

Mondale's nomination may be 'null and void'

by Warren J. Hamerman

Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. filed an emergency injunction in San Francisco Superior Court on Aug. 1, seeking to declare the nomination of Walter Mondale and the Democratic National Convention "null and void." The California action seeks a Declaratory Judgment that the Democratic Convention process was illegal and unconstitutional and that, therefore, the nomination of Mondale has no validity.

LaRouche also has amended his previously filed court action seeking "unlimited damages" from Charles Manatt and the Democratic National Committee (DNC) for their refusal to allow him participation in the convention. The marginal number of delegates that put Walter Mondale over the required total for nomination on the first ballot was, in fact, far fewer delegates than had signed Lyndon LaRouche's nominating petition. In other words, had Manatt and Mondale not illegally moved against LaRouche, Mondale would not have won a first ballot nomination and the convention would have been thrown open.

Mondale and the Democratic National Committee (DNC) under Manatt argued in previous court actions that they conducted the presidential nomination in San Francisco as a closed-shop "private club" with an unconstitutional bias and repugnant quota practices against the LaRouche Democrats. They claimed in court argument that they had a "constitutional right to exclude" anyone from their "private association" whom they chose. Thus, Manatt and Mondale are now trapped in a Catch-22 of their own making. They cannot legally spend \$40 million from the Federal Election Commission (FEC) for the presidential campaign and \$6 million to have run the San Francisco convention at the same time that they run the Democratic Party as a self-admitted private club. However, if the California court reverses the "private club" decision, then the nomination of Mondale is null and void in the first place. In either circumstance, they must face criminal and civil rights investigations from the U.S. Attorney for their frantic actions to "stop LaRouche."

How Manatt ran the operation

Manatt's unconstitutional practices in San Francisco are well documented. A July 20 article "Democrats Keep Backers of Extremist Off Podium" by James McGregor in *The Miami Herald* stated:

"Democratic Party officials said that LaRouche's followers brought in the petitions Tuesday and claimed to have more

than the 200 necessary delegate signatures [for presidential nomination].

"The group also planned legal action that could have led to a lengthy legal battle, Democratic officials said, so the Association of State Democratic Chairs was given the lists and told they had two hours to get the signatures invalidated.

"Within an hour, almost all of the signatures on the petition had been invalidated, according to Kathleen Vick, co-chair of the Louisiana delegation and president of the Association."

After the meeting, state chairmen from all over the country began intimidating and coercing delegates to withdraw their signatures, and pulled credentials from delegates who had signed the LaRouche petition. Charles Manatt was directly involved in some of these dirty political tricks. Investigators have learned that Kathleen Vick, who admitted to coordinating the illegal state chair operation, went to Hong Kong after the convention.

It has been learned that Manatt and Vick illegally ran the operation against LaRouche through **Carl Sandstrom**, a counsel for the House of Representatives's Administration Committee. Sandstrom has functioned on Capitol Hill in other "stop LaRouche efforts." For instance, earlier in 1984 Sandstrom used his capacity on the Administration Committee's Election Task Force to block LaRouche's efforts to mobilize congressional support for his matching funds request from the FEC. In addition to the more discreet Sandstrom, a self-promoter from North Carolina, **Zeb Alley**, bragged to the press how as a special counsel to Manatt he was involved in operations to stop LaRouche's nomination efforts. General Counsel of the Democratic Party **Tony Harrington** took an hour-to-hour "coordinating position" in the operations to deny LaRouche's nomination.

LaRouche's representatives were illegally and arbitrarily denied credentials to participate in the Democratic convention proceedings. Nevertheless, they obtained 370 signatures on his nominating petition—which demonstrates the existence of substantial support from convention delegates. It can be documented that Vick ran a special one-on-one deployment against each of the delegates who had signed the LaRouche nominating petition to intimidate them into withdrawing their signatures.

Criminal violations

In fact, hours before the nomination process began on July 19, the LaRouche Campaign in San Francisco hand delivered a formal complaint to U.S. Attorney Joseph P. Russoniello charging that the convention was violating LaRouche's civil rights. The complaint stated:

"Delegates from Ohio, Louisiana, Kansas, Rhode Island, Colorado, Montana, Minnesota, and Missouri who supported the nomination of Mr. LaRouche by placing their signatures on the petition have reported to my campaign staff that they have been the objects of coercive, threatening, and intimidating actions on the part of their State Chairs and in one

case 'top DNC layers' to remove their names from the LaRouche nominating petition. These actions began within one hour of the time when copies of the LaRouche nominating petitions were submitted as evidence in a court proceeding in California Superior Court. Further, I have received information that the state chairmen of the Louisiana, Rhode Island, and Kansas delegations are demanding any members of their delegation remove his or her name and sign a statement to the effect that they did not know what they were signing."

As the LaRouche forces subsequently learned, *USA Today* of July 18 reported that Mississippi delegation chief Brad Dye was so concerned that LaRouche Democrats would be able to organize a bloc in his delegation that he frantically pushed through new "Jim Crow" rules.

The U.S. Attorney in San Francisco Joseph Russoniello had already responded to the LaRouche civil rights complaint in a letter dated July 19. Russoniello wrote: "Patently overt threats and/or intimidating acts directed against identifiable delegates calculated to interfere with the federal political process may be a proper subject for investigation under Section 245(b)(1)(A)."

The Aug. 1 California court action seeks damages to be paid to Lyndon LaRouche for the blatant violation of his civil rights at the convention by Charles Manatt and the Mondale forces when they arbitrarily refused to accept LaRouche's name into presidential nomination on the grounds that they were a "private association" with the "constitutional right to

exclude" anyone they chose. Simultaneously, LaRouche also delivered a telegram to the FEC officially demanding that the FEC "payment of \$40 million to the account of Democratic candidates Mondale and Ferraro must be halted. The validity of the Democratic Convention is currently being challenged in California Superior Court. The Democratic Convention illegally and unconstitutionally refused to enter the name of Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. into nomination even though he qualified under the Convention's own rules. Documentation in the public domain shows that delegates signing the LaRouche nominating petition were harassed, intimidated, and threatened by the Charles Manatt-led Democratic Party. LaRouche representatives were also arbitrarily and invidiously denied convention credentials. The FEC must live up to its congressional mandate of protecting the integrity of the federal election process."

LaRouche and the National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC), his political action committee, challenge the Jim Crow laws employed by Manatt and Mondale in San Francisco and further assert that Mondale is not entitled to \$40 million in federal monies on the basis that Manatt has admitted that the nomination was run by a "private club." Furthermore, the Democratic Party, which received \$6 million from the FEC to run the convention, must pay those funds back since they illegally constituted themselves as a private association. Were the law and Constitution to be followed, Walter Mondale's nomination would be declared null and void.

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