

Editorial

Dangerous Nonsense on Enron

Now that the Rev. Jesse “Chicken Wing” Jackson has gone to bat for the poor, disinherited Enron employees—he is, after all, the author of *Money*, and in late years a great defender of Wall Street’s huddled masses—all parts of the Republican and Democratic spectrum seem to be poised for a season of political lying like Hell about Enron. There are two distinct, and dangerous, layers to the cover-up which is under way.

First, the crucial matter of economic policy.

Political campaigners who either supported the 1996 “Welfare Reform” legislation, or have chosen to ignore that reform’s disastrous effects on hundreds of thousands of low-wage workers laid off in the ongoing economic shutdown—to cite only one example—have now suddenly become politically passionate about the abused Enron employees. These employees work for one of the set of energy corporations which they knew—which everyone knew—was carrying out a morally and economically radical overturn in the productive system of this country, and looting other parts of the economy by charging outrageously high energy prices and in other ways. Most of them were tempted to cash in on this, through the skyrocketing of Enron’s stock price. Thinking they were getting unexpectedly, selfishly rich, they lost their pensions instead. Americans should see the lesson, that “my money, my house, my family” is not the basis of morality, knowledge, or economic policy. But now political campaigners, who for five years failed to take any action to stop the stripping away of health care and hospitals from millions of poorer Americans, or the consequent shortening of those Americans’ lives, are taking up Enron as a tear-drenched “pension reform” issue for the middle class.

The Enron scandal is an urgent national economic policy issue, and nothing else. The political campaigners among Congressional Democrats and Republicans will not touch the obvious truth of the issue, as it was made crystal clear in Lyndon LaRouche’s campaign for the Presidency throughout 1999-2000. They voted for changes to some of the nation’s most important economic regulatory laws, which were passed during the last Depression under President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, precisely to outlaw the looting of the economy by an Enron, as that looting was practiced by the energy

utilities of the 1920s. Or, they agreed to allow the energy regulation laws not to be enforced in the cases of Enron and other energy pirates, so that they could violate them and tear up the nation’s regulated energy grid. Derivatives contracts will not power an industrial process, or turn on the lights in your house. But Senators such as Phil Gramm (Tex.) on the Republican side, and equally, Joe Lieberman (Conn.) and others on the Democrat side, fought to bring on this disaster, by exempting Enron and other financial pirates from the regulatory laws.

LaRouche, in 2000 and 2001, demanded and politically organized for energy and industrial *re-regulation* to prevent mass bankruptcies; and he called for the bankrupting of Enron and the other pirates, as a national menace to be removed.

Now, there is no sane conclusion for the leaders of Congress to draw, but that they were wrong, LaRouche was right; and ram through energy re-regulation immediately, before the depression worsens further.

Their posturing over Enron as if it were “an accounting scandal” is a cover-up for their refusal to admit they were wrong, and to take that immediately necessary action. Both the Republicans and many Democrats are still up to the ears in the financial filth of the speculative pirates Enron led; their refusal to act now for thorough re-regulation, threatens further disasters for the workers and pension-holders they claim to be so concerned about.

The second layer of dangerous cover-up, may bear on even more serious issues of the policies of the United States. The tendency of some leading Democrats to sow the seeds of an Enron “Watergate” for President Bush, is fundamentally dishonest. They are putting forward no economic policy alternatives to the President’s failing economic strategy, but simply trying to wrap it up in a scandal with blackmail potential.

To the extent these Democrats may succeed in such a corrupt operation, the effect is to provoke a partisan competition in denying and avoiding the issues of economic collapse, attempting to draw Americans into military and imperial adventures. This is the objective of the clash of civilizations faction of Brzezinski, Kissinger, et al.; those behind what LaRouche has called “the policies of Sept. 11.”