

EIR Feature

The historic 1988 election: 'a republic if you can keep it'

For the world, the 1988 U.S. presidential election will be the most important strategic event since the advent of the nuclear weapon in August of 1945.

For the democratic republic of the United States, that election will be the most important since the presidential election of 1860.

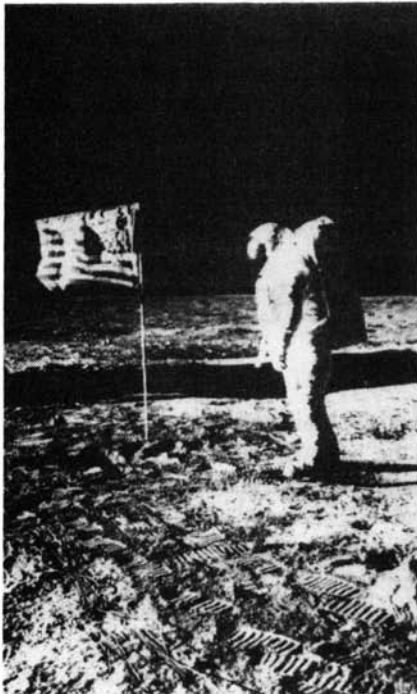
The person who will be inaugurated as President on Jan. 20, 1989, will also commemorate the bicentennial of the inauguration of President George Washington, whose presidency became known in world history as "the spirit of 1789." That person will either be the last President of the United States, or one whose actions in office, like those of his illustrious predecessor George Washington, will dominate events for the next two centuries to follow.

Who that person will be, is the single, most important matter, on which your life and that of your descendants depends. To a very large extent, who that person will be, will depend on the kinds of criteria of judgment the people and the institutions of the United States will employ in selecting their next President.

Will the people and the institutions of the United States employ the right criteria and make the right choices? Do they still possess the moral fitness to identify and select what is right? This remains to be seen in the next 17 months. One thing is certain: They still have the opportunity to make the right choice, given that the Constitution which preserves their liberties is still, at least nominally, in operation, and given that one public figure, Lyndon H. LaRouche, has articulated and put forward policy proposals adequate to meet the crisis.

When the Philadelphia Convention, on Sept. 17, 1787 finally approved the Constitution of the United States, the venerable Benjamin Franklin remarked to the participants that the freshly drafted document, for the first time in history, had given them a Republic—"if you can keep it," the wise old man added.

It is true again today, as it has been during all past major crises. The mere existence of the Republic does not guarantee national happiness or success. It only guarantees that society and its members can strive to discover and implement the



NASA/NSIPS—Chris Lewis/NSIPS—Richard Iaria

Three fundamental issues confront the American voter in 1988: the strategic crisis and the related requirements of a civilian Moon-Mars colonization effort; the collapse of the economy; and the AIDS epidemic. Why has LaRouche been right on these issues, whereas the Eastern Establishment has been dead wrong?

right policies, if they are so inclined. It does not guarantee that they will discover or will choose such policies. They will do so, only “if they can keep it.”

The issue of LaRouche

Already, Lyndon LaRouche, a “man of providence” for some, a “political extremist” for others, “the most dangerous man” to yet others, easily the most controversial political personality in the world, unquestionably the most seminal, original thinker among living statesmen, and certainly the only living credible authority on economic science, is the central issue of the campaign.

Though LaRouche was the first to declare his intention to seek the nomination of the Democratic Party, the newspapers and other mass information media systematically omit his name from the roster of Democratic nominee candidates; although, since the spring of 1986, he enjoys greater “name recognition” than all the other declared Democratic candidates, he is systematically excluded from all opinion polls that reach the public.

The Republican administration’s Department of Justice has illegally, clumsily, and so far unsuccessfully, thrown all the resources of arbitrary power in a mad dash to destroy any group of persons and associations who openly support LaRouche for President of the United States.

The Democratic Party, through the Bob Strauss/Pamela

Harriman-controlled Democratic National Committee, is operating for one primary purpose: to deny LaRouche the possibility of seeking the Democratic nomination next year. For Strauss, Harriman, and Paul Kirk, this objective is more important even than leading the Democratic Party to victory in 1988.

All this extraordinary concern of the old Establishment over LaRouche, derives from LaRouche’s success—and the Establishment’s failure—to accurately identify, well in advance, the explosive social crises, the so-called “issues,” which will dominate 1988, and the policies required to redress these crises. These “issues” are: 1) the strategic security crisis, 2) the financial and economic crisis, and 3) the growth of the AIDS epidemic.

A derived, but all-important issue, is the Eastern Liberal Establishment’s own failure to identify these crises, let alone supply remedies, as contrasted to LaRouche’s own successful identification of both the problems and their solutions.

This so-called “LaRouche issue,” i.e., the question of *how come LaRouche was right and the Establishment was wrong*, will play a much more decisive role in the political deliberations of 1988 than most persons currently suspect.

In the reports which follow, we analyze the fundamental issues confronting voters in the 1988 campaign, and present the positions—or lack thereof—which the various contenders for the presidency have taken on them.