

EIR Daily Alert Service

P.O. BOX 17390, WASHINGTON, DC 20041-0390

- Take Off the Geopolitical Spectacles: The U.S. Must Work with China
- China Accepts U.S. Proposal for Alaska Talks, with Cautious Optimism
- *Global Times* Praises China-Russia Space Cooperation and Offers Joint Work with the U.S. as Well
- Premier Li Keqiang Replies to Media Question on U.S.-China Relations in Press Conference
- China and Russia Sell Coronavirus Vaccines to Mexico, While Biden Administration Refuses
- World Food Program's Chief Beasley Witnesses 'Man-Made' Disaster in Yemen: 'This Is Hell'
- Lula Calls Bolsonaro an 'Imbecile' for His Handling of Brazil's COVID Crisis
- Paraguay in Upheaval as Citizens Protest Government's Incompetent COVID Response and Corruption
- German COVID Infections Rapidly Increasing
- Hungary Number One in European Vaccinations
- U.S. Astronaut To Ride on Russia's Soyuz to ISS in April
- Erdogan and Putin Remotely Start Third Nuclear Reactor in Akkuyu NPP Construction
- The Import of the Latest COVID 'Relief' Bill

EDITORIAL

Take Off the Geopolitical Spectacles: The U.S. Must Work with China

March 11 (EIRNS)—“Anybody who does not have geopolitical spectacles on their nose can see that, unless the two largest economies in the world—the U.S. and China—work together to tackle problems such as the pandemic, poverty, and famine, the world will be a miserable place,” Helga Zepp-LaRouche asserted in her weekly international webcast today. “And therefore some of these military doctrines which declare Russia and China to be the enemy are really stupid.... The end result can only lead to war.”

Zepp-LaRouche referred specifically to the recent Dr. Strangelove-type rampage of Adm. Philip Davidson, the head of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, who defined China as the leading strategic threat to the United States. But the dangerous policy outlook originates in imperial London and extends deep into both the Republican and Democratic parties—and also into an all-too-gullible American population.

The simple fact of the matter, as Lyndon LaRouche stressed repeatedly, is that we are in the throes of a systemic breakdown crisis of the entire trans-Atlantic system, characterized by both a bankrupt financial system and plunging real living standards of most of the world’s population, which has unleashed pandemics, famine, and cruel poverty. And solving that crisis, LaRouche also insisted, requires mustering the combined physical economic capabilities of China and the United States, in a science-driven global infrastructure program such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Whether London’s ideologues like it or not, China cannot be absent from the real-world solution to these problems. It not only launched the BRI and made it available to all nations, regardless of ideology; China has also succeeded in lifting 850 million Chinese out of extreme poverty over the last 40 years—the single, greatest contribution to the growth of physical-economic productivity worldwide, emphatically including real productivity inside the U.S.

Consider the plight of Yemen, where millions—including children—are facing mass starvation, in what World Food Program director David Beasley painfully described, after a visit to that country this week, as “Hell; it’s the worst place on Earth. And it’s entirely man-made.”

So, too, with the explosion of new strains of COVID across the Americas, centered in Brazil, where the Bolsonaro government’s policy of arrogant inaction has encouraged the spread of the disease to crisis proportions. The new P1 Brazilian strain of the coronavirus is apparently twice as contagious as the original strain; and it is reportedly capable of re-infecting those who had COVID in anywhere from 25-60% of cases. Brazil, with its 211 million population, one-quarter of whom live in abject poverty, shares borders with 10 out of South America’s 12 countries. Do you really think this can be contained within Brazil?

But just as the crisis is man-made, so, too, is its solution: The accelerated development of Southwest Asia, Africa, Ibero-America, and elsewhere, based on the extension of high-tech BRI corridors throughout these regions, in which China and the U.S. must play the keystone roles. The upcoming Schiller Institute/ICLC conference will present a detailed blueprint for such an approach.

China, and Russia, are also both natural allies of those in the United States and Europe who rightly view the Green New Deal as a threat to economic development and human existence itself. As Helga Zepp-LaRouche stated in her webcast:

“Behind all of this so-called ‘climate’ and anti-nuclear question, there are quite different motives: namely to reduce the population, and that is what is not being accepted by Russia and China. This self destruction of the West by deindustrializing, by reversing the level of industry and agriculture to pre-industrial times, means that the west is weakening itself drastically. And naturally, this increases the war danger, because Russia and China have no intention to do likewise.”

