

## LABOR PERISCOPE

### LaRouche candidacy spurs debate in labor

The newly formed Teamster Committee to Elect LaRouche President (TCELP) has provoked a debate throughout the labor movement on the candidacy of Lyndon LaRouche and his fight against drugs.

Spokesmen for the TCELP report that more than 225,000 copies of its Bulletin Number 2 were distributed to Teamster and other trade union layers over a six-day period last week. TCELP and Citizens for LaRouche, the candidate's national campaign organization, further report an additional distribution of 225,000 copies of a statement by Teamster general organizer Rolland McMaster endorsing the LaRouche candidacy and the antidrug fight. The first TCELP bulletin, announcing the formation of the committee had a circulation of nearly 50,000.

The Bulletin reported on the recent speech in San Francisco by IBT General President Frank Fitzsimmons and says that "Fitzsimmons gave the best explanation of the kind of thinking that we in TCELP went through in picking the U.S. Labor Party's Lyndon LaRouche as our choice for President in 1980." It further states that "many Teamsters—from regular members to the Vice President level—have let us know that they fully support the goals of the LaRouche Committee..."

TCELP spokesmen say that they are "overwhelmed by the response of Teamsters and their brothers and sisters in steel, auto,

building trades and other unions to the LaRouche campaign..." More than 1,000 workers assisted in handing out the two leaflets at major truck depots and terminals, warehouses, truck stops, as well as gates at steel and auto plants and at construction sites throughout the Midwest, East and West Coasts.

Scores of over-the-road drivers carried the leaflets along the length of key interstate highways. "The country has been saturated," said a TCELP spokesman.

The drug issue in particular has prompted an emotion-charged discussion, with workers debating Mr. McMasters call to defend the right of "our posterity" to exist in a drug-free environment."

TCELP leaders plan a third bulletin, with an even larger run.

#### Instant replay

Roving bands of independent truckers—drivers who own and operate their own rigs—began a series of actions last week in protest against diesel fuel shortages and skyrocketing fuel prices. Groups of independents, apparently acting without any national coordination, staged takeovers of truckstops along interests in the Midwest and East Coast, while a band of several hundred truckers blockaded a major truck route in Indiana. Meetings were held at truckstops to plan further action.

Talk is beginning to spread of

a national strike, a shutdown modeled on the violent affairs that tied up the nation's highways during the Arab oil embargo of 1973-74. Dave Deitch, an organizer for the Fraternal Association of Steel-haulers, an organization that played a major role in the 1974 strikes and which has called for action now, predicted that "there will be rioting in the streets ... a real bloodbath" unless the truckers get their way. A "Chile-style revolution" could take place in the U.S., Deitch raved, referring to the fascist coup that toppled the Allende government in 1973. That coup was triggered by a truckers strike in Chile.

While people like Deitch and Bill Hill of FASH are well known as blowhards whose bark is often worse than their bite, there are reasons to suspect that somebody has a vested interest in provoking a violent truckers strike in the U.S. The 1974 action organized by groups like FASH and Mike Parkhurst and his *Overdrive* magazine—groups with links to foundations and sections of British intelligence connected networks in the U.S.—was part of a larger "chaos and confusion" scenario intended to culminate in military takeover of the U.S. Violence was planned between Teamsters and owner operators in 1974. Plans were drafted for a full militarization of the economy and the transportation system, using the aborted May 14, 1974 independent truckers strike as a pretext for its enactment; the Watergated Nixon Administration with then White House Chief of Staff Alexander Haig in control, would step aside as the effective government.

Could the same people who brought down Nixon, one again be plotting a quick exit for the President and a military dictatorship for the U.S., using the independent owner operators as their patsies?

—L. Wolfe and M. Moriarty