



The Democratic State Convention in Hampton, Virginia, June 1996, where elected delegates pledged to LaRouche were denied voting rights. "If he is suspected of thinking," say the Legalists, "silence him instantly, and permanently."

become instantly homicidal, the instant they suspect someone is attempting to contaminate the ranks of the Administrators with a dissenting opinion on likely events. The observed *Los Enfermos* responses to such a perceived threat, fall into two types. The relatively milder form is called the "Ivan Grozny" syndrome: "If his opinion is something we do not fully understand, put him in the man-sized frying-pan, and roast him over a fire." The more extreme reaction, is termed, alternately, "The Legalist," or "Hollywood Director" syndrome which *Los Enfermos* types have lately adopted as policy for running U.S. national conventions of major political parties: "If he is suspected of thinking, silence him instantly, and permanently."

For those among the many unfortunates who can claim a representative of *Los Enfermos* as a member of their own immediate family, a word of advice is supplied. Never ask them the question, "What will happen if the Depression comes, and the Administrators are all laid off from their positions?" Faced with that proposition, the typical *Los Enfermos* is seized by a paroxysm of ugly convulsions, after which he, or she falls silent, and still, into a permanent catatonic state.

Perot threw a party, and hardly anyone came

by Jeffrey Steinberg

Texas billionaire and wanna-be President H. Ross Perot may go down in history as the biggest rip-off artist to ever dip into the federal taxpayers' pockets. During two consecutive weekends in early August, Perot hosted nominating conventions for his new Reform Party; first, in Long Beach, California, and then, in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. The Federal Election Commission (FEC) kicked in a cool \$6 million to cover the costs of those two events, which drew no more than 1,000 attendees, each. The Reform Party's ostensible selling card was that all of the 1.1 million Americans who had signed petitions supporting the party's right to a place on the November ballot, would be voting to choose the nominee. The race boiled down to a two-way contest between Perot and former Colorado Gov. Dick Lamm, a fanatical advocate of euthanasia for America's elderly. When the smoke cleared, Perot had carried the day, outpolling Lamm by a two-to-one margin.

But, despite cheap and simple voting procedures that required only a telephone, a computer, or a fax machine, only 50,000 people voted in the Reform Party primary. Perot received 34,000 votes.

Yet, the FEC, based on Perot's 1992 showing, will now fork over an additional \$30 million in taxpayers' money to Perot, for his general election campaign. The 34,000 voters who cast their ballots for Perot generated \$36 million in government cash, for a man whose official net worth was recently cited by *Forbes* magazine at over \$2.4 billion. That comes to \$1,058.82 in federal funds for each of the 34,000 Perot votes.

A meteoric fall

In the 1992 Presidential elections, Ross Perot received 19% of the vote. In the early phases of the election season, he was outpolling both the Democratic and Republican party nominees, George Bush and Bill Clinton. It's been a meteoric fall for the Texas billionaire. His United We Stand America political action committee has seen many of its top officials quit, in disgust over Perot's megalomania, and over the failure of the group to develop any serious organizational or policy perspective in the intervening four years. And his latest political invention, the Reform Party, turns out to be a Potemkin Village amalgam of political outcasts, including the "Dr. Death" of American politics, Dick Lamm, and the New Alliance Party of Dr. Fred Newman and Dr. Lenora Fulani.

The Newman/Fulani group is a "political" apparatus in

Polymorphous politics

The *New York Times* only hinted at the real story of wacko witch-doctors Fred Newman and Lenora Fulani. Their “political” enterprise is actually built around a string of off-beat psychotherapy fronts, including: the East Side Center for Social Therapy, the Castillo Cultural Center of Greenwich Village, the All-Stars Talent Show Network, the East Side Institute For Short-Term Psychotherapy, the Center for Developmental Learning, and the Gaygles (a “multisexual musical comedy improvisational group”). Fulani, who is on Ross Perot’s short list of possible running mates, is still a “clinical staff member” of the East Side Center in New York.

