Vi vil finde vores frihed i nødvendighed og udføre vores pligt med lidenskab! LaRouche PAC Internationale Webcast, 19. maj, 2017

Uddrag:

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I denne weekend fandt der et enormt skift sted i verdenshistorien; noget absolut fænomenalt enormt, med Bælt & Vej Forum, der fandt sted i Beijing, Kina. Det omfattede flere end 1000 deltagere fra over 100 lande, to til tre dusin statsoverhoveder; flere dusin internationale aftaler blev underskrevet under selve begivenheden. Der blev truffet bestemmelser om over \$100 mia. i ekstra finansiering til infrastruktur i hele verden.

Jeg vil gerne gennemgå noget af det, der fandt sted under denne konference, og dernæst sætte det i kontrast til kvaliteten af politisk debat, vi har netop nu i USA.

Her ser vi et af åbningsbillederne fra begivenhederne, med statsoverhoveder og andre delegerede, der deltog i konferencen. En meget stor begivenhed. Hallen med over 1000 mennesker. Her ser vi præsident Putin, der taler for deltagerne – han var æresgæst; viser den virkelige forbindelse mellem Kina og Rusland omkring dette projekt; her bydes han velkommen af Xi Jinping. Blandt de øvrige deltagere ved denne begivenhed var – på en meget bemærkelsesværdig måde – Helga Zepp-LaRouche, »Silkevejsladyen«; præsident og stifter af Schiller Instituttet, og hustru til Lyndon LaRouche. Lyndon og Helga LaRouche har mobiliseret for et Nyt Økonomisk Paradigme i årtier.

Det, der fandt sted på konferencen i Beijing, inklusive Helga Zepp-LaRouches deltagelse som medlem af en tænketank i et forum for tænketanke, som fandt sted, hvor hun et par gange fik lejlighed til at tale og føre sine pointer frem, var, at et helt nyt paradigme virkelig er ved at tage form. Kinas Bælt & Vej-initiativ inkluderer foreløbig disse seks landruter, som man ser her på skærmen, sammen med den maritime rute, som man ser gå gennem oceanerne. Det kinesiske initiativ vil medføre investering af billioner af dollars; for \$4-8 billion infrastrukturinvestering i veje, jernbaner, havne, kanaler og den slags ting. Det, som LaRouche-bevægelsen, som Schiller Instituttet, som EIR har foreslået gennem rapporter om dette, er et Verdenslandbro-koncept for konnektivitet, infrastruktur, udvikling og opbygning af en ny platform for at gøre den fremtidige, potentielle økonomiske vækst til virkelighed.

Mængden af programmer og projekter, der er planlagt, overstiger allerede mange gange selv Marshallplanen, der genopbyggede Europa efter Anden Verdenskrig. På denne graf som I måske dårligt kan se – repræsenterer denne lille, blå søjle her til venstre den inflationstilpassede investering i Marshallplanen, som var USA's finansiering til genopbygningen af det krigshærgede Europa efter Anden Verdenskrig; omkring \$150 mia. Ved siden af er RFC - Reconstruction Finance Corporation, som var et af hovedinstrumenterne til finansiering af New Deals infrastrukturprogrammer (i USA); RFC byggede de store projekter i USA, der var motor for den daværende økonomiske vækst. Se dernæst på størrelsen investeringerne i Ét Bælt, én Vej; et sted mellem \$4-8 billion er planlagt at blive investeret som en del af dette program. Mange, mange gange større end noget, der tidligere er gjort.

Det er vigtigt, mener jeg, at erkende, at i denne verden, der er ved at tage form, er den ene ting, at det repræsenterer et Nyt Paradigme i verden; og den anden ting er, at det repræsenterer årtiers arbejde, årtiers mobilisering. Kort tid efter forummet, en dag eller to efter, inviterede et af toptv-programmerne i Kina, »Dialog«, Helga Zepp-LaRouche som gæst på programmet. Lad os se et kort klip:

Interviewer: Hvad synes De om Kinas globale ambition?

Helga Zepp-LaRouche: Jeg mener, at det er et meget vigtigt, strategisk initiativ, for det er den eneste måde, hvorpå man kan løse alle problemer, regionalt samarbejde, underudvikling, fattigdom; det er virkelig en historisk mission. Jeg ser intet andet. Bestemt ikke fra USA, og bestemt ikke fra Europa; så jeg er virkelig optimistisk. Jeg mener, i går var et fantastisk historisk øjeblik.