THE NEW GLOBAL ECONOMIC ORDER

China Accepts U.S. Proposal for Alaska Talks, with Cautious Optimism

March 11 (EIRNS)—China’s Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian officially welcomed the upcoming high-level meeting with the United States. China’s top diplomat Yang Jiechi along with Foreign Minister and State Councilor Wang Yi, agreed to meet with Tony Blinken, the U.S. Secretary of State, and Jake Sullivan, U.S. National Security Advisor, in Anchorage, Alaska on March 18. Zhao further stated: “We require the U.S. to treat China and Sino-U.S. relations in an objective and rational manner, discard the Cold War and zero-sum thinking, and respect China’s sovereignty, security, and development interests.”

China’s English-language *Global Times* covered a roundup of various experts, basically looking for reasons for cautious optimism. They observed that the meeting was scheduled earlier in the new Biden administration’s term than expected. Next, “Chinese experts said it’s confirmed that the U.S. was the one to have sent the invitation.” They also said that “the U.S. is being very careful and highly values ties with China, since it wouldn’t meet with China unless it’s fully prepared.” Finally, they praised the site selection. Yang Xiyu of the China Institute of International Studies was quoted: “Compared with the other 48 states on its mainland, Alaska and Hawaii are less politically sensitive.”

Global Times also editorialized: “The U.S. side should abandon the mentality of them having special advantages in the dialogue. Mutual respect will be more conducive to reaching some outcomes in the meeting. The U.S. has emphasized the strength of its alliance system. But this factor is exaggerated.” But the allies of the U.S. in the region “are more motivated to cooperate with Beijing than to contain China with the U.S.” Rather, “it is reasonable for China and the U.S. to accept their differences. The purpose of engagement should be to manage differences, seek common interests, and promote cooperation where both sides can and should.” But “some Americans still have a serious zero-sum mentality.... We feel that the U.S.

still does not understand China, and it has misread the nature of China's system and its goal of rejuvenation.”

***Global Times* Praises China-Russia Space Cooperation and Offers Joint Work with the U.S. as Well**

March 11 (EIRNS)—The March 10 issue of *Global Times* contained an enthusiastic editorial on the announcement earlier this week that China and Russia will be cooperating extensively in space. Under the headline “[China, Russia Joint Lunar Exploration Generates High Expectations](#),” the editorial was upbeat about the prospects.

“First, this plan is very likely to be implemented. Russia accumulated rich experience in lunar exploration during the Soviet Union era, and it has developed a strong space technology.... China and Russia have the stable political conditions necessary for long-term cooperation. The cooperation will in turn strengthen bilateral strategic mutual trust and promote comprehensive cooperation in various fields.”

Global Times explained that although the U.S. Artemis lunar program, launched in 2017, is also an international space cooperation project, China and Russia “did not participate” in it. “China-Russia space cooperation has the conditions to achieve equal and mutual benefits, and none will dominate over the other. The Artemis program is obviously dominated by the U.S., and others, including the European Space Agency, play the secondary role.”

The Chinese-Russian approach will be different, the editorial argued. “The joint construction of the lunar scientific research station between China and Russia will provide new channels and areas for international space exploration and boost its true internationalization.... In the long run, most resources needed for human development will come from outer space. One day, there will be many businesses in the space industry and future generations will see wonderful changes in this field.”

Chinese-Russian space cooperation “can also set a positive example with political implications. We also hope that China-Russia cooperation in

lunar exploration will stimulate and promote greater international cooperation. The invisible boundary between the East and the West will be further broken. But of course, it depends on how the U.S. reacts and interacts with China-Russia cooperation in the future.”

