

What the Illinois primary vote means for 1988

by Nicholas F. Benton

In his second standing-room-only press conference in Washington, D.C. in the week since the Illinois primary, Warren Hamerman, chairman of the National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC), on March 21 urged the leadership of the Democratic National Committee not to follow the tragic and divisive path of former Sen. Adlai Stevenson III. He called on Democratic Party leaders to recognize that the vote for the two NDPC-backed candidates who scored upset victories in the primary in Illinois on March 18 represented the desire of the growing numbers of Americans living under conditions comparable to the 1930s Depression, to adopt LaRouche's program for economic reform, repeal of the Gramm-Rudman law, a war on drugs, action against the AIDS threat, and defense of the Western alliance.

Whereas most of the Democratic leadership remains in fantasyland—emulating Stevenson's blunders by hurling slanders against LaRouche and insisting that the Illinois vote was a "fluke"—many Democrats on the regional, local, and precinct level are offering to collaborate with the victorious LaRouche candidates and to extend the Illinois victory to other states. Over 750 NDPC candidates are so far running in primaries in 29 states.

Stevenson, however, insists on decimating his political career and splitting the Democratic Party by trampling on the democratic process. He is now seeking to overturn Illinois election law, in order to bolt the ticket and run as an independent. The notion that a candidate, unhappy with the results of an election (in which he was a winner!), would demand that the election laws be changed to suit his wishes, offends

virtually anyone, regardless of their specific political views. Stevenson's insults to his own constituency, insisting that their election of the NDPC candidates was only due to their preference for Anglo-Saxon names, and his grim determination to avoid issues at all costs in favor of name-calling and slander, have convinced an astonished national audience that, if his ineptitude is any example, it is no wonder that the Democratic Party is in a total shambles.

The Establishment's nightmare

Meanwhile, in Washington, D.C., the real significance of the NDPC victories in Illinois has leaked out, and the worst nightmares of the nation's "Establishment" are being confirmed. The same day as the second Hamerman press conference, the *Washington Post* published an interview with pollster J. Michael McKeon, who explained that he had told the Democratic National Committee (DNC) almost a year ago that the pro-LaRouche sentiment was on the rise among Democratic voters in Illinois. McKeon's polls showed that the great crossover vote of Democrats that went with Reagan in 1980 and 1984, would be coming back in the direction of the Democratic Party, because of disillusionment with Reagan. During the Reagan "recovery," they lost their jobs and their farms. But they would be coming back looking for LaRouche. "The DNC laughed me out of the room at the time, but look who's laughing now," McKeon said.

The McKeon poll confirmed that the Illinois vote was no fluke. In previous NDPC campaigns in Illinois, candidates running for Congress received over 40% of the vote. Sheila

Jones, 1983 mayoral candidate, is well remembered by Chicago voters for one of the most singular political campaigns in the city's history, in which she battled exclusion from televised candidate debates by the party "regulars." Jones, who ran for U.S. Senate in this year's primary, received 17% statewide, and won many key precincts in Chicago's south side.

In their March 28 syndicated column, Rowland Evans and Robert Novak debunk those Democratic leaders who insist that the Illinois election "did not represent an anti-liberal revolt." The results represented, they said, "an across-the-board protest vote of some 100,000" (actually, over 1,200,000 votes were cast for LaRouche Democrats in that primary), and added, "Moreover, now that they are given media access, Fairchild and Hart are sounding some plausible themes."

The word circulating around Washington, casts the significance of the NDPC victory in even more momentous terms. In every election since 1964, there has been a very powerful factor that has surfaced, with a potential to overturn Establishment politics. This is an element of the American voter base which is concerned principally with bread-and-butter issues like employment and crime, and is loyal to no one who does not deliver on these issues. They hate drugs, and most things associated with hedonistic liberalism. They are pro-technology and for a strong defense. They wept at the Shuttle disaster, and want the Strategic Defense Initiative.

It is this constituency which stopped Nelson Rockefeller from getting the nomination of his own party for President in 1964, because they didn't like the smell of his money, his corruption, and his liberalism. They went with George Wallace as an independent in 1968, and when that movement gained steam as Wallace joined the Democratic Party in 1972, they swept Wallace to two straight victories in the Democratic primaries of 1972 in northern states, just before he was shot. In 1976, 1980, and 1984, they went with Reagan.

