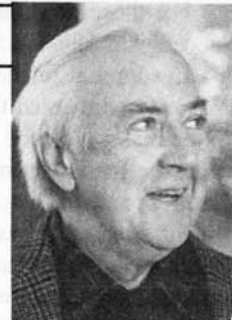


Interview: Eugene McCarthy



We must free politics from the grip of 'the networks'

Eugene J. McCarthy, 79, has played a leading role in the politics of the United States for more than five decades, including service as a member of the U.S. Congress from Minnesota for 22 years (two terms in the Senate and five terms in the House). Senator McCarthy has also been a leader in the Democratic Party for many years, including in the Presidential nominating process. He gave the 1960 nominating speech for Adlai Stevenson; in 1964, he gave the nominating speech for his fellow Minnesotan Hubert Humphrey for the office of vice president, to which Humphrey was subsequently elected. In Senator McCarthy's own campaign for the 1968 Democratic Presidential nomination, he won significant popular support in at least ten primary elections and many caucuses, and was the clear winner in five primaries. In his bid for the Democratic Presidential nomination in 1992, which is the subject of his current lawsuit, Senator McCarthy qualified for the ballot in dozens of state primaries. The following interview was conducted on Nov. 2 by Marianna Wertz.

EIR: You have a suit in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York regarding your 1992 Presidential bid in the Democratic primaries. What are the most important issues raised by the suit?

McCarthy: The basic position we take is that the networks, especially the networks of the Democratic Party, acted arbitrarily in excluding people from the debates that they sponsored and also in the case of both coverage and, in the case of the Democratic Party, exclusion of any mention of my candidacy in any of their published papers. They did it in states in which we were on the ballot, showing complete indifference to candidates who had conformed to the state law and had a right to be considered as candidates.

EIR: In presenting this suit now, what is your purpose, as you're not yourself a candidate today?

McCarthy: The principle, really, is what we're concerned about, which is, are you going to allow the networks and, in this case, just the Democratic Party, to decide who is to be considered as a candidate, without any regard for either the federal law related to television licenses, and also without regard for state laws, which determine the conditions to be

met when one is to be considered as a candidate?

EIR: In your suit, you refer specifically to Larry Agran, former mayor of Irvine, California, who at the time was also a Presidential candidate.

McCarthy: He had the same problem. . . . He was treated essentially the same way as I was.

EIR: The same kind of thing appears to be happening with the CityVote process, which Mayor Agran founded. The Democratic and Republican parties are preventing a natural discussion from occurring in the population with candidates other than the so-called major ones.

McCarthy: They decide who's major. What we asked them in the court case was, how do they distinguish between Doug Wilder as a major candidate and exclude me? What were the standards? The *New York Times* did the same thing, but they don't operate under federal license, so there was nothing much we could do about them.

EIR: Do you see the media in cahoots with the parties?

McCarthy: You'll see in the book we sent you on the 1976 campaign [*The Ultimate Tyranny*], when I ran as an independent, they did the same thing then. There was a meeting in Aspen of the networks and the Democratic and Republican parties and the League of Women Voters, in which they agreed that they would exclude me from the debates.

EIR: Why did you run in the Democratic Party in 1992?

McCarthy: In 1976, I was an independent. This time [in 1992] I was in the Democratic Party. We thought we had a better case within the party—not better in principle, but thinking practically, that within the party it would be more difficult for them to exclude you, or they'd be less inclined to do it than if you were an independent.

What it proves, I think, is that under the FCC [Federal Communications Commission], not only do they exclude independent or third party candidates, but they even move to exclude or control or eliminate dissent within the party, as is the case with Lyndon LaRouche and his campaign. He's in the Democratic Party. But they're already moving to say you

don't get treated as though you were. Which is the same thing that happened to me.

EIR: So you see this case as perhaps helping in his Presidential election campaign?

McCarthy: I think it would help in the case of any candidate. If we can win it, then it would deny to the networks and the parties the right to decide who is a candidate. They've watered down the whole fairness and equal time doctrine, but it's still there. So we don't have as good a case as we had in '76, but basically it's the same thing, excepting that now they'll move against [Ross] Perot, I'm sure, if he does anything in which he's not spending his own money. They've threatened to move on Lyndon now. They moved on me in '92. So I think it bears very strongly. We've also told some of these Republicans that they had better be concerned, because when the showdown comes, they'll decide that some of them don't deserve to be treated equally.

EIR: More generally, what do you see as the critical questions facing the American population in the coming election campaign?