Ross: Jeg vil gerne læse en sætning ved dette interviews slutning, hvordan Helga afsluttede dette interview. Hun sagde: »Jeg er fuldstændig overbevist om, at, om et halvt år, så vil flertallet af de nationer, der stadig tøver, erkende, at det er i deres bedste interesse at tilslutte sig. Tyskland burde f.eks. have en fundamental interesse i at samarbejde. Tysk industri, Mittelstand, mellemstore virksomheder, er præcis den form for komplementær økonomisk styrke, der ville fungere perfekt med Kina; og jeg tror, det kommer, jeg lover det.«

(Her følger engelsk udskrift af resten af webcastet)

So, this is reflected as well in the statements from the many foreign leaders who attended the conference. Let's get a sense of what the world thought about this event. This is a quote from Matthew Pottinger; he was sent by President Trump. About a week before the forum, it was announced that Trump was upgrading US involvement; and the National Security Council East

Asia head was sent. He said, "You can really see that there

is a shared interest in expanding infrastructure connectivity through high quality investment financing. That's why American companies should really be involved in a lot of the projects that we're hearing about." President Putin talked about how it's creating a new type of world order. He said, "We have exhausted many former models and indicators of economic development. Poverty, the lack of financial security, and the massive gap in the level of development between countries and regions; these all fuel international terrorism, extremism, and illegal migration. We will not be able to tackle these challenges unless we overcome this stagnation in global development. None of the old approaches to conflict resolution should be used to solve modern problems. We need fresh and stereotype-free ideas. "By proposing China's One Belt, One Road Initiative, President Xi Jinping has demonstrated an example of a creative approach towards fostering integration in energy, infrastructure, transport, industry, and humanitarian collaboration. We would welcome the involvement of our European colleagues in this partnership." Putin was the guest of honor at the event. President Xi Jinping himself said, "We should build the Belt and Road into a road of prosperity. Development holds the master key to solving all problems. In pursuing the Belt and Road Initiative, we should focus on the fundamental issue of development; release the growth potential of various countries, and achieve economic integration and interconnected development, and deliver benefits to all." Viktor Orban, the prime minister of Hungary, said that "the

trend of the Belt and Road Initiative, this trend is the exact opposite of what we're used to, and what we have been taught about the workings of the global economy." More on that in a moment. President Erdogan of Turkey said, "This initiative, particularly against rising terrorism in the world, will be an initiative that will almost eradicate terrorism. I believe this cooperation, which will benefit everyone, will succeed as a We, as Turkey, are ready to give all kinds of support model. for it." Jean-Pierre Raffarin, sent by new French President Macron, said "The Belt and Road Initiative proposed by President Xi shows that he attaches great importance to cooperation between Europe and Asia. It will inject vitality into global development, and shows his global vision." Prime Minister of Greece, Alexis Tsipras: "What is particularly positive for us is that the goals of the Belt and Road Initiative are compatible with our own regional economic goals. And our dynamic, comprehensive, strategic partnership with China sets a solid basis for working in this direction. Greece, after many years of severe crises, is returning to a growth path which opens up remarkable opportunities for investment and trade." And last, the Economics Minister of Slovakia, Peter Ziga, said, "It's an historic opportunity. View it as the project of the century. Everything indicates that the Chinese side and other important states such as Russia, have a strong interest in launching a New Silk Road. Even though the details still haven't

been released, it's seems that the question actually is only whether the project will take place with us, or without us." And that's exactly right. As President Putin and Prime Minister Orban had said, there is a New Paradigm that is taking place in the world right now. The past decades' attempts to try to control terrorism or extremism without having a real development model simply will not be effective; they cannot be effective. I'd like to ask Kesha to address what Mr. LaRouche views as one of the most important aspects of US cooperation, in terms of what the US has to offer the world in a World Land-Bridge-type perspective. Kesha, what do you see as the opportunities that the US has to provide leadership on this front? What do we have to offer? KESHA ROGERS: Well, Jason, Mr. and Mrs. LaRouche stressed both that the next phase of cooperation has to be around the offer of the United States to cooperate on the space program. We have to go beyond what most people have looked at as come to the space program, even going back to President John F Kennedy, as something of a competitive avenue. But that this is to unite in harmony, mankind; to bring cultures together in a vision for, as Mrs. LaRouche said, what is the natural mission of mankind for the next 10, 100, 1000 years. As she stressed in her remarks at the recent event, where do we want humanity as a whole to be in 100 or even 1000 years? As she posed in her speech, is it not the natural destiny of mankind as the only creative species

