

LaRouche campaign reports intense voter response to TV address

by Patricia Salisbury

Officials of the Democratic presidential campaign of Lyndon LaRouche say they are pleased with the high level of citizen response to the first in a series of half-hour campaign broadcasts aired in most of the country on Feb 1. The show was viewed by 1.9 million households, and in response the Democrats for Economic Recovery, LaRouche in '92 campaign organization received over 1,200 cards and letters from all over the country. Campaign officials say that they consider such an outpouring as an indication of the depth of voter dissatisfaction with the choices currently represented by the media-acknowledged candidates in both major parties.

This time, at least, the polls seem to reflect reality when they report that over 50% of all Americans rate President Bush's performance as unsatisfactory, and that a large segment of Democrats consider none of the current front-runners adequate, and want others to enter the field.

The LaRouche campaign reports mail coming in from all parts of the country, with particularly heavy concentrations from the Northeast. Senders identified themselves as Republicans, Democrats, Independents, or as first-time voters, and virtually every letter requested detailed information on the strategic perspective and policy proposals which LaRouche had outlined on the broadcast. Many also reportedly contained at least short comments or questions addressed to the campaign, while a significant number of the letters were of substantial length, commenting in detail on the substance of the arguments and policy presented in the broadcast.

One campaign official reported that many who wrote at length expressed a profound appreciation of LaRouche's insistence on the depth of the depression crisis facing the country, and contrasted this with the failings both of President Bush and of the other Democratic Party candidates besides LaRouche. "We believe that the letters indicate the beginnings of a break in the population with the cheerleading approach to presidential politics," she said, "and a willingness to face LaRouche's challenge to the individual citizen to acknowledge his or her responsibility for the misguided policies of the last 25 years, and to use his campaign as a vehicle for a fundamental change in the nation. Rather than respond like spectators at a football game, the people who who sent us letters appear to be seriously examining LaRouche's assertion in the broadcast that he is uniquely

qualified to be President because of his record of projecting and posing policy alternatives in each of the major crises the nation faces today."

'Is it a crime to tell the truth?'

The campaign spokesman presented a selection of letters to back up her claim. One letter from LaRouche's home state of Virginia wrote: "I watched the predictions made by Mr. LaRouche during the Reagan and Bush administrations of how the economy could stabilize by implementing his programs.

"It is a shame that both administrations actually hid the true facts from the American public by stating the situation was either under control or the economy was slowly recovering. I believe that this tactic was used by both administrations to keep the public from panicking if the truth was really revealed to them about the economic situation.

"I am truly amazed and highly interested in this person and his views politically and economically. It is also shocking to think that a person like this who would make these predictions and they would actually come true. The fall of the Berlin Wall and the reunification of Germany, the chaos in Yugoslavia, the fall of socialism in the Soviet Union and the economic crisis in the same area. And to also think that the President of the United States would lock this man down in a federal penitentiary for telling the truth? Is it a crime to tell the truth? . . ."

Another letter came from a college freshman in Ohio: "This will be my first year voting and I wish to make a difference in the lives of Americans. I was truly moved by your advertisement on the television; therefore, I now write you asking for more information.

"I, too, agree that many Americans have been 'blinded' by Bush's soft wordings, and that we are in an economic depression—as well as a depression of morals. . . ."

"After I look further into what Mr. LaRouche plans to do for our bereaved country, I may wish to write you once more for information to pass out on my college campus. . . ."

Other letters were bristling with questions the writers would like the candidate to answer. One from Connecticut read in part: "I saw your televised message to the people of the United States on the ABC television network. Besides

believing every bit of what was said, it also raised some questions in my mind. I am 27 years old, and really started noticing something very drastically wrong with the political makeup of this country. Before I get into that aspect, let me ask a few questions: 1) Why was your 'Address to the Nation' not previewed by ABC? 2) What do you feel the Reagan-Bush administration has to hide, or gain, by railroading you? 3) What are the objective goals of the Reagan-Bush administration? And what would they gain by running this country into the ground? 4) Why was your 'Address to the Nation' not praised nor scrutinized? 5) Do you plan to air your campaign or argue the seeming truthful credibility of your story on the CNN news program Crossfire? 6) If elected President, do you believe in the immediate protection of our economic boundaries in proportion to the world?