Premier Li Keqiang Replies to Media Question on U.S.-China Relations in Press Conference

March 11 (EIRNS)—At a press conference marking the end of the “two sessions” meeting of the National People’s Congress and the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, [Premier Li Keqiang](#) responded to a question from CNN on U.S.-China relations, demanding to know what changes in its policy China would make “to reset and improve its relations” with Washington. The full transcript is posted to the Foreign Ministry website. Li responded: “As the world’s largest developing and developed countries, China and the United States both stand to gain from cooperation and lose from confrontation. In the past forty-plus years of diplomatic ties, China-US relations have gone through some twists and turns, but kept moving forward by overcoming obstacles. This is in keeping with the trend of world development and the fundamental interests of both countries. We hope that the two countries will act in the spirit of the phone conversation between President Xi Jinping and President Joe Biden, respect each other’s core interests and major concerns, refrain from interfering in each other’s internal affairs and work for sustained and healthy development of China-US relations in line with the principle of no conflict, no confrontation, mutual respect and win-win cooperation. That is in the interest of people of both countries. It is also what the international community hopes to see.”

Given their vast differences in culture, history and social systems, he went on “The Chinese and American peoples have the wisdom and capability” to manage their differences. “The two sides need to have dialogue and exchanges based on mutual respect and equality. We hope to see dialogue between the two countries in various areas and on multiple levels. It will help us better manage and mitigate our differences....

“As permanent members of the UN Security Council, the two countries shoulder important responsibility for maintaining world peace and stability and promoting global prosperity and progress,” the Premier told CNN.

China and Russia Sell Coronavirus Vaccines to Mexico, While Biden Administration Refuses

March 11 (EIRNS)—Mexican Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard tweeted today that 3 million doses of CanSino Biologics vaccine arrived at the Mexico City airport very early this morning. The Chinese pharmaceutical maker shipped the active substance of the vaccine, which the Mexican company DrugMex is ready to package in vials; the vaccine should start being injected into Mexican arms within days. But that’s just a start. Ebrard also tweeted that agreements have also been reached with two other Chinese companies—Sinovac for 10 million doses, and Sinopharm for 12.1 million—which are to arrive in April, May, and June.

“Eleven million more people vaccinated. Our gratitude to the Government of the People’s Republic of China for its decided and timely support,” Ebrard rejoiced.

The day before, a plane had arrived, carrying the first 200,000 of another half-million doses of the Russian-made Sputnik V vaccine scheduled to completely arrive by the end of March.

Whenever a vaccine shipment arrives, Ebrard posts a video clip of the large containers of vaccines rolling off the plane, received by himself or another high-level Foreign Ministry official, accompanied by a diplomat from the country sending the life-saving material.

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador personally asked U.S. President Joe Biden if the United States would also help Mexico secure vaccines for its people, when they met on March 1. The White House Press Secretary repeated the next day: the answer is still “No.”

COVID-19 AND FAMINE

World Food Program's Chief Beasley Witnesses 'Man-Made' Disaster in Yemen: 'This Is Hell'

March 11 (EIRNS)—[David Beasley](#), the executive director of the World Food Program, called the humanitarian disaster in Yemen “man-made,” and described the conditions in the war-ravaged country as “Hell ... the worst place on Earth,” in a March 9 interview with the Associated Press. Beasley was speaking by video teleconference from Addis Ababa, following a tour of Yemen that included the capital of Sana’a. The WFP needs at least \$815 million in Yemen aid over the next six months, but has only \$300 million, he said, and stating that the agency needs \$1.9 billion overall for the year. Half of all children under five in Yemen—2.3 million—are projected to face acute malnutrition this year, with nearly 400,000 suffering from severe acute malnutrition and likely to die if they do not get urgent treatment. “We have a vaccine for this. It is called food. All we need to save lives is funding,” he said.

Beasley said that at a child malnutrition ward in a Sana’a hospital, he saw children wasting away from lack of food. Many, he said, were on the brink of death from entirely preventable and treatable causes, and they were the lucky ones because they were receiving medical care. He described the children as “too sick and too weak to either cry or laugh.”

“In a children’s wing or ward of a hospital, you know you normally hear crying, and laughter. There’s no crying, there’s no laughter, there’s dead silence,” he said. “I went from room to room, and literally, children that in any other place in the world would be fine, they might get a little sick but they’d get recovered, but not here.”

“This is Hell,” he said. “It’s the worst place on Earth. And it’s entirely man-made.” Yemen has been the victim of a Saudi war of aggression and a merciless blockade, under the direction of British policymakers and with American support as well.

Beasley stressed that despite all the accusations, the Houthis have actually eased up on their restrictions on the work of humanitarian aid

agencies. “We’ve turned a corner with the Houthis ... in terms of cooperation, collaboration,” he said, and stressing that the only obstacle now is the lack of funding.