known in this universe so far, that he will build villages on the Moon, develop a deeper understanding of trillions of dollars [inaud; 11:46] universe, solve the problems of - until now - incurable disease, or solve the problem of energy and raw material security through the development of thermonuclear fusion power. She qoes on to say that by focussing on the common aims of humanity, we will be able to overcome geopolitics and establish a higher level of reason for the benefit of all mankind. As Mrs. LaRouche made clear, and Mr. LaRouche, from their decades-long work as we know, that Mr. and Mrs. LaRouche have dedicated decades of their lives to the formation of what has been brought about with what we're seeing of the Belt and Road Silk Road initiative; what they have called the Eurasian Land-Bridge. But we're not just talking about development and cooperation among nations in infrastructure development here on Earth with these bridges and dams and roads, but as has been reported coming out of the Belt and Road summit, this was actually developed in the science magazine, China is also looking at win-win cooperation in what is called space development or science infrastructure or a science Belt and Road. You see already out of this conference, there were over 370+ agreements which took place; but on science and technology, President Xi Jinping of China said "Innovation is an important force of powering development." With that, they developed - to kind of highlight a few things here -a science and technology action plan, calling for 25,000 foreign-born scientists, engineers, and managers over the next five years. They want to give 10,000 scholarships to students from developing countries to study in

China. You have a set-up of about 50 joint laboratories that's being discussed; 40+ countries to cooperate in space-based Earth observation; observatories which would be used to identify and manage natural resources and to respond to natural disasters. So, when people think about cooperation in space, before we even talk about going to another planetary body, going to the Moon, we can actually start to set up new technologies of the shared interests for the development of mankind on this planet. But that takes us into the next phase of mankind's commitment; as Mrs. LaRouche said, "Our destiny has to be building villages on the Moon." This is something that's not new to Lyndon and Helga LaRouche. Mr. LaRouche developed the concept really as finally to restore and revive that which was destroyed by the British Empire and those who thought to take out President John F Kennedy. Mr. LaRouche came in and restored that vision of President Kennedy in the 1980s with the Woman on Mars mission. But let me just say, the concept here is vision; vision for the What the United States has to restore itself to, is a future. commitment to vision in space exploration as we had under President John F Kennedy, and cooperation. A lot of people don't know and I hear all the time that the purpose of going to the Moon, the purpose of President John F Kennedy's famous speech to a joint session of Congress May 25, 1961, saying we're going to send a man to the Moon and return him safely to Earth before the end of the decade; people see that as merely competition.

What a lot of people don't know and don't recognize is that after Kennedy made that very clear vision directed the nation toward а national mission, it was two years later in September of 1963, only two months before he was assassinated, that President John F Kennedy offered cooperation for a joint mission with the Soviet Union, at a time when tensions had started to fade out, that there was a move toward mutual cooperation and development. Those people in the United States who say that the United States can't work with Russia, or that Russia is the enemy, these are the same people who were denying the vision of President John F Kennedy; who didn't want the cooperation that he had set forth. We could have had a joint mission on the Moon with the Soviet Union at the time that would have completely changed the concept and the scope of the relationship with the United States and Russia. Also today, it's the same thing, because when we talk about missions for developing the Solar System, developing the Moon as the first step for developing the fusion technology and energy for getting to Mars and developing colonies on Mars, as Mr. LaRouche lays out in his "Woman on Mars" speech, which he made over 30 years ago, that we would get there in 39 years and speaking back to us on this have this woman great accomplishment for the project and benefit of all mankind. That's what we have to restore right now, and that is the next phase and mission of cooperation as was clearly laid out by Mr. and Mrs. LaRouche,

