

Voters give LaRouche major gains in Illinois primary

by John Sigerson

In a hotly contested Democratic Party primary in Illinois on March 15, candidates belonging to the LaRouche wing of the party polled a solid 11-16% in statewide races, 19% in one of the congressional races, and percentages ranging from 2-47% for Democratic Central Committee. They made these gains despite frenzied barrage of slanders coined by the same political circles who are being directed from Great Britain to topple President Clinton. As Lyndon LaRouche commented in an interview, the election results show that "the voters did a credible job, even with the relatively modest vote they cast for my friends. The voters are really coming to their senses, I think. So that's good for the United States."

The re-election of 16-term U.S. congressional Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, head of the House Ways and Means Committee who has been under attack for various charges of corruption, was likewise a significant step in the right direction, LaRouche pointed out, since it meant "a step back for those who are trying to impeach the President on whatever charges they could cook up." Rostenkowski won the primary by over 50% of the vote.

The amount of money and energy expended by the Illinois Democratic Party leadership clique, by the Democratic National Committee, and by circles around Illinois Senator Paul Simon, was not directed at the vote totals per se, LaRouche said, but rather, "at this time, people associated with me are on the 'comeback trail' and probably to much higher levels of influence than ever before. . . . Thus, they weren't really afraid that a couple of my friends were going to win; they were afraid that we were going to establish a strong position in the Democratic Party, which would mean that their gains would come to an end."

The results of the Democratic Party primary in the state included the following highlights:

Sheila Jones, who ran the LaRouche's flagship campaign for governor, received 2% of the vote, with approximately 22,000 votes. The current State Controller Dawn Clark Netsh won the primary and will go on to challenge Jim Edgar in the November elections.

Anthony Harper and former Cook County Commissioner Rosemarie Love both came in with 13% of the vote for lieutenant governor and comptroller respectively. Mark Bender won 11% for comptroller, and Tom Beaudette 16% for state treasurer.

In congressional races, LaRouche Democrat George Laurence won 19% in the 13th Congressional District, which is the area around Joliet; while John McCarthy kept Rostenkowski honest by winning 2% in his 5th C. D.

The top LaRouche vote-winners in races for Democratic Central Committees were: Maurice Johnson in the 1st C.D. (12.5%), Ruth Dickerson in the 2nd C. D. (47%), Tom Glosenger in the 6th C.D. (33%); Doug Heitz in the 8th C.D. around Elgin (17%); Barbara Goudeaux in the 10th C.D. around Waukegan (25%), Dominick Jeffrey in the 13th C. D. (31%), and Chuck Finch in the 16th C. D. around Rockford (15%).

Press hysteria

During the days leading up to the election, media outlets throughout the state were churning out dire warnings about a repeat of the 1986 Democratic primary, when LaRouche Democrats Janice Hart and Mark Fairchild swept the primaries for lieutenant governor and secretary of state. Adlai Stevenson III, who won the primary for governor and who viewed the Illinois governorship as a launching-pad for a presidential bid, was, as he admitted later, on the verge of accepting the two LaRouche associates on his slate, when

Sen. Paul Simon intervened and caused Stevenson to drop out of the Democratic campaign.

This time around, the state's Democratic Party sponsored two tours of the state featuring National Democratic Party head David Wilhelm, and spent more than \$100,000—of which \$30,000 allegedly came from national party coffers—in order to “educate” voters on how to distinguish the “real” Democrats from the LaRouche “extremists.”

Although their campaign obviously had some effect, much of their propaganda must have sounded downright strange to thinking voters. For example, the March 14 *Chicago Tribune* editorialized as follows under the title “Beware the Ides of LaRouche”: “Do you believe the NEA [National Education Association] is perpetrating a ‘Satanic attack’ on the nation’s children? Do you think free trade is a form of psychosis that is looting the world economy? Do you think the ADL [Anti-Defamation League of B’nai B’rith] is the real power behind the KKK [Ku Klux Klan]? Should Congress resolve the government debt by declaring a moratorium on its repayment?” the paper asked, as if no one in their right mind would believe those things.