After Illinois, the great fear of the Establishment, is that this constituency is now coalescing around LaRouche.

One analyst said that the proof of how deep this fear is in the minds of the politicians at the top, is that none of the massive press coverage of LaRouche in the wake of the Illinois primary has mentioned the obvious—if superficial—parallel, that to Wallace. After all, Wallace joined the Democratic Party after running as an independent, just as LaRouche did in 1980. The very thought of linking LaRouche to Wallace gives the likes of McGeorge Bundy the shakes.

What makes LaRouche different?

There are three factors which give the LaRouche movement a more explosive potential for a "breakout" by this core constituency than ever before, all of which factors the leaders of the Liberal Establishment are painfully aware of: 1) An economic blowout is around the corner, arising from accumulated domestic and foreign non-performing debt and a

banking collapse; 2) LaRouche is far brighter and more ruthless than any other political figure this constituency base has gravitated toward in the past; and 3) LaRouche's policies, especially their moral foundation, gain him a broad base of support among the economically ravaged, as well as governments, parties, and unions abroad, in nations abused by the International Monetary Fund. All of these factors make LaRouche a top contender for the presidency in 1988.

All this adds up to a panic among the top circles of the Establishment, whose smug confidence in its ability to orchestrate affairs in both leading parties has until now been only mildly tempered by this "disloyal and independent" bloc of American voters. The result has been a bizarre "Keystone Cops" routine played out on television and in the press. Self-contradictory slanders, blundering political decisions, and self-defeating demagoguery emanate from figures, like Stevenson, who lack the ability to back up their ominous allusions to "purges," "authority," and "discipline." Ted Koppel on ABC's "Nightline" dragged in a frazzled, wild-eyed stringer for the dope lobby, Dennis King, as a so-called LaRouche expert, who began foaming at the mouth so badly, that Koppel had to threaten four times to cut off his microphone. Cable Network News invited a soft-spoken Democratic hack, Victor Kamber, to "expose" LaRouche on one of its shows. He started out calmly enough, insisting that LaRouche's supporters would "hang themselves with their own noose" by telling the public their real views, but when one such supporter began to outline the NDPC program in a sensible and straightforward way, Kamber went berserk, even admitting his hysteria in front of a nationwide audience.

Inside reports from the agitated backrooms of the Democratic National Committee indicate a growing factionalization between those who insist that the party concede the growing LaRouche influence and try to work with it, and those who tend to "eat a live chicken with their bare hands" everytime they entertain such a thought. Officially, however, the DNC has continued to ignore the economic and related realities which provoked the electoral revolt in the party. It has proceeded to send out warning messages about LaRouche to all of its state party leaderships, as if to presume these leaderships could (or would) simply dictate to the population that voting for LaRouche is forbidden. Paul Kirk, chairman of the DNC, has also reportedly said he is looking for ways to "purge" LaRouche candidates from the Democratic Party—which presumably would require some kind of ideological test of a "true Democrat." Given the current stubborn prejudices of the DNC, this would surely drop the Democrats below the Porcupine Party for national membership. Can you imagine a "loyalty test" in favor of Jimmy Carter or AIDS in the classroom?

The battle begins

The LaRouche-versus-DNC battle is reminiscent of the battles between Reagan and the Republican National Committee in the mid-1970s when the RNC was Rockefeller-

controlled and claiming that if Reagan were ever to become President, we'd be in a nuclear war within a month. They stopped Reagan, barely, from getting the Republican nomination in 1976, which gave us four years of Carter.

Now, the battle shapes up most importantly in four states: Illinois, Texas, New York, and Ohio.

Illinois: NDPC victors Hart and Fairchild have announced they will form a "Unity Slate" to try to bring Democratic victory in November over the "tight-fisted" austerity policies of the Republicans, despite the claims by Stevenson that he is going to leave the ticket, one way or the other. In addition to the victories of Hart and Fairchild, the NDPC won the Democratic Party nomination for Congress in the 13th C.D. (Dominick Jeffrey) and the 15th C.D. (William Brenner), where these candidates were running unopposed. Lower-level party officials from throughout the state have called the campaign offices of Hart and Fairchild to report that they want to work to get them elected.