and also is already being taken up by nations that have developed and have joined the Belt and Road Initiative. The question at hand is the creative development of mankind and the best conception to do that is through cooperation in space, cooperation in creating new sciences, new technologies. We very much understand how to do that, and we can move forward with that initiative. ROSS: Right; and I think in terms of way that this is really being moved on right now, you brought this up in science and in projects that clearly demonstrate common aims and have а universal character in that way. I'd just like to bring up one of the developments that came out of this forum on the strategic or the geopolitical front; which was the cooperation that was announced by President Duterte from the Philippines. President Duterte has been under attack for a variety of reasons. People say he's too tough on the drug dealers in the Philippines, etc. What he announced, in collaboration with Vietnam and China, was that they would work out a way to collaboratively use the resources of the South China Sea; essentially eliminating that as a geopolitical factor, if the parties involved can agree to common development. This is very much like the détente and the

agreement reached between Japan and Russia, which have not fully in a formal way worked out the ownership of some of the contested islands - the Kurile Islands - between Russia and Japan; but agreed as two countries working together, to exploit the resources together in a common way. So that the hang-ups that allowed conflict to fester are being overcome by looking at ways of working together in a collaborative way. While all of this is happening — and this is something that the US most certainly ought to join, because we have a tremendous need for infrastructure here; we're in desperate need of an economic recovery. President Trump has called for the spending of \$1 trillion on infrastructure; which is nowhere what's fully required in the United States, although it's certainly moving in the right direction. When you would think that patriotic Americans would all be saying, "Look at these opportunities around the world. An opportunity to overcome the Wall Street-type of finance that's characterized our economy and move towards real physical building of things and cooperating on projects that undoubtedly improve people's lives; like having high-speed rail, like creating jobs and business in this way." Instead, there is a total tempest-in-a-teapot going on in the United States around President Trump and all things related to Russia. Diane, I was hoping that you could share with us your views on what this means about our ability to act politically in the United States as a nation in its own interests. DIANE SARE: Sure. I think first of all, I'll share the views

of

Lyndon LaRouche, who was briefed this morning on some comments from the British intelligence operative, Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, who we remember from his efforts to get President Bill Clinton thrown out of office. He's basically saying that they're not going to be able to impeach President Trump; which is true. First of all, because Trump has not committed any impeachable He didn't say that, of course, but he said that offenses. with a Republican Congress and so on. So, let's just harass him; let's tie his hands, let's prevent him from doing anything that he wants to do. When Mr. LaRouche was presented with this, he said, "It won't work. The transformation of the world is too large. It's bigger than the British Empire." If you think about the size of the investments that you showed on that chart, think about the size of China -1.4 billion or so people. There are already 61 or more nations involved in the Belt and Road, who have experienced a massive increase in trade and prosperity as а result of this collaboration. Even in the United States, while the media is doing their very best job to prevent Americans from getting the faintest whiff of the potential in the world, the {Wall Street Journal} two days ago was forced to admit that the China Investment Corporation was planning to move their offices from Toronto into Manhattan; and that they wished to change \$50 billion of their holdings in US Treasuries into investment of new infrastructure in the United States. I think you can ask yourself from the Chinese perspective, they're holding \$1.4 trillion of US Treasuries; if the United States is a

collapsing giant with water crises, roads and bridges collapsing, heroin overdoses, that's not really a viable investment. If thev're holding, or invested, as Mrs. LaRouche pointed out in her speech in Beijing, that President Trump is calling for a return to the American System which would create a pathway using Hamiltonian credit; he's referred to Henry Clay and others – Hamilton, we are referring to; this creates the means for China to actually make this kind of investment in the United States which transforms everything. I think you can ask anybody if they would prefer to be stuck in traffic for five hours, risking losing their entire car in a giant pothole, when they could be riding а train that goes 300mph and getting to their destination in 15 minutes, what they would prefer; I think the choice is obvious. So, what has occurred is just a spectacular witch-hunt; President Trump is 100% correct when he refers to this as a witch-hunt. He has no intention of giving it up. I'd like to qo right now to a video clip of him speaking to the commencement ceremony of the Coast Guard so that people have a sense of that. And then I have a few more things to say about who is behind this attack and why. TRUMP Now, I want to take this opportunity to give : you some advice. Over the course of your life, you will find that things are not always fair. You will find that things happen