Fulani (née Lenora Branch) was recruited “to politics” via one of Dr. Fred’s sex therapy fronts. As she tells us in her autobiography, *The Making of a Fringe Candidate 1992*:

“Fred Newman and I first met when Lois Holzman introduced us in 1978. Lois—now an internationally prominent developmental psychologist—and I were colleagues at Rockefeller University. . . . At that time I had been in individual therapy with a Black lesbian gestalt therapist for about a year. I wanted to be in group therapy, but my therapist only saw people individually.

“I was intrigued when I first came to [Newman’s] New York Institute for Social Therapy and Research. They were talking about therapy and psychology in very progressive ways and they did group therapy, which I found very stimulating intellectually. . . .

“I pulled together a meeting of about 25 Black women psychologists and invited them to meet with Fred so we could decide whether we wanted to join the staff of the Institute,” Fulani wrote. “We asked Fred to lead a study group on politics so we could learn more about who he was and who we were. We wanted to read the *Communist Manifesto* with him.”

Marx’s ideas are at the very core of social therapy, in the Newman cosmology. Lois Holzman recounts that Lev Vygotsky, a Russian psychologist, “called the difference between what one can do ‘with others’ and what one can do ‘by oneself’ the Zone of Proximal Development. . . . The ZPD is where and how human beings—determined, to be sure, by the circumstances in which we find ourselves—totally transform those very circumstances. . . . Following Karl Marx, we call this process *revolutionary activity*” (Newman and Holzman, 1993).

Beneath Perot’s conservative veneer beat the fevered imaginations of these libertines, seeking to draw converts into their “group grope.”—*Dennis Speed*

name only. Drs. Newman and Fulani practice a bizarre brand of psychotherapy (see box), and do most of their “political” recruiting through group-grope sessions with their patients. Even the *New York Times*, in an Aug. 21, 1996 profile, wrote: “Some critics call the New Alliance Party a cult that used Dr. Newman’s national network of unusual psychotherapy centers, where clients receive short-term therapy in groups as large as 25, to attract and isolate vulnerable young people, then sold them on the idea of participating in, and contributing to, the New Alliance Party as a kind of ‘social therapy.’ ”

In the early 1970s, Newman and his gang made a brief, unsuccessful effort to infiltrate the political association of Lyndon LaRouche. They were given the boot, when their polymorphous “therapy” methods were discovered.

Perot has apparently done no such diligent investigation. Perot’s links with Newman and Fulani go back as far as the 1992 elections, when attorneys from the New Alliance Party were instrumental in winning Perot ballot access in several states. By 1995, the New Alliance Party had insinuated itself into a nascent Patriot Party, headed by a Pennsylvania Perot backer, Nicholas Sabatine. When Perot’s chief political operative, Russell Verney, was first launching the Reform Party, and was desperate to win ballot status in California, he turned to New Alliance member-turned Patriot Party California

chairman, Jim Mangia, to mobilize for Perot’s petition signatures.

Now, Perot has even allowed Fulani’s name to be floated among the possible choices for his vice presidential running-mate, according to a recent story in the *Washington Post*.

Rupert Murdoch’s *New York Post* jumped on “Perot’s Fulani Connection” in an Aug. 18 lead editorial, which warned: “Perot himself has a mainstream political sensibility—but his compact with Fulani & Co. suggests that hidden dangers lurk behind his crusade.”

Fulani, a self-professed black nationalist, has used the Perot platform to conduct her own war of words against leading figures in the civil rights movement, including Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan, Rev. Benjamin Chavis, and Rev. Al Sharpton. She has singled out Farrakhan and Chavis for their collaboration with Lyndon LaRouche, and for their continuing, albeit guarded, support for President Bill Clinton. Fulani is unabashed in her zeal to defeat the President at all costs; and she is trying to steer as many African-American voters as possible into the Perot circus tent. So far, not surprisingly, she has failed miserably in that effort, by her own admission. But, with \$30 million in FEC cash now being provided to Perot’s otherwise non-starter of a campaign, the dirty tricks that could come out of this menagerie cannot be dismissed.