In Chicago, especially on the economically ravaged south side, Hart and Fairchild campaign workers are finding the population overjoyed with the LaRouche victory. Rather than being put off by media slanders, the population is made curious by them, and when told where the slanders are coming from and why, and what the NDPC stands for, they understand immediately and become very interested. Contempt for Stevenson's blundering, party-splitting, high-handed approach is evident among Democratic voters throughout the state. The state is ripe for a Hart-Fairchild victory in November, because in Chicago, once the seat of one of the strongest Democratic Party organizations in the nation, the party is split almost beyond repair, and Mayor Harold Washington has had nothing to offer to improve the poverty in the city. On the other hand, downstate, among the farmers, the level of bankruptcies has left this traditionally conservative voter base totally disillusioned with the Reagan "recovery," and the NDPC has articulated the only specific policy proposals to reverse the trend.

Texas: This is the scene of the next primary, on May 3. Here, the NDPC is running only one statewide campaign, that of farmer Noel Cowling against incumbent state Agricultural Commissioner Jim Hightower. But the NDPC has already been guaranteed victory in two congressional races, where the candidates it backs are running unopposed, and may win in others where the state Democratic Party conceded the district or is not actively opposing the NDPC candidate. Once the strongest state party organization in the nation, the Texas Democratic Party, under the leadership of Averell Harriman tool Bob Slagle, has driven even the famous Texas "Yellow-Dog Democrats" (allegedly the most loyal kind around) out of the party, by its support for homosexual rights and related causes. For example, in 1983 the Democratic-dominated Houston City Council voted up an "equal rights" ordinance for homosexuals. The population rebelled, and

voted 84% against the City Council in a subsequent referendum.

Slagle says he's going to warn everybody about the NDPC. Does he seriously think he's going to stop the NDPC in Texas by revealing that the NDPC wants universal AIDS screening? On top of this, every major bank in Texas, but one on the basis of non-performing oil and real estate loans, is ready to collapse any day. The NDPC has made an oil import tax to salvage the Texas oil industry a campaign issue. No one else has.

New York: Here the Democratic Party has already collapsed. The NDPC's Webster Tarpley is so far running unopposed for the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate, in a primary slated for September. The Democrats were going to run Geraldine Ferraro, but were afraid her husband might be in jail before the election. They thought of turning the race into a farce, by running entertainer Harry Belafonte, but Belafonte apparently had too much self-esteem for that. Meanwhile, in New York City, Mayor Ed Koch's machine is starting to unravel in the face of scandal. The New York City Democratic Party, rife with corruption of the worst order, is dead; the potential for an NDPC takeover of the party, behind the candidacy of Tarpley and of Judah Rubinstein's campaign for governor is an imminent reality. That's why the assignment was given to flop-jowled U.S. Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan from New York, to read two lengthy slanders of the NDPC into the *Congressional Record* at the end of March. Such propensity for lies and filth is all that is left of the New York Democratic Party. No wonder that Hulan Jack, borough president of Manhattan in the 1950s when the New York Democratic Party machine functioned to represent its constituency on a block-to-block basis, abandoned Carter and endorsed LaRouche for President in 1980, and has been a cornerstone of the NDPC ever since.

Ohio: Here, the NDPC is directly challenging the exposed dope mafia for control of the party and the state. NDPC-backed U.S. Senate candidate Don Scott, who won the Democratic nomination for Congress in Ohio's 7th district in 1984, with more than 60% of the vote, has challenged the corrupt organized-crime networks of Marvin Warner of Cincinnati. Warner, who was linked to the collapse of Home State Savings and Loan in Ohio, has recently been indicted by a federal grand jury for criminal activity that included drug-money laundering. He contributed \$250,000 to Ohio Democratic Sen. John Glenn in 1984, and provided similar support for Ohio Gov. Richard Celeste. Scott has called upon Glenn, his opponent in the May 6 primary, to disassociate himself from the "drug-mafia controlled Warner-Ruvolo-Celeste corruption of the Democratic Party in Ohio," and has vowed to root out this corrupt element in an unrelenting war on drugs. This same mafia, he charges, is responsible for handing the banking industry in Ohio over to the New York-based drug banks.