to

you that you do not deserve and that are not always warranted. But you have to put your head down and fight, fight, fight. Never, ever, ever give up. Things will work out just fine. Look at the way Iâve been treated lately â (laughter) â especially by the media. No politician in history â and I say this with great surety â has been treated worse or more unfairly. You canât let them get you down. You canât let the critics and the naysayers get in the way of your dreams. (Applause.) I quess thatâs why I â thank you. I quess thatâs why we won. Adversity makes you stronger. Donât give in. Donât back down. And never stop doing what you know is right. Nothing worth doing ever, ever, ever came easy. And the more righteous your fight, the more opposition that you will face. So, as I think you can see, this is not a President SARE: who is going to turn tail or run, or cower. Happily, he's a New Yorker who enjoys fighting. I just want to remind people, because those of you who have been following LaRouche and been familiar with LaRouche, there was an earlier witch-hunt in this country, which was the witch-hunt against Lyndon LaRouche; with the result that shortly after he collaborated with President Reagan and the Strategic Defense Initiative came into being, at the time that the Berlin Wall - which Mr. LaRouche had forecast would come down - came down, LaRouche was being carted off to prison. This witch-hunt was orchestrated not only by the same apparatus, but in many cases, the exact same individuals that are targetting President Trump now. One of the key players in the early, initial trial against

Mr. LaRouche in Boston – which fell apart – was none other than Robert Mueller. He did such a brilliant job of covering up the evidence of the Saudi royal family role in 9/11, he's now been assigned to investigate President Trump's alleged ties to Russia. etc. As was pointed out by Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS) Bill Binney and Ray McGovern in an article that appeared a couple of days ago in the {Baltimore Sun}, Comey absolutely was legitimately fired; it was the right thing for President Trump to do. Comey had refused to investigate the actual serious crime which was committed, which was the unmasking of Michael Flynn; who had a telephone conversation with the Russian ambassador and, according to US law, the American end of that conversation should never have been recorded. That was The fact that that not only was recorded, but then illegal. was leaked to the press, is two crimes committed for which people could and should be prosecuted; and it would be relatively easy to discover who did it. That actual crime was not investigated. Instead, we are supposed to believe that somehow Russian hacking changed the vote of the American people; which no one has yet explained even how that would work even if they could prove that the Russians hacked into the DNC computers – which they can't even prove. Especially since it's been revealed now that you can change the IP address; you can make it look like Russians hacked into a computer, when in fact the hacking was done

right from someplace in Iowa. So, this whole thing is completely a fraud; and Julian Assange has made the point that there was no hacking, as Binney and Ray McGovern said. Assange explicitly it was a leak; McGovern and Binney also said that this absolutely could have been a leak. There's another breaking story - which we have not confirmed independently – of interest, of Seth Rich, the 27vear old DNC staffer who turned up dead. There's now some question as to whether or not he was sending tens of thousands of emails to Wikileaks. As I said, that has not been yet confirmed by other sources, but it just underscores that there was no crime committed in terms of collusion between Trump and Russia. The Russians did not determine the outcome of this election. Ι think every sane American knows this; and frankly, most of the Democratic Party knows this, they're just completely gutless in the face of this McCarthy-ite kind of witch-hunt against the President, to tell the truth about what they know. Which is that the Democratic Party abandoned its traditional base; the forgotten men and women who voted in large numbers for President The people who have skills who are currently Trump. unemployed; who should be working for \$50, \$60, \$70 an hour producing things for the nation and the world; who are now either working at McDonald's or Walmart or are unemployed. These are the people that Trump's campaign inspired to turn out in large numbers; that

was simply not being offered by the Democratic Party. I will say that if you think about two times in history which Mr. LaRouche talks about frequently: one is 1945, where the British – through certain military tactics or failures – delayed the end of World War II; they delayed the victory because they were hoping that Franklin Roosevelt would be dead by the time the war ended. Because what FDR envisioned was a world without a colonial empire; where the British, the French, the Dutch, the Portuguese would give up their colonies, and nations would have the right to develop. Very much like what President Xi Jinping is talking about at this time. Mr. LaRouche was a veteran of World War II; he was in the Pacific theatre at that time – I believe in Burma – when Franklin Roosevelt died. He often describes his fellow troops coming to him and saying, "What do you think is the meaning of this?" And he said, "A very great man" - FDR - "has been replaced by a very little man." That is Truman, who was a complete lackey of the British; who presided over the only use of nuclear bombs so far, which was done by the United States on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This was completely unnecessary, because Japan was already preparing to surrender. He also presided over the new Cold War; the division of the world between these spheres of influence - geopolitics, which has so much colored the way people think about things. So LaRouche determined that, in a sense, his life's work would be to bring into existence a higher ordering state of mankind; governments worthy of what it means to be truly human. That has been his life's mission. And to that end, he

