

# Moynihan orders Kirk attack on LaRouche

by Stephen Pepper

In a most extraordinary display of muddled thinking and outright lies, Democratic National Committee chairman Paul Kirk delivered a diatribe in Albany, New York against 1988 presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche and LaRouche Democrats, in which he introduced a program of vicious measures to cut off the ballot-access of the LaRouche movement. The speech served as the opening of a forum series on topics of the party, and to judge from this performance, it got off on the wrong foot.

Kirk reviewed the usual litany of lies from such sources as the drug-lobby's *High Times* writer Dennis King and the long discredited report compiled by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) on LaRouche organizations. What was new in Kirk's peroration was the decibel level of the name-calling. Invoking the names of Hitler and Mussolini, Kirk alleged that the LaRouche forces were imposters who used fraud and violence. Adding to the verbal assault was Gov. Mario Cuomo of New York, who was reported by the *New York Times* to "literally tremble with anger" as he called the LaRouche Democrats, "a dangerous cult" prone to "brutal and violent conduct."

Even compensating for the general proclivity among politicians—especially of the radical stripe—to use hyperbole and outright lies, this performance is highly unusual. It becomes clearer, however, when one knows that Kirk was invited, or rather ordered, to come to New York to deliver this jeremiad by none other than Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan. It is Moynihan who has undertaken, on behalf of the ADL, a personal effort to eliminate the LaRouche factor from Democratic politics.

Moynihan knows that LaRouche is right about his appeal to the "forgotten voter" within the Democratic Party, partly because Moynihan is responsible for leading the Democrats into forgetting about the "minorities" that play such an important role in the party. A trace of this concern came through in the answer period following Kirk's speech. When asked why so many people vote for the LaRouche candidates despite the foghorn of lies that are broadcast in all directions, Kirk replied, "Perhaps there is a void in the party. . . . Some say the voters are attracted to what the LaRouchies have to say. I have always said you can never take the voters for granted."

The day before, at a separate forum that brought together a spectrum of party leaders including former Virginia Gov.

Charles Robb, Moynihan said that the party was in the worst shape since the Civil War. "The parallel is not perfect. The Copperhead Democrats of the Civil War never repented. The veterans and inheritors of the New Deal and Great Society do little else."

Behind the blow-hard rhetoric that is coming out of so-called Democratic leaders is a clear recognition that the LaRouche movement is addressing a real and growing discontent among traditional Democratic constituencies: minorities, blue-collar workers, farmers, and small and middle-level business and management.

Confirmation of this came from J. Michael McKeon, who was the only Democratic pollster to predict the LaRouche victories in Illinois. McKeon told a reporter, "Senator Moynihan is the only person in the Democratic Party who is thinking seriously of how to respond to LaRouche. That's why he brought me to Washington." McKeon is now a consultant to both Moynihan and the American-Israel Political Action Committee. McKeon's analysis is: "LaRouche has about a 25% core vote throughout the country. With the increasing impoverishment of the population, they are becoming more radicalized and therefore more attentive to LaRouche. Moynihan has just written a book on urban poverty and understands there is a political vacuum out there. That's why he is listening to me. Moynihan is most worried about LaRouche's grassroots organizing and has no delusions. He knows the LaRouche movement is not dead as has been declared by the media. . . . Look at how mainstream LaRouche came across on Nightline, ending with that brilliant comment about colonizing Mars."

## ADL on the defensive

Moynihan is personally pleading for a heightened and coordinated response to the LaRouche threat. He is acting directly to protect the Anti-Defamation League, which is under immediate attack from LaRouche Democrats, and increasingly coming under indirect attack from corruption exposés fostered by Republican-linked U.S. Attorneys in several cities, most notably New York. It was not lost on observers that Jerry Rosen, New York State head of the ADL, ostentatiously delivered to Kirk a copy of the ADL's notorious report on LaRouche, and Kirk just as ostentatiously thanked him.

But most important, Kirk put the imprint of the Democratic national apparatus behind a declaration of war against a substantial part of the party—the LaRouche wing. He said that the party would put together a National Lawyers Council to go after all petitions submitted by LaRouche candidates; it would do background checks on LaRouche candidates. He urged doing everything, "legal, political or otherwise, to get these folks off the ballot." While the name-calling and the bravura about stopping LaRouche is for the edification of the gullible, the reality is that the great defenders of democracy are convinced that only a mailed-fist approach will stop LaRouche and his supporters.