

## Chicago: battle for the soul of the Democratic Party

by William Jones

Behind all the Hollywood “glitz” at the Democratic Convention in Chicago Aug. 26-29, a fierce battle was raging for the soul of the Democratic Party. The convention itself was plagued from the beginning by a gross malfeasance. The Democratic National Committee, under its chairman, South Carolina’s “good ol’ boy” Don Fowler, had succeeded in excluding any role for Democratic Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche: LaRouche, who had garnered 6.4% of the vote nationwide in the recent primaries against President Clinton, was given no opportunity to speak to the convention, nor was any expression given to the considerable contingent that rallied to his candidacy.

In fact, elected delegates pledged to LaRouche had been summarily and unlawfully excluded from even taking their places at the convention by the dictatorial fiat of Fowler. Fowler’s high-handed tactics, in clear violation of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, may well have caused enough concern among elements of the Democratic Party leadership to lead him to announce his resignation as DNC chair next January.

### The welfare bill

Hanging as a pall over all attempts to create a festive mood during the four long days, was the legislation just signed by President Clinton, which handed over to the states the responsibility for welfare, thereby effectively ending a 60-year mandate established by Democratic President Franklin Roosevelt.

It was LaRouche’s Presidential campaign that brought opposition to the welfare bill and related policies into sharp focus, with the candidate’s unrelenting attack on the Conservative Revolution, and particularly with his drive to impeach Republican Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge (see article, p. 68). Thousands of copies of LaRouche’s pamphlet, “Impeach Governor Ridge for Nazi-Style Crimes Against Humanity,”

were distributed to participants at the convention.

Under the influence of political pollsters such as Roy Cohn’s cousin, “Dirty Dick” Morris, as well as others at the White House anxious to make the Democratic Party look more Republican, and perhaps even subject to blackmail by the Roy Cohn protégé, President Clinton signed the welfare “reform” legislation into law. After agonizing over the decision, he decided to sign the revised version of a bill that he had twice vetoed, in spite of his continued dissatisfaction with the measure. When the President signed the legislation, Morris glibly commented, “Well, the election’s over,” pretending that this was a winning strategy. As things developed in the course of the week, it was Morris himself whose job was “over.” In the midst of the convention, the story of Morris’s involvement with a \$200-an-hour hooker led to his speedy resignation on Aug. 29.

The welfare reform bill served as a catalyst to the ongoing fight in the Democratic Party. This fight was launched by Sen. Edward Kennedy (Mass.), who in January 1995 warned his fellow Democrats that the party had lost the 1994 elections, because they refused to run as Democrats. The country didn’t need two Republican parties, he said, urging a return to the principles on which the party had been based, since the era of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

The signing of the welfare legislation threatened to reverse the Roosevelt tradition, which had meant maintaining a “safety net” during times of economic crisis, so that no American would become totally destitute. Republicans, with their “Contract with America,” have targetted such “entitlements”—welfare payments, Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security—for deep cuts, in a futile attempt to bring down the budget deficit. As *EIR* has demonstrated, slashing essential services will only make the budget deficit worse; the only

solution is to expand the tax base, with a program of developing infrastructure, the productive forces of the physical economy, science, and technology. The President, with his veto, had been a bulwark against the Republican Congress's attempt to gouge "entitlements." On the welfare reform issue, under pressure from Morris, the President faltered.

In an attempt to alleviate the disastrous consequences of the measure, however, President Clinton unveiled, in his acceptance speech on Aug. 29, measures aimed at counteracting its devastating effects. These include a jobs program, designed to help communities move 1 million of the hardest-to-employ welfare recipients into jobs by the year 2000. Delegates were also told that the White House is committed to introducing new legislation next term, to ameliorate some of the worst features of the just-enacted welfare bill.

### **Invoking the tradition of Roosevelt, Kennedy**

It was impossible for Fowler and other convention organizers to cover up the dissension over the welfare reform legislation. A decision was made to highlight the FDR tradition at the convention, while at the same time allowing the "New Democrats" to have their say. On the first evening it was Christopher Reeve, who had been the star of the film version of *Superman*, who gave the premier performance. Reeve, paralyzed from the neck down as the result of an equestrian accident last year, hearkened back to the Kennedy Presidency. "America has a tradition many nations probably envy: We frequently achieve the impossible," he said. "That's part of our national character. That's what got us from one coast to another. That's what got us the largest economy in the world. That's what got us to the Moon."

