

LaRouche Dem Milton to continue the fight

Democrat María Elena Milton won 33.4% of the vote in Arizona's 4th C.D. on Nov. 5 against Gingrich freshman John Shadegg, despite efforts by Arizona Democratic Chairman Sam Coppersmith to disenfranchise the party members who had tapped her as their candidate in the Sept. 9 primary. In this heavily Republican district, Milton's showing was slightly greater than the Democratic total two years ago, when the candidate had the official support of the party hierarchy. Milton, an activist with the LaRouche political movement, took aim at Newt Gingrich's "Contract on Americans," whose Nazi-like policies have the wholehearted support of Shadegg, the chairman of Gingrich's GOPAC.

Rather than back a LaRouche Democrat, the so-called



LaRouche Democratic Congressional candidate María Elena Milton (right), with the wife of Arizona Democratic Congressional candidate Steve Owen, at "Working Women Vote '96."

"Democrats for Shadegg" mailed a pamphlet signed by Coppersmith, former Phoenix Mayor Paul Johnson, and others, to every voter in the district.

Milton's campaign was a model of political organizing, rallying both Democrats and especially elderly Republicans to stop "Congressman Valujet's" plans to privatize Social Security and cut Medicare. Over 100 volunteers distributed her 24-page campaign pamphlet to 155,000 households, covering 249 of the 285 precincts in the district. As a result of their organizing, over 200 others, including unionists, senior citizens, high school students, and shop owners became active, each taking anywhere from 20 to 300 pamphlets to hand out to friends, customers, relatives, and colleagues. The campaign distributed 225,000 pamphlets in the district, in the course of one month.

One indication of the depth of the Democratic misleadership's sabotage of her campaign was the parallel "election" in which thousands of Arizona schoolchildren from grades 4-12, cast ballots at the polling places with their parents: Milton beat Shadegg handily, 53-47%!

On to victory

Milton issued a statement on election night, pledging to "escalate" her campaign: " 'Virtual reality' ends tonight," she told her campaign staff and supporters. "Tomorrow, the real world is going to start hitting. . . .

"My campaign has had three great thrusts: 1) stopping the Gingrich gang's piratizing of Social Security; 2) the fight against managed health care—we need in this country, a movement for health care civil rights; and 3) the fight for a Congressional investigation into the Contra-crack cocaine epidemic, and the responsibility of George Bush for this plague.

"These issues are going to be fought out, against the backdrop of the worst financial crisis in 500 years. Mr. LaRouche has been warning about this. I've been warning about this in my campaign. This crisis can't be covered up any more, now that the election is over. Everybody, from President Clinton on down, is going to have to face up to it. . . .

"Now I also intend to work with the many Democrats who recognize we need a new party leadership. Look at how many Democratic candidates for Congress went down to defeat, because DNC chairman Fowler withheld money and support—just the way Sam Coppersmith sabotaged my race. I have sued both Fowler and Coppersmith, as has Lyndon LaRouche [for violation of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, by refusing to seat LaRouche delegates at the national convention]—now I think you can see why.

"We need a house cleaning. We need to restore the kind of leadership of the Democratic Party, we had with Franklin D. Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy. That's what I represent. That's what my campaign has been a model for.

"So, one phase of my campaign has ended tonight. The new phase of the campaign starts tomorrow morning."