

Rallies build support for ABM defense

by Mary McCourt

"Every serious patriot will now dedicate his or her efforts to assisting this President to adopt the right decisions on time," *EIR* founder Lyndon LaRouche stated when he announced his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination (see *EIR*, Oct. 11). LaRouche called for "a mass rally in Washington D.C. to show President Reagan that massive bipartisan support exists for his new strategic doctrine [to develop defensive ABM energy-beam weapons], and for the 1939-43-style 'crash program' needed to get this economy of ours moving again."

This national mobilization, LaRouche asserted, must begin now, not after the November 1984 elections, if the United States is to survive the current crisis.

The National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC), a political action committee founded by LaRouche in 1980 to give mainstream Democrats a voice in the party, will sponsor a national demonstration in Washington on Dec. 7—Pearl Harbor Day. The first local rallies to create this national demonstration were held Oct. 22 in New Jersey, California, and Washington State.

The NDPC will hold additional rallies around the country, spokesmen report, to expand the reaction of the American population to the Soviet-backed terrorist assault on U.S. Marines in Lebanon and to the Soviet- and Cuban-backed coup in Grenada into support for the President's beam-weapons strategy—including rebuilding the United States' greatest defensive capability, its economic power. Only such an economic mobilization can end the current Malthusian anti-industrial control of world economic policy, which is the ultimate source of the world strategic crisis.

'Appeasement is not the solution'

Thomas Dunn, mayor of the industrial city of Elizabeth, New Jersey, opened the Oct. 22 rally of 75 people on the steps of the Union County Courthouse in Elizabeth by denouncing the nuclear freeze movement as dangerous to national security: "We should have learned 40 years ago," Dunn began, "that appeasement is not the solution to Hitlerism. Most of the well-meaning people demonstrating for the nuclear freeze are being duped: the ulterior motives in their movement spell unilateral disarmament and appeasement."

Dunn, a former state leader of the Democrats for Nixon, continued: "We are here today to lend support for President

Reagan to secure a mandate for a strong national defense program. . . . The veterans here today learned during World War II that for the U.S. to survive, we need a strong national defense. We cannot afford to appease the Hitlers, the Andropovs."

Mel Klenetsky, a former candidate for U.S. senator in New York who is the national campaign chairman of Lyndon LaRouche's Democratic presidential bid, reviewed the international economic, monetary, and strategic crises and stressed that the Soviets regard the coming period as their opportunity to decisively defeat America and secure global hegemony for decades to come.

"At this point, it is very clear that the Soviet Union is not the peace-loving nation that the American public has been led to believe by many in the freeze movement," said Fred Henderson, a committee spokesman quoted in northern New Jersey's widely read *Sunday Bergen Record*. "At this point, appeasement is not the approach. What is important is the strengthening of American defense." The region's *Daily Journal* also covered the rally.

Mayor Dunn and Klenetsky were joined on the speakers' podium by Myron Leskiw, honorary chairman of the New Jersey Republican Ethnic Groups Federation; Warren Davies, national committeeman from New Jersey for the American Legion; Robert Gallagher, beam-weapons expert from the Fusion Energy Foundation; and Elliot Greenspan, director of the New Jersey NDPC. Davies read the resolution passed by the American Legion's national executive board meeting Oct. 12-13 calling for an operational laser defense system capability within five years and "complete protection against nuclear war by the middle of the next decade." He indicated that the 2.6-million-member organization would use its resolutions to force congressional support for the program.

Building toward the Pearl Harbor Day rally, Mayor Dunn announced plans to sponsor a town meeting or debate on the issue of national defense, with participation by the groups involved in the rally.

The New Jersey American Legion had supported a resolution submitted to the state legislature by the NDPC calling for a crash beam-weapons development program. The resolution, which was passed by the New Jersey assembly in April, is pending before the state senate. It is this kind of bipartisan defense of the national interest that will transform a political situation in which, as Davies stressed, "The good people who want a strong nation do not demonstrate . . . only the nay-sayers."

In Seattle, a rally sponsored by the NDPC and City Council candidate Mark Calney was held Oct. 22 in front of the headquarters of Target Seattle, a giant "people-to-people" weeks-long event organized to bring Soviet spokesmen to the area to promote their "peace-loving" image to gullible U.S. supporters of the freeze. In Los Angeles, 90 people rallied for the beam-weapons mobilization, and another rally was held in San Francisco the same day.