McCarthy: There are procedural things that I've written about. . . . One is the kind of control over people that's exercised in the federal election law, which can decide who can run for office; the FCC, which decides who can even be presented to the public; and the Internal Revenue Service. I see these as greater threats to the democratic system than the CIA or the FBI.

EIR: Why the IRS?

McCarthy: They pay no attention to the Bill of Rights. They do things like using the IRS to supplement the Justice Department. . . . The LaRouche case is an example. . . . They transfer things to Internal Revenue because of the protection you would otherwise have if it was followed by the Justice Department.

EIR: Also in many cases of the black political leaders who've been framed up in the "Operation Frühmenschen" cases.

McCarthy: Yes. They get them on income tax when they couldn't get them under the normal proceedings under the Constitution and the Justice Department.

That's the procedural thing. Substantively, I have a list of four things: One is the redistribution of work, to redistribute work in this country, by shortening the working time, so that more people will be employed and other people will not work as long as they do.

Second is the national debt, which is a real threat to democracy. I proposed in '92 a short working-year, but that we have a capital levy on the wealth that was accumulated, principally in the '70s and '80s, by people who didn't pay any taxes. The principle is you can tax previous generations

just as easily as you can tax future ones. . . .

The third is the whole federal election law, which I think should be abolished or completely revised to beat the various things we're talking about.

The fourth is the whole military/industrial/corporate complex: Whether it's military/industrial or just plain corpo-

McCarthy seeks access to debates by all candidates

Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy, together with two other plaintiffs, has brought suit in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York against the Democratic and Republican parties, several government authorities, and media outlets in New York and New Hampshire. In the Complaint, Senator McCarthy presents the following argument:

Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy ran as a candidate for President of the United States in 1992 and was certified to be on the Democratic ballot for the April 7, 1992 New York primary. There was a total of four candidates on the New York primary ballot: Eugene McCarthy, Lawrence Agran, Jerry Brown and William Clinton.

Senator McCarthy and Mayor Agran were certified for ballot status in Democratic primary and caucus states for a combined total of 45-plus states. Nevertheless, the two candidates, one a former U.S. Senator and the other a mayor, were excluded from public debates throughout the primary season, including a public debate on March 31 at Lehman College, which was announced on the letterhead of Bronx County as including "all the major candidates of the Democratic Party." The debate was broadcast on several media outlets. Mayor Agran, who was in the auditorium at Lehman College on the night of the debate, asked to be included but was forcibly ejected by the police from the auditorium and placed under arrest.

McCarthy and Agran were excluded from prior broadcast debates as well, having bearing upon the New York primary contest, the delegate selection process, the selection of the nominee, the platform of the Democratic Party, and the presentation of issues in the 1992 national election.

The complaint seeks monetary damages of no less than \$440,000,000 and a permanent injunction against the defendants from preventing ballot qualified candidates from having full access to public debates, forums and staged events.

rate power, it's a threat to free institutions and individual liberties. It's kind of an enclosure movement, in that the people are being "surplussed," their pensions taken from them, their jobs contracts ignored, they're fired; they're turned out essentially the same way that the serfs were turned out during the enclosure movement during the Middle Ages. Nobody is responsible for them, excepting the government.

EIR: These issues, many of which have to do with the economy, occur in a context of global collapse which LaRouche believes is an already moving hurricane, which has yet to hit land. What's your view of that?

McCarthy: As long as you can continue to exploit labor worldwide, which you can do now, and also to exploit resources, the established economy can be held together on an exploited base. . . .

EIR: There comes a limit, however, which is imposed by natural law.

McCarthy: That's right, eventually.

EIR: That is what LaRouche based his forecasts on.

McCarthy: He's right. I don't know when it comes to an end. Adam Smith talked about the wealth of the nations as though that were the absolute standard. We talk about the gross national product. So you can increase the GNP by "surplussing" people, instead of paying them a decent wage and letting them work. And you can increase the GNP by exploiting resources, whether it's cheap oil or whether it's other resources or just work that we bring in from Mexico or Guatemala or wherever it may be.

EIR: One of the devices that's used to carry this out is what's called free trade.

McCarthy: Oh yes, free trade, NAFTA [the North American Free Trade Agreement]. They've got people believing that free trade is sort of an absolute principle of life. Why, the American Revolution was against free trade. Jefferson said, after the revolution, we have to protect our industries. He said, buy American, even though it costs you more. . . .

