than 75,000 signatures have been gathered to date in the United States alone.

In Washington, D.C. on the Day of Action, a rally of about 40 activists at noon in front of the Cannon House Office Building drew a great deal of media attention, especially with the "special guest appearance" of Al Gore, costumed as a wooden cigar store Indian, complete with headdress and blanket. Speakers at the rally included the District's U.S. Shadow Senator, Florence Pendleton, and Deputy U.S. Marshal Matthew Fogg, who recently won a civil rights suit against the Department of Justice.

Breaking their typical blackout policy against the LaRouche movement, dozens of media outlets filmed the rally and interviewed its participants. National Public Radio's prime-time broadcast, "All Things Considered," ran an item on the opposition to impeachment nationally, featuring the Schiller Institute's rally, including, for the first time on U.S.

national media, the call to appoint Lyndon LaRouche as Clinton's economic adviser. In the background, the loudspeaker blared, "Wake up America and stop the impeachment of the President. Impeachment is an operation to topple the U.S. government."

A pungent message

Activists, inspired by the urgency of the crisis, came up with original and polemical tactics. In Georgia, a LaRouche supporter visited the office of his Congressman with a sack of rocks, including one personally for the Congressman, with the message, "Let him who is without sin, cast the first stone." Across the country, rock deliveries began to occur in very public places, as the word spread. At a meeting on Dec. 15 in Norwalk, Connecticut, some 2,000 people gathered to grill undecided Connecticut Republican Rep. Christopher Shays, as a LaRouche supporter delivered a rock directly to a stunned Shays on the podium. "Let him who is without sin, cast the first stone," she said. Shays replied, "I'm not throwing stones at anyone," as he reached for the stone. This created quite a stir in the audience, as did the sign the activist was holding: "Don't Let Confederate Hyde Impeach Clinton."

In Illinois, activists heavily targetted the suburban offices of Rep. Henry "Dr. Jekyll" Hyde (R-Ill.), who ran the railroad of Clinton in the House Judiciary Committee. The message burning up fax and phone lines from hundreds of LaRouche supporters was, "If you don't stop this impeachment treason, you should apply for political asylum at the British Embassy, because there's no home for you here!" A dozen activists set up a protest line outside Hyde's headquarters, while one of their number went inside to deliver a rock and message to a Hyde aide.

In Texas, House Majority Whip and former bug exterminator Rep. Tom DeLay — the chief attack-dog in the Clinton impeachment effort — received a gift-wrapped box of rocks at his office. A leery aide opened the box and found the top rock with DeLay's name on it. The LaRouche activists told the aide that DeLay is no Christian, as he claims to be, and is committing treason. Dumbfounded, the aide said he'd pass on the message.

On the West coast, dozens of LaRouche activists held demonstrations and vigils in Seattle, San Jose, San Francisco and, Los Angeles on the International Day of Action, and helped lead thousands of anti-impeachment protesters in numerous other actions which spontaneously broke out as the political fever mounted during the week.

The same day, in Pennsylvania, State Rep. Harold James (D-Phila.), head of the Black Legislative Caucus and a leader of the Schiller Institute-inspired Americans to Save the Presidency, held a press conference with leading Democratic officeholders and labor leaders, calling on citizens to join "an all-out, nonpartisan mobilization to stop the impeachment." James released the names of other state representatives who have endorsed his initiative, and reviewed the success which

he and these leaders had had with the Americans to Save the Presidency mobilization in the fall.

James also issued a call for citizens to join civil rights and labor leaders at the Dec. 17 rally and Prayer Vigil at the Capitol in Washington. "I am also calling for vigils and rallies outside the district offices of Congressmen around the country, or outside Federal Buildings and/or other public places. . . . Our message is: *No impeachment*. Enough is enough! Let the President do his job, because that's what the American people want."

A vigil held at the Liberty Bill by the Schiller Institute the next day drew much public and media attention.

Capitol Hill rally denounces 'coup'

An estimated 3-5,000 people joined the anti-impeachment rally at the nation's Capitol on Dec. 17. Buses sponsored by civil rights and labor organizations came from around the East Coast and as far away as Ohio. The rally had been called, in separate releases, by Rev. Jesse Jackson, the Pennsylvania Black Caucus, and the national AFL-CIO. LaRouche supporters were out in force, saturating the rally with literature and urging that LaRouche be brought in as Clinton's adviser, to solve the crisis.

Speakers, including numerous Congressional Black Caucus members and labor leaders, repeatedly and angrily referred to the impeachment drive as a "coup" against the Presidency. Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-N.Y.) demanded to know why President George Bush hadn't been impeached as a result of the Iran-Contra drugs-for-weapons scandal.

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, who had launched an all-out mobilization of the labor federation against impeachment earlier in the week, told the Washington rally that the attempt to impeach Bill Clinton is an "arrogant, hypocritical attempt to deny the will of the people. . . . We hope that the strength of our numbers and the clarity of our words will compel every member of the House to stop, look, and listen before proceeding any further down this treacherous road. . . .

"Two-thirds of the American people want no more lurid details, no more Starr-chamber proceedings, and no more impeachment," Sweeney said. "The Republican Party shouldn't be moralizing about the private sins of a President who strayed badly before confessing; it should be apologizing for the public sin of political retribution. . . . Let us pray that justice comes soon. And let us remind our elected officials that until we get justice, we will not rest."

On Friday, Dec. 18, as the U.S. Congress began its descent down the slippery slope to impeachment, LaRouche activists escalated their mobilization to stop this unconstitutional, treasonous operation. The only question remains, as LaRouche has repeatedly said: Is America morally fit to survive, or will this episode mark the beginning of a centuries-long Dark Age, the end of civilization as we know it? What each of us does in the coming few days and weeks will decide the answer.