

Right now, 90% of nurses surveyed say they intend to leave the profession because of the physical demands of nursing today. Also, it is estimated that some 500,000 experienced registered nurses are not practicing in their field. The Kennedy-Kerry proposal may also make adequate hospital nurse staffing a condition of a hospital's participation in Medicare and Medicaid. Initiatives are also being proposed by Sen. Jim Jeffords (I-Vt.), who held hearings on the nursing shortage in the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee at the end of May, to provide educational funding to draw more people into the nursing profession.

Political activists in nurse associations in five states have formed a new organization to fight for nurses on the front lines. The group, which does not yet have a name, is made up of organizations that have split with the national organiza-

tion of the American Nurses Association (ANA). *EIR* was told the ANA "is not progressive enough," and is not ready to do what must be done to accomplish safe nurse-patient ratios in all health care settings. The new group, so far, is comprised of the California Nurses Association; the Massachusetts Nurses Association; Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses and Allied Professionals; Maine State Nurses Association; and United Health Care Workers of Greater St. Louis.

The nursing shortage is, in fact, a national crisis endemic to the general post-industrial, free-market predatory attack on U.S. health care overall. Only a revival of the U.S. and world economies, and a return to the 1996 Hill-Burton act approach, which ensures the necessary hospital facilities and staff, can return the general welfare to health care.

## LaRouche: McCain Bolt From GOP Would Be Lawful

*The following release was issued by LaRouche in 2004, the campaign committee of Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., a candidate for the 2004 Democratic Party Presidential nomination, on June 2. It was entitled, "LaRouche Says McCain's Possible Bolt From GOP Is Lawful, in Light of 200 Years of American History."*

Today, Lyndon LaRouche offered his assessment of the weekend meeting between Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and incoming Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.), which has provoked speculation that McCain may soon leave the Republican Party and announce his intentions to run for the Presidency in 2004 as an independent. LaRouche noted that the McCain development is lawful, when considered in light of more than 200 years of American history. LaRouche drew the parallel to the situation at the time of the War of 1812, when the first edition of Mathew Carey's book, *The Olive Branch*, played a key part in the work of collaborators such as Henry Clay, in forging the formation of the Whig Party. This was done in response to the crisis of failure of existing party institutions, both the Federalist Party and the Jefferson-Madison Democratic-Republican Party, and the failure of existing political institutions to address the crises. That action by the Careyites, in turn, led to the later founding of the Republican Party of President Abraham Lincoln, which saved the Union from the British-sponsored Confederate secessionist plot.

Today, the horrible performance of the Bush Presi-

dency in the first 100 days in office, combined with the tendency among some pro-Confederate elements in the Democratic Party to split with traditional Democrats, and pursue a sectional political agenda, has provoked a political crisis. No decent American, particularly no decent elected political official, can accept this situation, particularly in the context of a worldwide financial breakdown crisis now rapidly unfolding. Thus, we saw last week's action by Sen. Jim Jeffords (I-Vt.), in breaking with the Bush-Lott GOP, and delivering control over the U.S. Senate to the Democrats. This is a manifestation of growing recognition, internationally, and within the United States, that the Bush Presidency is a disaster for humanity.

How, then, are American political currents to respond to this crisis? Many who did not agree with Lyndon LaRouche, as late as December 2000, now find themselves agreeing with him, about the nature of the unfolding global crisis and the dangerous incompetence and venality of the Bush Administration. There is thus a lawful re-juggling of the American political spectrum now under way. There is now a tendency to form what might appear to be a third-party movement, which will impact significantly on the 2002 Congressional elections and on the 2004 Presidential race. A sweeping restructuring of American party politics is now under way, LaRouche declared. However, he cautioned against any simple-minded conspiratorial conclusions respecting the McCain-Daschle discussions.

This is, LaRouche emphasized, a lawful process, as seen in the context of over 200 years of American political history. It is not possible, at this time, to say which way McCain and others will jump. But, what is clear is that a sea-change in the political party alignment and in the policy agenda, is now under way, and that is a healthy development that LaRouche had uniquely anticipated and has decisively helped to shape.