EIR: The Schiller Institute and *EIR* will hold a conference in Washington on Nov. 15 on the subject of growing dissent in the population against Newt Gingrich and the whole crowd in the Congress.

McCarthy: I think the House of Representatives may have to save us from Gingrich and his crowd. But they're practically all running on the same platform now. Clinton is going to balance the budget and he's going to have workfare, not welfare, and he's going to do away with bureaucracy. [Colin] Powell's running on the same platform and the Republicans are all running on the same platform.

EIR: Clinton did draw the line on the worst aspects of this,

and has said he will veto it.

McCarthy: You know, actually, Jimmy Carter started the attack on responsible government. He was going to do away with bureaucracy. He was going to take power away from Washington. . . .

EIR: The thing that distinguishes Clinton from Carter, in our view, is that his foreign policy has tended to be anti-British.

McCarthy: That's the way the Irish feel about it. . . . I don't find much wrong with his foreign policy. The point is that the stuff he's dealt with, nobody knows what to do with: Somalia, Haiti, and even Bosnia. Other than that, he's accepted the principle now that Americans can bomb people and impose embargoes on them, but don't send ground troops.

EIR: He's accepted some principles of the "new world order," while rebelling against the most important, which is the British control of policy.

McCarthy: The Romans did the same thing. They established their power by drawing maps. The British did the same thing. They've drawn most of the maps affecting Africa and the Middle East and even parts of South America. You have to be ready, if you're going to be a leading nation, to redraw some maps, even British maps. That's what is involved in the intervention in the Middle East: No wonder the Queen approved George, he'd endorsed their maps! She said, thank you for saving Kuwait, because that was one of our maps, we drew that line!

EIR: The British also drew a map for Bosnia.

McCarthy: So it's time to undo some of the British maps! . . . Northern Ireland, it's the same thing. It's a damn British map. . . .

EIR: I understand that you write poetry. Could you comment on culture in this country and what you think the citizen can do to reverse the descent into barbarism?

McCarthy: I blame most of it on two things: one, multiculturalism as a principle; but also television, which is really a medium that I think eventually creates chaos.

EIR: Could you elaborate on what you mean by multiculturalism as a principle?

McCarthy: The principle is that any culture is as good as any other culture. You can't make any distinctions. It's like multilingualism in the schools, and one religion is as good as another. Maybe they are, but you can't accept that. [That] one philosophy is as good as another. Post-modernism, which has no principles, is the philosophy under which we operate now.

EIR: There's no truth if that's the case.

McCarthy: We always knew that truth was pretty vague, but at least you'd establish some things that were useful, that worked and that were truer than other things, either as a result of reflection or just experience.

EIR: The Golden Renaissance was based on the truths of the neo-Platonic Christian philosophy.

McCarthy: That's right. And you will always find it had some weaknesses, as did medieval Christianity, but at least there was a range within which some kind of principle and order existed. The old medieval universities were pretty much directed toward finding truth. Now the universities are really directed toward confusion. You don't go looking for truth. You want to see how you can prove that something that's accepted is not true or that it's irrelevant, so it leaves nothing but chaos and entropy and randomness. . . . I think the cultural scene is pretty close to entropic, randomness, chaos and disorder, as a result of post-modernism and multiculturalism.

EIR: LaRouche says very much the same thing.

McCarthy: I know he does. And the politics is almost as bad. There's no institutional identity anymore.

EIR: Concluding with your case, if you lose it in the lower courts, are you prepared to take it up?

McCarthy: In 1976, they threw us off the ballot in New York. Our signatures were approved by the election board of New York State. The Democrats appealed it to the lowest court and they threw us off, saying we didn't have the ballots tied together right. You're supposed to have a hole in the ballot and have a string through it. Then we appealed and the intermediate court put us back on the ballot, and that was controlled by Republicans; they wanted me on the ballot. The Democrats then appealed to whatever the highest court is in New York, and they threw us off the ballot on the Friday before the election.

So, I don't have much hope for any real progress in the New York courts. The question is, if we can get it out of the New York courts into federal court some way, we might have a chance. . . . Even there, you have enough trouble, but if you're stuck in those state courts, where the judges are appointed by Republicans or Democrats and elected by Republicans or Democrats, it's almost impossible to break through a political barrier.

I don't think you can do anything about it in the legislatures, not until things get worse. The only hope is that you might find a good, responsible, intelligent judge somewhere, who would be moved on principle. But we didn't find one in '75. We didn't find one in '68 when we charged that I wasn't given delegates that I should have had under the principle of one person, one vote. . . .

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