

# LaRouche candidates define issues in March 18 Illinois primary

by Marla Minnicino

The March 18 Illinois primary will put the state's 22 congressmen, its senior U.S. senator, its governor, lieutenant-governor, secretary of state, comptroller, treasurer, and attorney-general to an electoral challenge from supporters of Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., *EIR* founder and already a declared candidate for the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination. It is the most complete slate of "LaRouche Democrats" ever filed in the state, and is the first primary of the 1986 electoral season, which will see such slates of "LaRouche Democrats" for senate and congress filed in at least 22 states.

Perhaps that is one reason that Democratic Party officials in the state insist that there are "no issues" in the campaign, no nationally significant trends to be established in the primary, virtually "no chance" of any political realignment. The voters are "not interested" in such matters anyway.

It is not uncommon in Illinois elections for elections to be well-sewn up in advance—at least when times are normal. But times are far from normal. More likely, they are frightened that the voters are growing very interested in what "LaRouche Democrats" have to say, that they are quite well aware of the key political issues at stake and hold their elected officials entirely responsible for the disastrous turn in U.S. foreign and economic policy.

Voters in Illinois—a state considered crucial in every presidential election—could send a very important signal to Washington. Every voter knows, or senses in some fashion, that the present Congress is the worst bunch of traitors in 100 years, losing European allies, undermining the stability of Third World allies, and wrecking the economy back home. The LaRouche slate is campaigning precisely on the theme: "Take Congress Back!"

The view that people "don't care," and can't be taught about national and international issues is precisely what's at stake in this election. That citizens *are* concerned over issues like AIDS, the Soviet threat, the economic blowout, and "morality in politics," is indicated by the response to campaigns now being waged by LaRouche Democrats in Illinois.

On Dec. 18, over 30 candidates backed by the National Democratic Policy Committee, of which LaRouche is advi-

sory board chairman, filed for Congress, Senate, and state-wide office in Illinois, as part of the national effort to "take Congress back" from the KGB liberals in Washington. Nationally, the NDPC has already recruited over 750 citizen-candidates from labor, farmer, patriotic, minority, and cultural organizations.

The NDPC slate has targeted Illinois congressmen of both parties, whose support for genocide, euthanasia, and the destruction of the nation's defense "make Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachov very happy," in the words of one NDPC spokesman. Policies such as the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings "balanced budget" legislation will eliminate not only the old and infirm, but the productive farmers and workers whose labors have made Illinois a hub of production, manufacturing, distribution, and one of the world's richest farm regions for over 100 years.

Both of Illinois's senators and 12 of its 22 congressmen voted for the bill, which has "put the nail in the coffin of this country's economic sovereignty," according to NDPC-backed Gerald Pechenuk. Pechenuk is the only challenger to Rep. Dan Rostenkowski in Chicago's 8th C.D. "Unless repealed, Gramm-Rudman and the terrible, but less-noticed tax reform bill authored by Rostenkowski's House Ways and Means Committee, will blow out the U.S. economy during 1986," said Pechenuk.

While Illinois Democratic Party officials focus on retaining control of statewide posts such as treasurer and attorney-general, members of the NDPC slate in Illinois are out on the streets, mobilizing the population to "re-take Congress." Led by Sheila Jones, the only opponent to incumbent Democratic Sen. Alan Dixon, the slate includes 11 congressional candidates.

At the top of the statewide slate is gubernatorial candidate Peter Bowen, challenging Adlai Stevenson, Jr., in the primary; Mark Fairchild is running for lieutenant-governor against State Sen. George Sangmeister, author of the state's pro-euthanasia "living will" legislation; Janice Hart for secretary of state; Donald Clark against Democratic Comptroller Ronald Burriss; and Rob Hart for state treasurer, challenging incumbent James Donnewald.

In the U.S. Senate race, euthanasia fighter and anti-drug activist Sheila Jones is challenging Illinois's senior senator, Alan Dixon, who recently told reporters he had "no second thoughts" about supporting the Gramm-Rudman bill. A ranking member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Dixon voted to confirm Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, whose credit policies have driven U.S. farms and factories into bankruptcy. Jones has challenged Dixon, also a member of the Banking, House and Urban Affairs Committee and its International Finance and Monetary Policy subcommittee, to renounce his support for the International Monetary Fund and to use his powers on the Banking Committee to clean up illegal money-laundering.

In the gubernatorial race, Peter Bowen is the only challenger to Adlai Stevenson, Jr. Stevenson, who ran a close race against incumbent Gov. James Thompson (a Republican) in 1982, has raised almost no substantive issues. He is leaving that to Bowen, who has toured the state reporting on the effects of the Gramm-Rudman law on the Illinois economy.

