

# State Leaders Support LaRouche's Call for New Bretton Woods System

by Marianna Wertz

On Dec. 10, at their annual meeting in Bloomington, Minnesota, the National Organization of Raw Materials (NORM), one of the nation's leading organizations of farmers, unanimously endorsed a resolution in support of creating a New Bretton Woods financial system, a policy enunciated by Lyndon LaRouche, as the key to solving the onrushing global financial crisis. On Dec. 14, a similar resolution was formally introduced into the proceedings of the Agriculture and International Trade Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), at the annual joint meeting of the Assembly on Federal Issues and the Assembly on State Issues, in Washington, D.C.

LaRouche's New Bretton Woods proposal is modelled after the policy initiated by President Franklin Roosevelt at the 1944 postwar conference of world leaders, held at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, where measures were initiated to re-start world production and create stable currency and credit arrangements, which lasted until the mid-1960s.

The NCSL resolution, introduced by Alabama State Rep. Joseph Mitchell (D-103rd District/Mobile), a member of the Agriculture and International Trade Committee, is the same as that introduced by Alabama Rep. Thomas Jackson (D-68th District/Thomasville) in the Alabama House of Representatives earlier in the year, and passed by the full Alabama House on May 4. When he introduced the resolution, Representative Mitchell told the committee that it would have passed the Alabama Senate as well this year, had the 2000 legislative session not run out of time, and that he expects it to be introduced and passed in the Senate this year.

In the following pages, the reader will find the texts of the NORM and NCSL resolutions, together with interviews with Fred Huenefeld, the NORM board member who introduced that resolution, and Representative Mitchell, both of whom discuss the fight for passage of these crucial ideas in their respective organizations. We encourage readers to use these texts to motivate passage of similar resolutions in their own organizations.

## Cutting Through Fear of 'New' Ideas

Though LaRouche's New Bretton Woods proposal is based on the historic precedent set by President Roosevelt in

1944, at both the NORM and NCSL meetings, the discussion of the proposal required cutting through misconceptions and fear of "new" ideas. At the NORM meeting, with about 100 members present, most of whom are farmers, Fred Huenefeld discussed the Constitutional basis of the American System of economics, in order to convince the NORM members that the New Bretton Woods proposal is not a "communist" idea. Huenefeld, who is also a board member of LaRouche's Schiller Institute and a Louisiana State Democratic Central Committee member, said that he and NORM President Randy Cook motivated passage by first asking the NORM members to consider whether they want a society with debt or with earned income, a concept these farmers readily understand.

The meeting of the NCSL, the organization representing the nation's state legislators, was attended by about 400 representatives and senators, with an approximately 70/30 Republican/Democratic split. Those in attendance are at the level of committee chairs and leaders of their respective legislatures. LaRouche's representatives at the meeting reported that the NCSL attendees were more open than ever to LaRouche's ideas, primarily because of the gravity of the economic, energy, and financial crises hitting virtually every state in the nation.

At panel discussions at the NCSL conference, legislators admitted to being frantic in their efforts to solve such problems as the looming blowout of the electric grid in California, and New England's natural gas price crisis. LaRouche's proposals, which address these problems from a global strategic standpoint, were therefore most welcome, and provoked lengthy discussion in the meeting itself and in the hallways.

Representative Mitchell introduced the New Bretton Woods resolution to the committee by saying, "I am presenting a bill for consideration of this committee that has recently passed the Alabama House, calling for the convening of a Bretton Woods conference. This bill aims to correct things that have been severely hurt by NAFTA and Free Trade, all over the place. . . . I would like the committee to study this, and will deliver background material in the mail during the next several weeks." The resolution will become part of the agenda of the Spring meeting of the NCSL and will be presented then for discussion.