Lula Calls Bolsonaro an ‘Imbecile’ for His Handling of Brazil’s COVID Crisis

March 11 (EIRNS)—Former Brazilian President Lula de Silva yesterday delivered his first public speech since his phony conviction for graft was overturned by the Brazilian Supreme Court earlier this week, and he used the occasion to rip into President Jair Bolsonaro as an “imbecile” for his handling of the COVID pandemic. “Many of these deaths could have been avoided,” Lula stated, referring to Brazil’s stunning 268,000 deaths. Brazil has the second-highest number of COVID deaths in the world, after the United States.

Speaking to a rally of metalworkers in São Bernardo do Campo, his historic base, Lula charged, “This country is disorganized and falling apart, because it has no government,” and he demanded “Health, jobs and justice for Brazil... The people need jobs.” Lula may run for President against Bolsonaro in the October 2022 elections, although some voices have surfaced in the country calling for Bolsonaro to be driven out of office immediately, if the country is to survive.

Bolsonaro’s outrageous disregard for human life and dismissive attitude about any and all anti-pandemic measures (“stop whining” about the pandemic, he told Brazilians a few days ago), has converted Brazil into a threat to the health of the entire planet. According to Fiocruz, a respected biological sciences R&D center in Rio de Janeiro, the new P1 strain of the coronavirus that has emerged in Brazil, which is thought to be twice as infectious as the original strain, may also evade immunity built up by having had the original version of COVID, with a chance of reinfection estimated at between 25% and 60%. Furthermore, P1 is just one of several “variants of concern” that have become dominant in six of eight states studied by Fiocruz.

“This information is an atomic bomb,” said Roberto Kraenkel, of the COVID-19 Brazil Observatory, according to the *Washington Post*.

Fiocruz also reports that intensive care units in 15 state capitals are at more than 90% capacity, including the two largest states, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. The national capital, Brasilia, is also reported to be at full ICU capacity, while two major cities—Porto Alegre in the south and Campo Grande in the southwest—have exceeded capacity. There is an imminent danger of the “overload and even collapse of health systems,” the R&D center warned.

BBC reported: “Scientists are concerned that Brazil has almost become a natural laboratory, where people can see what happens when coronavirus goes relatively unchecked.... Global experts are calling for a plan—including rapid vaccination, lockdowns, and strict social distancing measures—to get the situation under control.” Brazilian epidemiologist Dr. Pedro Hallal told the BBC: “If we do not start vaccinating the population here very soon, it will become a massive tragedy.”

Brazil, with a population of 211 million, is by far the largest country in South America, and shares borders with 10 other nations: every country of South America except Chile and Ecuador. It also has extensive historic ties and travel with Africa. And the Brazilian population was one of the most ravaged by AIDS in decades past, opening up dangerous potentials in terms of its relationship to the coronavirus.

Paraguay in Upheaval as Citizens Protest Government’s Incompetent COVID Response and Corruption

March 11 (EIRNS)—The nation of Paraguay is in upheaval, characterized by seven straight days of mass protests in the capital of Asunción and other major cities over President Mario Abdo Benítez’s incompetent response to the coronavirus pandemic and his refusal to deal with decades of entrenched corruption. Citizens are demanding that Abdo resign or be impeached, causing him to reshuffle his cabinet this week with a vague promise to respond to citizens’ demands. But the protests continue. The fact

that Paraguay borders Brazil, whose worsening pandemic threatens all its neighbors, is also a cause for alarm.

The number of COVID cases is spiraling out of control in this nation of 7 million, having reached Brazilian levels of daily cases—more than 2,000—on March 9. The total number of cases in the country is 174,000, but to date, only one shipment of 4,000 doses of the Sputnik V vaccine has been received, part of 1 million doses contracted with the Russian Direct Investment Fund. The rest has yet to arrive. Chile also donated 20,000 doses of the Chinese vaccine, CoronaVac. On several occasions, Abdo announced that the vaccine was “about to arrive,” but it never materialized. Hence, aside from healthcare workers, vaccination for others hasn’t begun. The government is still waiting to get 36,000 doses of a total of 304,800 doses supposed to come through the World Health Organization’s COVAX mechanism. On March 10, Abdo also announced that he had just completed a contract for 2 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccine, scheduled to arrive in 15 days.