Bowen has charged Thompson's administration with "bankrupting the industries of this state and driving farmers off their land." He has pointed out that budget cuts under Gramm-Rudman could mean the loss of as much as \$500 million to the state this year, with \$155 million in federal aid cuts affecting Chicago alone. Virtually every city department will be hit, including community development, health care programs (including Medicaid and Medicare), job training for the unemployed, and housing construction. Transportation cutbacks of \$54.5 million could shut down the metropolitan subway and commuter bus lines and the loss of federal revenue sharing could lead to layoffs of 1,300 city workers.

In his state budget message issued March 5, Thompson put the reins on every operation of state government, with the exception of education, consistent with the austerity dictates of Gramm-Rudman. His budget would, however, increase funds for re-training workers "to meet the changing manufacturing demands of the 1990s," i.e., the transition to a "post-industrial" society where factories have been supplanted by fast food chains.

In five congressional districts encompassing Chicago and its suburbs, NDPC-backed candidates are the only primary challengers to Democratic incumbents Russo, Rostenkowski, Yates, Annunzio, and Crane. In the 3rd C.D., retired city worker Maurice Johnson has charged that Rep. Marty Russo, an "adjunct" to Ways and Means Chairman Rostenkowski, is "economically illiterate." LaRouche Democrat Judy Acheson has shaken up the 9th C.D. by attacking liberal Sidney Yates's support for euthanasia and sodomy ("gay rights"). Acheson has made inroads in Yates' supposed "stronghold" of Skokie, with an aggressive campaign for emergency measures of quarantine and prevention of AIDS, and by counterposing the music of Mozart and Beethoven to Yates' promotion of the rock-drug counterculture.

In the 2nd C.D., once the center of Chicago's steel industry, Ernie Washington, a former firefighter, is challenging liberal Congressman Gus Savage, a proponent of the nuclear freeze who voted to cancel the MX missile and who has won the praise of Libyan asset Louis Farrakhan. Washington is campaigning on the slogan that "Only Beauty Can Defeat the Savage," and has made that concrete in his campaign organizing events—such as a recent fundraiser at Chicago's Southside Steelworkers' Hall, which was devoted to music and poetry. Washington told the audience of unemployed steelworkers, retired citizens, minority community activists, students, and clergy, "We must see ourselves like Prometheus . . . the givers of fire to the population. Then we can create the necessary cultural renaissance."

On March 3, candidates Maurice Johnson and Ernie Washington joined EIR Biological Holocaust Task Force medical coordinator, Dr. John Grauerholz, at a Chicago press conference to endorse *EIR's* recently released special report, *An Emergency War Plan to Fight AIDS and Other Pandemics*.

The NDPC-backed candidates used the occasion to challenge the "dangerous and irresponsible guidelines" issued by the Centers for Disease Control and supported by the Chicago AIDS Task Force, dominated by the "gay lobby," recommending that children with AIDS be allowed to attend public school. The AIDS issue is very hot in many Illinois communities such as Joliet, where 4th C.D. candidate George Lawrence gained headlines last fall, advocating screening and quarantine of AIDS victims.

In other races, candidates endorsed by the NDPC are:

- Marshall Hoffman, 6th C.D., running against incumbent Henry Hyde in the primary.
- Gene Schenck, 10th C.D., running for the seat now held by Republican John Porter. In the Democratic primary, Schenck faces liberal Robert Cleland. In Cleland's own Democratic Party club, Schenck received four votes of endorsement, largely for his campaign to root out the drug-runners on Chicago's northern shore.
- Terry Allen, 11th C.D., is challenging Democratic incumbent Frank Annunzio, a 20-year veteran of Congress. Annunzio was so upset by Allen's entry into the race, that a top Chicago lawfirm was hired in a failed effort to challenge Allen's petition filings.
- Joe Baruch, in the 12th C.D., is running for the seat now held by Republican Phil Crane. In addition to his NDPC endorsement, Baruch is endorsed by Right to Life.
- In the 13th C.D., NDPC activist and former policeman Dominick Jeffrey is running unopposed in the primary, and will face Republican incumbent Harris Fawell in November.
- LaRouche Democrat and farmer William Brenner, Sr., is unopposed in the 15th C.D., represented by Edward Magdigan of the House Agricultural Committee.

The NDPC has also endorsed two candidates for state legislature, Rev. Howard Snipe, and William Brenner, Jr.