collaborated with others to create the conditions for the Reagan Presidency, where with the Strategic Defense Initiative and LaRouche's forecast that the Soviet Union was going to disintegrate economically, you had the collapse of the Berlin Now that was 28 years ago. That changed the world; and Wall. yet, you have people today - 28 years later - trying to act like Russia is our enemy. The British, who truly are the enemy of the United States, are allies. This is completely backwards. Happily, the British Empire is right now operating from the standpoint of complete strategic weakness. The trans-Atlantic financial system is totally bankrupt; they have shut down their ability to produce. They have tried to squash and stifle every scientist in the trans-Atlantic world with this Green agenda, this fear of global warming and climate change and all of this baloney; which happily hasn't worked. We still have a lot of creative people in the United States. I think Kesha knows many of them in the space program in Texas. And what you have is that China, with this Beijing conference, has consolidated a process that has been underway and coming together for a very long time. So, I would like to just urge everybody who is viewing this, to take advantage of the material on the website. I think Jason was involved in producing a short video and a petition basically saying let's suck it up and tell the Congress to suck it up and move on; that no one is interested in this witch-hunt against President Trump. What people {are} interested in, is

organizing an economic recovery, and we are very much on the brink of So, I would urge everyone to not be demoralized or success. fearful. We have to take the same approach as Lyndon LaRouche, as President Trump has said now, to absolutely not give up; and insure the United States joins this potential which has been opened up. Absolutely! Part of the irony of this idea of a ROSS: Russian takeover of United States policy, is that if Russia took over US policy, what are the policies that Russia is forcing Russia is not opposing Glass-Steagall. The reason through? we don't have Glass-Steagall right now is because of Wall Street and because of Presidents who capitulated to it; it's not because of Russia. Joining the Belt and Road Initiative would make the most possible sense for the United States right now. Offering what we have to offer to that; being part of an international development program of infrastructure, that's clearly in America's best interests. Would that be some sort of a Russian plot? The whole thing just doesn't make any sense. The idea that people are debating this and arguing whether or not Trump said something inappropriate to Comey, while people are dying of opioids, while communities are being devastated by unemployment and by a collapsing economy in many parts of the country. The idea of worrying about this stuff, or making it an issue, makes it very

clear that these "facts" aren't driving an investigation. What it is, is an attempt to prevent a shift in policy in the United States, and the fear that Trump would, indeed, play a role in making that happen, is what has these people completely unhinged and making up all sorts of complete nonsense and conspiracy theorizing in order to throw him out. I think if we look at what is being offered right now with the initiative from the Belt and Road Forum, and you contrast that with some empty platitudes about human rights and rights for all coming from the West, you can't protest unemployment; you have to create development. You need policies that are going to make it happen; you need projects that are going to make it happen. You need a path towards a better future. For us, this requires overthrowing a concept of economics that we have had for decades now, and replacing it with LaRouche's concept of wealth - not as money, but as the creation of an increased power of the human species around its surroundings. So, let me just wrap up by quoting the end of Helga Zepp-LaRouche's presentation at the Belt and Road Forum. She said: "When we organize our societies around scientific and artistic discovery, we will perfect our knowledge on how we can continuously advance the process of self-development of mankind; intellectually, morally, and aesthetically. And we will find our freedom in necessity - doing our duty with passion!" As Diane had mentioned, we have a petition; I'll put it up on the screen here. The webpage that we'd like you to go to;

it's lpac.co/rebuild. It is a petition; it begins with the video that Diane had referred to, and then a call on the Congress to focus on making this country a better place, revitalizing our manufacturing and infrastructure, exploring space, working on science, and ending the concept of regime change warfare. That's something that should be our policy. So, please go to lpac.co/rebuild. Sign and circulate the petition. Our goal is to get 100,000 signatures on this to force a response from the White House, among other effects. The primary effect, of course, being Congress to whom the petition is directed. Go there; do that; and let's get to work!