In the meantime, the healthcare system borders on collapse. Asunción and the Central Department represent 70% of the nation’s cases and 100% of their beds are filled. Dr. Roque Silva, head of the XI Health Region of the Central Department, said he didn’t know if the country was in “red, or double-red alert,” but described the situation as “pre-catastrophic,” given that all hospital beds, in both public and private hospitals, are filled, *Ultima Hora* reported today. The daily covered the statement by the Paraguayan Society of Intensive and Critical Care Medicine, warning that “today, we intensive care specialists are stretched to the limit, treating ever more patients,” and calling on government authorities to act swiftly to guarantee “equal and fair access to vaccines” for ICU personnel and all healthcare personnel, so that they may continue to operate “on the front lines.” They also insisted on enforcement of public health measures.

German COVID Infections Rapidly Increasing

March 11 (EIRNS)—Germany is rapidly moving away from the target of driving new COVID infections down below 35 cases per 100,000 people—

and that is a bad omen for hopes that the lockdown may be further eased at the end of March. With more than 14,000 new infections reported by the Robert Koch Institute for yesterday, Germany is being thrown back into a negative pandemic dynamic which the Institute characterized as “the third wave arriving.” And so far, only 8% of the population have received the first shot of the vaccine, in 10 weeks of the inoculation campaign.

In an interview with Funke Mediengruppe, Bodo Ramelow, Minister President of Thuringia, urged the use of Russia’s Sputnik V vaccine. “In my opinion, the Sputnik V vaccine provides a great opportunity for a quicker return to normal life,” he said today. “I call upon the German government to let the EU understand that a necessary amount of the vaccine should be requested from Sputnik V manufacturers right now.”

“The use of Sputnik V in Germany can lead to the understanding that Eastern European science is no worse than that of capitalist states,” TASS quoted him as saying.

Hungary Number One in European Vaccinations

March 11 (EIRNS)—The decision by Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán to have a Hungarian aircraft make a special flight to Beijing to bring back 550,000 doses of the Sinopharm vaccine, has made Hungary number-one in Europe in inoculations against novel coronavirus. Hungary has so far vaccinated 14% of its population, and expects to reach 100% by the end of July—pending delivery of 19 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccine which it previously ordered. Orbán rejected criticism, stating: “It would be irresponsible to let Hungarians die just because the European vaccine does not arrive in time.”

One aspect that enabled Hungary to conduct the vaccination campaign with speed is that it did not waste time with a bureaucratic infrastructure, but told citizens to register online. Their registrations were then passed on to hospitals or physicians from which they could get inoculated.

SCIENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

U.S. Astronaut To Ride on Russia's Soyuz to ISS in April

March 11 (EIRNS)—Roscosmos released a statement on March 10 that the United States, in late 2020, asked for a spot on Soyuz MS-18, to send an astronaut to the International Space Station (ISS) on April 9. The U.S. had been entirely dependent on Russian flights since 2011 with the end of the Space Shuttle program, but Elon Musk's May 2020 success with SpaceX's Crew Dragon suggested that the U.S. had regained its own capability to get to the ISS. The Russian statement observed that the U.S. request was made very late in the process, and required adjustments in the Russian program, but Roscosmos will accommodate the request so as to "confirm its commitment to joint agreements and the spirit of joint use of the International Space Station. The tradition of international crews, which has existed for more than 20 years, will be continued again."

NASA's Mark Vande Hei will travel with Russian cosmonauts Oleg Novitsky and Pyotr Dubrov, and stay on the ISS for six months. Previously, NASA had said that it wanted to minimize "risks associated with any interruption in U.S. crew member presence on ISS," should there be any problems with commercial vehicles. NASA signed a contract with Axiom Space of Houston to fly a NASA astronaut on an upcoming Soyuz rotation. In exchange, NASA will provide a seat to Axiom on a future U.S. commercial spacecraft, expected to launch in 2023, as part of a space station crew rotation mission, the agency reported in a March 10 statement.

