

Justice Rising

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Editor and Layout, *Justice Rising*

JUSTICE RISING is a publication of **The Alliance for Democracy**, whose mission is to end the domination of our politics, our economics, the environment, and our culture by large corporations. The Alliance seeks to establish true economic and political democracy and to create a just society with a sustainable, equitable economy.

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Justice Rising, Blog and Future Issues

Justice Rising has a blog for comments, letters, updates on issues as well as commentary on corporate domination of our society. Find it by clicking on the Justice Rising Blog button on the right side of the AfD homepage or use the url, <http://afdjusticerising.blogspot.com>. Go there to see information and updates on our evolving economy, along with *Justice Rising* coverage of the national political conventions.

This *Justice Rising* was co-edited by Ruth Caplan. She was elected Co-chair of the AfD National Council at the

founding convention in 1996. She currently co-chairs the Corporation Globalization/Positive Alternatives Campaign with Dave Lewit and is the National Coordinator of the Defending Water for Life Campaign. Her years of activism include creating the Economics Working Group which developed a General Agreement on a New Economy, GANE not GATT.

Ruth Caplan will also co-edit the next issue of *Justice Rising*, that will look at our progress toward restructuring the economy and moving in a sustainable direction. Send submissions to rtp@mcn.org by March 1, 2009.

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How do we use this moment of great financial turmoil and hardship to leave behind the frenzy of a consumer-based economy seeking “endless more” and to create an economy where the Gross Nurturing Product is more important than the Gross National Product? When will liberals, conservatives, progressives and radicals agree that it is more important to find joy in time spent with family, friends and community than consuming stuff that pollutes the planet and hastens a global meltdown? When will we start providing health care for all through a federal single payer program?

We have to put these questions under consideration by the Obama administration and Congress as they create an economic stimulus package to get the imploding economy back on track. We can also insist that the Obama administration provide an extra billion dollars to Community Development Financial Institutions to boost our neediest communities.

Herman Daly, the father of ecological economics, points out that we are not having a “liquidity” crisis, we are having a crisis of financial assets not being rooted in real wealth. Up through the present, real wealth has been grounded in using up all available natural resources and not having anywhere to put all the waste. We have been raping the earth.

It is time to move toward a steady-state economy where the earth is not depleted. This means basing as much of our economic activity as possible on low-impact social services; on local production to meet community needs including local, organic agriculture; on the arts that lift the spirit. Products that are manufactured must be repairable, reusable and ultimately recyclable. Detroit needs to be retooled to provide energy-efficient public transit, not rescued just to produce more cars. All products and activities must be based on their energy efficiency.

Will this remain just a utopian vision or can we come together to make the vision a reality? To do this, we must take control of how money is created and used. First, the government must end fractional reserve banking, the underpinning of the virtual economy. Second, it must end the casino economy by banning hedge funds and derivatives, like credit default swaps and collateralized debt obligations. Third, we must have banks that work for the people like local community banks and the National Infrastructure and Development Bank we have proposed. These are concrete steps. The time to begin is now.

AfD Promotes Banking, Health & Water for All

The AfD is taking concrete steps to start us down the road to a new economy. We have reactivated our single-payer health care-for-all campaign to work at the state and national levels. This health-care solution, modeled on Medicare where the government pays and the private sector provides, would actually save the country \$350 billion a year. As National Council member, Dr. Peter Mott, says in his widely circulated op-ed, “The private insurers have had decades in control. They have had their chance, and they have left us in a mess: Ranked 37th in the world by the World Health Organization for health care delivery; 1/3 of our population un- or under-insured; costs higher than any other nation; many parts of our population with poor care; higher morbidity and mortality rates than any other developed nation. It’s time to fight!” This campaign will be featured on our website and in our e-mail alerts.

See the Winter 2008 *Justice Rising* on Health Care for a thorough discussion of this issue.

We will also be very closely tracking the proposal for a National Infrastructure Bank proposed by Felix Rohatyn and introduced last fall by some heavy hitters—Senator Dodd, Banking Committee Chair, and Representative Barney Frank, Chair of the Financial Services Committee. This is very different from our proposal for a National Reconstruction and Development Bank (see pages 8–9). We expect legislation will be reintroduced. This will be our opportunity to showcase how we think the banking industry should be structured. Stay tuned.

Third, we will be joining with other advocates of federal funding for upgrading municipal water/sewer systems which needs to be a significant piece of the economic stimulus package being prepared for early Congressional action.