Another example of the anti-LaRouche wing’s suicidal myopia was a press conference held on March 13 held by state party chairman Gary LaPaille, who reportedly told the audience that “If you believe in colonizing Mars, vote for the LaRouche candidates.”

Meanwhile, syndicated columnist Mike Royko penned an outright violent threat against LaRouche associates in the *Chicago Tribune*: “If your daughter brings one home, unleash the dog. Or hit him with a chair and fling him down the front steps.” Royko said that in response to “personal threats,” “I promised them that I have many large mean friends. . . . So Lyndon, Sheila, and the rest of you nasties—I still have the same big, mean friends. You don’t really want to go through life limping, do you?”

Many are wising up

But even the media could not suppress the fact that many voters were—perhaps for the first time—taking a close look at what the LaRouche candidates were actually proposing to solve the economic collapse which is so evident in this midwestern state. The weekly *Chicago Reader*, for example, noted that the LaRouche Democrats make “a lot of genuinely serious proposals,” such as the program for taxing speculation and rewarding productive activity, as well as abolishing the Federal Reserve Bank. LaRouche’s educational proposals, meanwhile, could have been “taken straight from the Great Books program.” Indeed, “sizeable chunks of the LaRouche program sound almost mainstream. Mayor Richard J. Daley, after all, was a cultural conservative who opposed the ERA [Equal Rights Amendment], gay rights, and changes in the schools, as well as a great builder who pushed big projects and public works and the employment that would result. While he probably wouldn’t have felt at home with

the LaRouche style . . . a lot of LaRouche’s conclusions would hardly have disturbed him. In that sense,” the article concluded with some insight, “this primary pits the Democrats of the 1990s against their own ancestry. And maybe that’s the best reason the party could give to vote against the ‘LaRouchies.’ ”

Such serious consideration has even split the family of the above-mentioned mad dog Mike Royko. On Election Day, his son Robert Royko issued the following statement:

“After re-studying a column written by my father, Mike Royko, . . . in which my father called for ‘retaliation violence’ against Lyndon LaRouche, Sheila Jones, and her campaign workers for an alleged threat, I decided to take a look at the LaRouche people.

“For starters, picking on people who have so much interest in getting drugs off the streets: It doesn’t take a genius to figure out that the only way to get cocaine truly out of our streets is to start at Capitol Hill and work your way down.

“I believe their book, *Dope, Inc.* will maybe give America a more truthful overall picture of why there is such a horrendous program in the United States. There is a doubt about the fact that the government has been involved in drugs being imported into this country in one form or another.

“I can understand why the LaRouche people have been attacked so much, when I think about their campaigns against drug money-laundering enterprises in the banking communities. . . .

“The LaRouche people are being attacked both by the media and the public. I think that before people cruelly attack the LaRouche organization, they should study up on the facts.”

The fight for Classical culture

One aspect of the campaign which even crept into the media coverage, was the insistence—especially by Sheila Jones—that there can be no fundamental change in the United States without a return to Classical culture, and a firm rejection of the values of the drug-rock counterculture. One radio show featured Mrs. Jones playing a Classical work on the piano, before she came to the microphone to be interviewed.

In Chicago, Mrs. Jones was instrumental in organizing ghetto children and youth into a performance of *Through the Years*, a play by long-time civil rights fighter Amelia Boynton Robinson. This was followed up on March 20 with a festive concert sponsored by the Schiller Institute, of which Jones is a member, as a tribute to the great American soprano Marian Anderson. The program featured mezzosoprano Joyce Carter, the great Metropolitan Opera baritone Robert McFerrin, and Dr. Raymond Jackson, director of the music department at Howard University, and included selections from Classical opera, German *Lieder*, Classical piano pieces, and Negro spirituals sung “the way they should be sung.” In her introductory remarks, she said, “We of the Schiller Institute have a dream that the children whom we now fear in the streets of America will be taught to sing.”