Dmitry Rogozin, the director of Roscosmos, wrote on Facebook: "Flights to the ISS are unstable. There was an urgent need for them to find insurance and send their man on our ship, to make sure their segment on the space station isn't left unattended." RT reports the interchange between Rogozin and Elon Musk: In 2014 Rogozin joked on social media, after the U.S. sanctions included him: "After analyzing the sanctions against our space industry, I suggest to the U.S.A. to bring their astronauts to the International Space Station using a trampoline." In 2020, after SpaceX's success, Musk responded: "The trampoline is working!" Rogozin's

Facebook entry has now observed: “Apparently, the trampoline only works so-so.”

Erdogan and Putin Remotely Start Third Nuclear Reactor in Akkuyu NPP Construction

March 11 (EIRNS)—Turkey’s President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Russian President Vladimir Putin inaugurated the construction of a third nuclear reactor at the Akkuyu power plant in southern Turkey in a remotely held ceremony on March 10. The nuclear power station is being built by Russia’s nuclear agency Rosatom and will supply 10% of Turkey’s electricity when completed. Construction for the plant began in 2018.

Erdogan said the first reactor would become operational in 2023, to coincide with the centennial of the modern Turkish state. A total of four reactors is planned. “We have had the opportunity to see the results of Turkish-Russian dialogue in many fields, including in Libya, in Nagorno-Karabakh, in Syria,” *Hurriyet Daily News* quoted Erdogan as saying, and then added its own comment that the two countries back opposing sides in these conflicts.

Speaking from Moscow, Putin referred to the nuclear plant as a “truly flagship project.”

UNITED STATES POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

The Import of the Latest COVID ‘Relief’ Bill

March 11 (EIRNS)—It is obvious that the \$1.9 trillion “COVID relief” bill just passed, the so-called American Rescue Act, is largely unrelated to needs for ending the pandemic, and instead aims to rescue unpayable debt in the U.S. economy. It is not a “Democratic wish list,” as Republican leaders charge, but a wish list taken from the August 2019 “regime change” policy of the Jackson Hole, Wyoming annual bankers’ conference: Print money, hand it directly to institutions and households, and specify that it be spent on an emergency basis to create economic demand. Thus we find a \$90 billion grant to pension funds in the bill; \$230 billion to school systems

which are still slowly spending funds from the last COVID relief bill; ditto for many states and cities whose tax revenues rose in 2020, etc. There continues to be no federal investment at all in productive employment or raising productivity, and therefore a lot of the “demand” created, simply spills into the stock and bond markets.

The resulting huge anomaly in the unchanging situation of collapsed American productive and overall employment, is that U.S. household income and disposable income have both risen during the year since last March. “Relief” spending has poured from the federal government; interest rates of all kinds have been driven down by the Federal Reserve; and private bank deposits have risen dramatically in the “Big Six” Wall Street banks and the regional majors. This disposable income rise has been marked by the most profound inequality, as lower-income and informal workers have lost more income than they have gained from “relief” and unemployment benefits, and large consumer and financial companies have boomed along with their executives, white collar employees, etc. The booming stock market has added riches to the upper parts of the income spectrum.

Between March 2020 and March-April 2021, American households will have received \$2.2 trillion in relief aid and supplemental unemployment, which is equal to the total annual spending on Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid combined. That is aside from the \$2.3 trillion in other kinds of relief aid to states and cities, hospital systems, schools, etc. And the Federal Reserve has added \$2 trillion in that year to bank reserves, driving up the values of all speculative holdings.

Thus the situation now is explosive—inflation has begun to get serious, although official indices are just as serious about hiding it. In what is measured by various private firms as “the service sector”—most of the U.S. economy—inflation from February to February 2021 registered 7.6% according to the Markit analysis firm, with healthcare costs leading the way. Food price inflation has been at an annual 4% for six months, even though restaurant prices have been cut. The “shortage” commodities

lumber, semiconductors, aluminum, etc. are now inflating rapidly in prices to producers and builders. Home prices are rising at a national average 8-10% annual rate, although homes are considered to be investments—if you can get one—rather than purchases.

And even the relatively ridiculous Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose by 0.7% in February after 0.4% in January—despite the Labor Department BLS admitting in its report for February that it had serious problems collecting its normal data. It appears to have simply made some of its report up out of whole cloth, as when it reported housing price inflation was very low!

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Friday, March 12: Every weekday morning on [The LaRouche Organization](#) website, Harley will give you the strategic briefing on what you need to know to start your day.