Reeve also referred to the FDR tradition: "President Roosevelt showed us that a man who could barely lift himself out of a wheelchair could still lift a nation out of despair. The most important principle FDR taught us, is that America does not let its needy citizens fend for themselves."

Some of the Republican "look-alikes" such as Indiana Gov. Evan Bayh, a strong supporter of welfare reform, were to have played a major role at the convention. As the convention progressed, however, they were overshadowed by a strong appeal to traditional Democratic policies. During the course of the first day, it was announced that Mario Cuomo, the former governor of New York and a representative of the traditional Democratic policies, was going to give a prime-time presentation. Cuomo was to follow Jesse Jackson, who was also given a high-profile, prime-time slot. Both Jackson and Cuomo would address concerns over welfare reform.

Jackson urged unity in the party, appealing to the voters who had been disappointed with President Clinton's decision to sign the welfare reform bill: "In your cynicism, don't walk away from this vote. If you don't vote, you're irrelevant to the process. If you don't have integrity, you are a coward. Only by engaging, engaging, engaging can you make things happen."

Jackson also decried the loss of industrial jobs in Chicago and other cities, and proposed a national infrastructure program to rebuild the cities.

Cuomo, who had been a very vocal opponent of the welfare reform measure, and had been playing a very low-key political role since he lost the New York governorship in 1994, was called to rally the troops. Cuomo said that he had been opposed to President Clinton's signing the welfare bill, and that he had told the President and the vice president and Hillary Clinton what he thought—that the risk to children was too great to justify signing it. "But the President is confident that he can avert this risk by further legislation before children are actually harmed," Cuomo said. "We should all hope and pray—we should all hope and pray that the President is right." He added that people should also work to "give the President the strength of a Democratic Congress."

The Roosevelt image was also evoked by an actor, dressed up as FDR, who had taped a video reciting from Roosevelt's speeches, which were broadcast between speeches all during the convention. At one point, the actor took to the podium, and, in the spirit of Roosevelt, commented acridly on the Republican policies of today.

The positive reception by convention delegates to the LaRouche materials that were daily distributed by organizers outside the convention hotels, as well as the rising mood of pride over the FDR tradition, served to remoralize the delegates. The resignation of Morris, as well as the demise of Don Fowler, could clear the decks for Democrats, as Cuomo advocated, to be "free once again to be Democrats, progressive, constructive Democrats."

The task will not be easy one. As many delegates recognized, there will have to be a strong voter mobilization in order to bring people to the polls. The confusion in the party caused by the "Morris factor" will not be easily remedied. The Presidential campaign, and perhaps even more, the attempt of the Democrats to retake the House, will be an uphill fight. In that fight the forces of LaRouche and his collaborators could provide the critical margin to shift the balance in the direction of a Democratic victory in November.

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## **Documentation**

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*The following are excerpts from several of the speeches at the Democratic Convention.*

**AFL-CIO President John J. Sweeney** spoke on Aug. 28, the first such address by an AFL-CIO president. He was accompanied on the dais by three workers from the United Center where the convention is being held, all of them members of the union of which Sweeney was president, Service Employees International Union (SEIU). He began by saying that

they represent the millions of workers today who are “still struggling to catch up,” because of the downsizing, layoffs, and raiding of pension funds by the Republican Congress. He noted that the Republicans have denounced him and the AFL-CIO for galvanizing workers into motion, but said these policies are what galvanized them: “No wonder millions of workers are involved in politics today as never before.”

Workers aren’t interested in being in Congress themselves, Sweeney said. All workers want is “fair compensation, decent schools, safe workplaces, access to a doctor and a decent pension.” He said they don’t want unions to dictate their politics, but to “be a bigger force, independent of party or candidate,” that can “get after the corporations who force them to choose between being underpaid or unemployed.” Sweeney singled out Bridgestone/Firestone, which illegally

replaced 2,300 striking workers over two years ago, as the worst example of this. Workers want the restoration of the right to organize unions and to bargain for a better future, Sweeney said.

