We Can Solve the Water Problem!

by Creighton Cody Jones

In the Fall of 2005, the LaRouche Youth Movement began a project to break through the popular misconception that economics is primarily driven by monetary processes, by developing animated representations of the physical economy. The challenge was to get across the higher conception of the way in which breakthroughs in the human creative process act upon living and non-living nature to transform the Noösphere and Biosphere. This is an essential step in organizing the population to understand why they must fight for a science-driven economic development program, as the only path to survival.

Since that time, alternating four-person teams from our youth movement have been working in concentrated two-week periods on a mapping/animation project. We began by gathering statistics on some basics of the U.S. physical economy over long historical periods, including the spread of population from the East Coast inland and the development of the national railroad grid, and developing these into computer animations.

Recently, the animation project turned its focus to the world water crisis, which Lyndon LaRouche identified as one of the key problems of human survival that must be addressed. The main perspective we started with came from some of the more recent writings by LaRouche. One of the first things we did was to read through some of the relevant sections in his paper "Economy Despite Alan Greenspan: What Connects the Dots,"[1] where he defines the problem of economic animations.

Robert Detloff/EIRNS

Cody Jones: "We've got the solutions."

The greatest challenge comes in portraying those upshifts and downshifts of a transcendental nature, which are the actual driver of economic advance or decline. We also were looking at LaRouche's "Vernadsky and Dirichlet's Principle"[2] and his "Science: The Power to Prosper"[3] paper.

Of special relevance there, is the question of what occurs when you take a productive process, say, some kind of manufacturing, and move it to a location with lower wage levels and less development of productive infrastructure, as has become the pattern under globalization. Effectively, you have moved into a lower economic potential field. So, even though you may have the exact same technology operating at the point of production, by virtue of it existing in a lower potential field in respect to the economic infrastructure—including skill levels and general infrastructure development—you've actually lowered the productive potential of the economy, overall, worldwide.

SCIENCE and the LaRouche Youth Movement

You see that in Mexico, in the water crisis which is part of the general economic crisis facing Mexico. But, what we've found is that the same thing is going on within the United States itself (Figure 1). One of our team has an animation in the works which is particularly looking at the High Plains aquifer. We also have the data for county-by-county across the country, of groundwater level readings.

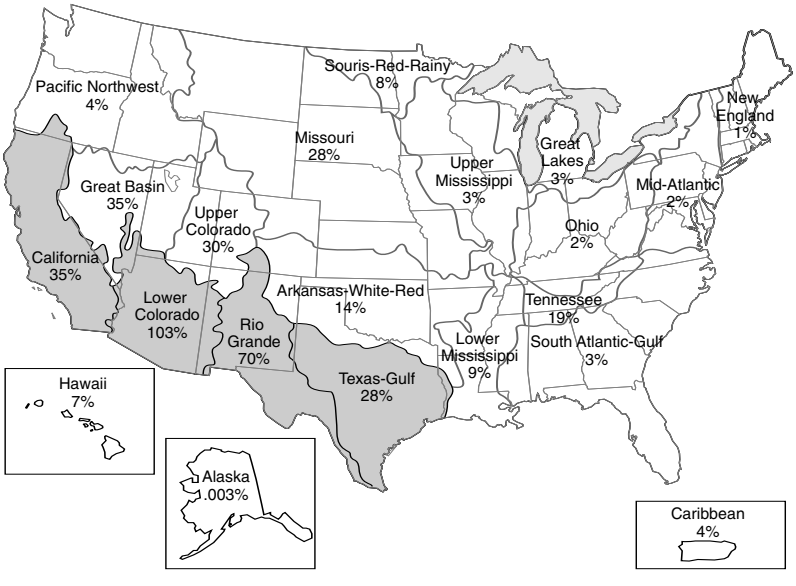

Figure 1
UNITED STATES WATER STRESS (1995)
Average U.S. water stress is 6 percent; excluding Alaska, it is 9 percent.
Source: United States Geological Survey

Water and Economic Health

In some areas, there were really drastic drops in acceptable groundwater levels, particularly in the High Plains aquifer. In West Texas, farmers have had to shift to what they call "dry farming," because the cost of accessing the water is beyond any kind of profit level for the crop produced. This means a shift in crops to such things as cotton—not exactly something that's going to feed hungry people in Detroit.

As the water level drops, you have to go deeper to get it, which means using a

lot more power, electricity, to run the pumps to bring the water up. You also have a situation where the deeper you have to go, the longer it takes to bring the same amount of water to bear on your irrigation. And so, as these aquifer levels drop, you're reaching a situation where you're actually operating in a much lower potential field. If you combine the fact that you have to use more energy to get the water, and it takes longer to bring that same amount of water to bear on your irrigation process, plus the fact that energy costs are going up—we're reaching a point where it's just not economically viable for these farmers any more, to continue the same kind of irrigation and crop growing that they once had.