"I could go on asking all kinds of questions, but I'd like to get back to our present political leadership.

"The more I dissect George Bush, and his deviously deceptive track record, his campaign speeches become less and less credible with myself, and others I know. . . .

"I could write a book on how I feel about things. Politicians of the past have offered no promises in the year of election. People have become apathetic toward our government and its politicians. We need someone like you who will come through. We need you. I'd like to help if I can. Please respond. I have more to say."

'Why are you in prison?'

A number of letters focused on LaRouche's economic policy, but raised additional considerations, such as in this letter from a trade unionist: "After watching your program on TV tonight I wonder why no one has paid any attention to what you have to say.

"I am a union member and things have been going downhill for a union ever since Reagan was in office. . . .

"People can't live on the low wages that non-union companies pay, also with no medical and retirement benefits.

"If they keep lowering the working people's wages, then who do they think is going to buy the junk that they import to sell?"

"Sir, there is no doubt that you or me would be a better President than what we have now—but—I don't think that you or I have a chance of becoming President because the American people are like cattle, they have to be led in a herd to the waterhole. . . .

"Why are you in prison?"

Another letter from a worker in Indiana read in part: "I . . . very much agree with your positions on the economy. There is not a dime's worth of difference between the Democrats and the Republicans. I do not choose to be governed by a group of (congressmen) elitist bums who vote themselves huge pay raises while the rest of the working class must work for lower and lower wages. In some cases I am forced to work for fees I was used to getting 10 and 12 years ago. . . .

"We cannot change the direction of this country unless we correct the mistakes that were made 10, and 25 years ago. Our education system is a shambles, so is our heavy industry, we are not producing educated skilled workers for our future. I truly hope the Japanese and Germans learn to love hamburgers, because all of us will be flipping burgers for them in a national McDonald-Disneyland of the future."

But the issue raised most frequently in the letters was the illegal jailing of LaRouche. Many asked at some point in their letters, "Why is Mr. LaRouche in jail?" or "I can't understand how this fine man can be in jail." In some of these letters, the writer supplied his or her own answer, as in the following:

"In this day and age we need all the help we can get.

"One question we all would like to know is why Mr. LaRouche is in prison?"

"Lyndon LaRouche seems like a brilliant man with a lot to offer the people of this world. It does not surprise us that Bush, and those like him would do whatever they could to break down such a strong opposition.

"We as concerned Americans would like your information on how we can turn this election around and give us a ray of hope in this otherwise dismal election."

Another wrote: "We want all information that you can send us, on his views, on the rebuilding of this once great country, and what we can do to free him and make him a powerful opposition for the Republican Party."

And a Maryland woman wrote: "I was spellbound by the program on Mr. LaRouche's beliefs and plans. . . . As I watched this I asked myself, 'Where have I been, if this type of thinking has been around?'

"It is easy to see why Mr. LaRouche is in prison. He scares the 'good ole boys' who are and have been running the games in our government for all these years. They are running scared, fearing that enough of us intelligent voters, will wake up long enough to really examine the records.

"If enough of us will wake up and examine what is obviously going on—under the table—we can get a real President elected and, then, build a real government by the people and for the people, not just for a few of those who are 'on the inside' and who are financially raping the citizens of the U.S.A. who are doing all the 'grunt work.' . . .

"I want to read as much of his views and remedial plans as I can get. I have a lot of catching up to do. And I want to understand the inner workings of his plans and proposals so I can come to an intelligent understanding of his logic.

"As I listened to and watched the TV program, I could see a glimmer of hope on the horizon. I wonder if we, the common man, are just intellectually malnourished to the point where we need to immerse our minds in Mr. LaRouche's teaching, then perhaps come to a point where we can see his visions.

The letter concluded: "With hope-filled anticipation I await your reply."