He called for support for President Clinton’s reelection because of his veto of Medicaid cuts, his veto of the anti-union TEAM Act, and his signing of the minimum wage increase. He made no mention of the welfare bill, which labor opposed.

Sweeney continued on what workers want: To live in a country where they don’t need three jobs to pay their gas and electric bill, to have enough free time to go to church on Sunday or take their kids to a ball game, a country where one’s lot in life is not determined by the color of one’s skin, or an accident of birth.

## FDR-PAC vows to destroy ‘Contract on Americans’

FDR-PAC is the name of the new political action committee, launched on Aug. 29 by associates of Lyndon LaRouche in the Democratic Party. LaRouche, the world-renowned economist whose campaign for the Democratic Party nomination ended with the nomination of President Bill Clinton in Chicago, will serve as a leading member of the PAC’s National Advisory Board.

“The prime objective of FDR-PAC will be to defeat those modern-day proponents of Nazi economic policies, such as Gov. Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania, within the Republican Party, and wherever else they may raise their heads,” declared Nancy Spannaus, the Virginia Democrat who will serve as the PAC’s executive director.

“The need for bringing together those Democrats committed to reviving FDR’s tradition of fighting Nazi economics, and using the powers of the government to revive our economy through industry, science, and infrastructure, couldn’t be clearer. The fact that political transvestite Dick Morris was able to push President Clinton in the opposite direction, toward adopting Republican policies such as the Welfare Reform Act, demonstrates the problem we have to deal with.

“Fortunately, today, Dick Morris is out of the picture. But the policy direction itself must be addressed, and changed, so that the Democratic Party can not only take back both houses of Congress this fall, but also we can literally destroy the power of all advocates of the Contract on Americans, which Gingrich and his friends have im-

posed on the United States.

“FDR-PAC will concentrate, first and foremost, upon impeaching the individual LaRouche has identified as the ‘lead duck’ among the Gingrichites, Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge. There is currently a mass mobilization going on in Pennsylvania to accomplish this task, but it is not just a matter for the residents of that state. A successful national effort to impeach Ridge is essential in order to send a message to all those who propose Nazi-like budget cuts, that they will not be tolerated.

“As in Pennsylvania, we will, of course, propose alternatives to mass murder through budget cuts. These will include both programs for actually reversing our industrial and economic decline, and taxation policies that will penalize speculation. Just as FDR had to deal with the bankruptcy of the U.S. banking system, we Democrats have to deal with the bankruptcy of the world economy—and apply the necessary American System policies to carry out bankruptcy reorganization, establish national banking, and provide trillions in credit to rebuild the economy.

“But the major job, from the start, will be the necessary negative one. The truth must be told about the fact that budget cuts like those of Governor Ridge, and the ‘Contract on Americans,’ are Nuremberg Crimes against Humanity. The purveyors of those crimes must be confronted, and, if they don’t repudiate them, be politically destroyed.

“Our work will occur in the tradition of the Defeat That Son-of-a-Bush Committee (which defeated Ollie North’s senatorial campaign), and our campaign against Newt Gingrich’s ‘Contract on America.’ It will draw upon the Democratic tradition of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy. We will seek to mobilize the traditional base of the Democratic Party—particularly labor and minorities—to accomplish what must be done within these next two months: defeat Nazi policies, once and for all.”

He concluded: "An honest labor movement raises the standard for all. A moral nation cares for its old, young, disabled and poor and leaves the rich to fend for themselves." That, he said, is what he's trying to bring about in the revitalized labor movement. He ended his speech with "God bless American workers."

**Rev. Jesse Jackson:** "What is our challenge tonight? Just look around this place. This publicly financed United Center is a new Chicago mountain top. To the south to Comisky Park, another mountain top. To the west, Cook County Jail. Two ball parks and a jail. In that jail, mostly youthful inmates, 80% drug positive, 90% high school dropouts, 92% functionally illiterate, 75% recidivism rate. They go back sicker and sicker.

