

LaRouche wins 8.2% in Pennsylvania

Unofficial election returns show that at least 60,000 Pennsylvania Democrats voted for Lyndon LaRouche in the state's Democratic Presidential primary on April 23. With 98% of precincts reporting, the LaRouche vote totalled 58,761, with 659,611 for President Clinton, giving LaRouche about 8.2% of the vote statewide. This percentage maintains the pattern of solid support which LaRouche has demonstrated in more than half a dozen of the states where he has been on the ballot this year. Despite a near-total press blackout, LaRouche has garnered 7-12% of the vote, and as high as 34.5%.

The approximately 60,000 votes in Pennsylvania brings LaRouche's total so far in this campaign to about 430,000 votes. His most significant primary vote results thus far are as follows: Delaware, 9.6%; North Dakota, 34.5%; Colorado, 11.1%; Louisiana, 11.69%; Oklahoma, 12.63%; Mississippi, 7.6%; Ohio, 8.25%; and California, 7%.

LaRouche is on the ballot in eight more primaries, and plans to continue his national television advertisement campaign, which has so far featured three nationwide half-hour prime-time spots. The upcoming primaries are in Washington, D.C., North Carolina, Nebraska, West Virginia, Arkansas, Kentucky, Alabama, and New Jersey.

With a tight press blackout against his campaign, LaRouche's Pennsylvania vote was almost completely the

result of a grass-roots mobilization. Over 550 people distributed hundreds of thousands of pamphlets in the last two weeks before the primary.

The campaign effort distinguished itself from that of other candidates by demonstrating the power of ideas. When Republican Gov. Tom Ridge announced budget cuts in the state's medical assistance program, designed to eliminate the health care "safety net" for an estimated 260,000 of the working poor and disabled, LaRouche supporters intervened against the cuts.

In a March 2 national TV broadcast, LaRouche had pointed out that Nazi leaders tried at Nuremberg, were not convicted of personally killing people, but because they "knew, or should have known" that their policies would result in wrongful deaths. On this basis, LaRouche said, Gingrich and his accomplices were guilty of "crimes against humanity," since their budget cuts would accelerate deaths among the elderly, disabled, and poor.

On March 25, LaRouche campaign representative Phil Valenti led a press conference and lobbying effort in the state capital in Harrisburg, and joined a demonstration of Philadelphia community groups against Ridge's killer budget. Later that day, 24 Republicans joined a solid Democratic bloc, and rejected Ridge's cuts, sending the bill back to committee.

At an April 4 press conference in Philadelphia, LaRouche emphasized that introduction of the Nuremberg standard into the debate, was central to the defeat of the bill. "Pennsylvania," LaRouche said, "by addressing that issue competently, and by showing that the Democratic Party of Pennsylvania can provide national leadership in this, can help set a pattern, which would be beneficial to the U.S. Congress and the nation as a whole."



LaRouche campaign organizers demonstrate at the office of Pennsylvania Speaker of the House Matt Ryan, against legislation that would eliminate medical assistance to about 260,000 indigent adults, children, and disabled.