"Between these mountains of the ball park and the jail was once Campbell's Soup and Sears and Zenith and Sunbeam and stock yards. There were jobs, and there was industry. Now there's a canyon of welfare and despair. This canyon exists in virtually every city in America.

"One-fifth of all American children will go to bed in poverty tonight. Half of all America's African-American children grew up amidst broken sidewalks, broken hearts, broken cities, and broken dreams. The number one growth industry in urban America—jails. Half of all public housing built in the last 10 years—jails. The top wealthiest 1%, wealthiest Americans, own as much as the bottom 95%; the greatest inequality since the 1920s. As corporations downsize jobs, out-source contracts, a class crisis emerges as a race problem. But the strawberry pickers in California, the chicken workers in North Carolina deserve a hearing. We must seek a new moral center. . . .

"In 1968, the tension within our party was over warfare. In 1996, it's welfare. Last week, over the objections of millions of Americans, Franklin Roosevelt's six-decade guarantee of support for women and children was abandoned. On this issue, many of us differed with the President. [National Organization for Women President] Patricia Ireland and I even picketed the White House. We're all for welfare reform, but we want jobs, and daycare and health care as the alternatives. . . .

"What shall we do? Between these two ball parks and this jail, what shall we do between the canyon and the ball parks and the jail? We shall reclaim our children. Certainly these stakes are very high in 1996. We have the burden and the obligation to win for yet unborn generations.

"What shall we do economically? We have \$6 trillion in private and public pension funds. Why can't we take 5% of that money, \$300 billion government secured, use that money to reinvest in our infrastructure and put America back to work? We did it for Poland. We made for Poland 40-year loans at three-quarters of 1%, first payment due in 10 years. If we can rebuild Poland and Europe and Japan, we can build Chicago and Atlanta and Memphis and Nashville. We can rebuild America. . . ."

## 'Dirty Dick' Morris is dumped by Clinton camp

by Jeffrey Steinberg

Two months after *New Federalist*, the weekly newspaper of the LaRouche political movement, ran a front-page story, demanding that President Clinton "dump Roy Cohn's 'Dirty Dick' Morris" from his re-election campaign organization, the sleazy political operator has tendered his resignation. Morris, who is a cousin of the late New York City mob lawyer, J. Edgar Hoover intimate, and all-around scoundrel Roy Cohn, ostensibly left his position as self-described "chief political strategist" for the Clinton-Gore campaign over a sex scandal, involving a \$200-an-hour hooker with whom he allegedly was having an extramarital affair and with whom he shared White House secrets. The story, on the front page of Rupert Murdoch's *New York Post* on Aug. 28, came just 12 hours before President Clinton delivered his acceptance speech to the Democratic National Convention.

In reality, the sex scandal was merely the pretext for Morris's ouster. While Morris has been disliked, and distrusted, by Clinton loyalists for a long time, the LaRouche movement's call for President Clinton to dump his Rasputin-like campaign trickster, and the detailed exposés of Morris's mole-like performance inside the Clinton camp provided by *New Federalist* and *EIR*, helped catalyze a string of events that ultimately led to his dismissal.

For the past 15 years, Dick Morris has been a behind-the-scenes operator, whose political clients have included President Clinton, as well as such Republican enemies of the President as Senators Jesse Helms (N.C.) and Trent Lott (Miss.), and Governors Tom Ridge (Pa.), William Weld (Mass.), and Pete Wilson (Calif.). In 1988, Morris worked on George Bush's Presidential campaign staff (his ties to the Bush family date back at least to 1980, when he ran Prescott Bush Jr.'s unsuccessful campaign for the U.S. Senate seat from Connecticut). Under these circumstances, it is no wonder that many Democratic Party campaign officials considered Morris a "GOP mole." Those feelings were buttressed by stories about Morris telling his GOP clients that Clinton was going to be brought down by the Whitewater special prosecutor.

Morris was able to weather these storms, and continue to exert influence over some of the President's campaign and policy decisions, until the LaRouche-led public campaign for his ouster took off. Morris had carefully avoided any publicity about his family ties to Roy Cohn, in part, by staying out of the limelight.

However, in July, Morris apparently was sufficiently