

LaRouche calls on Americans to revive 'Roosevelt coalition'

by Marianna Wertz

Lyndon LaRouche's Presidential campaign, uniquely above the contentless charade that passes for a national debate, is today mobilizing millions of Americans to act in a time of grave crisis for the nation and the world. While his rivals for the Democratic Party nomination, Al Gore and Bill Bradley, as well as the GOP's clueless contenders, prate endlessly about so-called "hot issues" — whose solutions lie only in the proposals which LaRouche has put into international circulation — LaRouche is demanding that citizens face up to the impending financial collapse and do what is required to put him in a position to direct the reordering of the world economy.

Key to putting LaRouche in that position is his fight against the racist and corrupt elements in the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and the permanent bureaucracy in the Department of Justice (DOJ), who continue to try to deny LaRouche his right to campaign as a Democratic candidate. LaRouche's Committee for a New Bretton Woods, his campaign organization, placed half- or full-page ads during the month of December in 30 of the nation's leading African-American weeklies, demanding that Americans act to "stop the racist attempt" by the corrupt elements in the DNC and DOJ to overturn the Voting Rights Act (see *EIR*, Dec. 10, for details of this fight).

Since the beginning of December, when LaRouche returned to the United States from Germany to begin the "hot phase" of the campaign, he has been in non-stop, top-level discussion with both leading American and international figures, as well as with thousands of what he called the "80%" of the population that is the natural constituency of the Democratic Party, via the Internet and in public meetings. In January, he plans to redouble the campaign's tempo, with trips planned into New England prior to the key primaries there.

'Extreme turbulence' ahead

Typical of the high-level dialogue LaRouche is conducting were his two recent webcasts — on Dec. 21, in direct discussion via the Internet with a dozen labor leaders (and several hundred others who logged into the LaRouche website during the webcast), and on Dec. 22, with scores of journalists from around the world (see article which follows). LaRouche opened his dialogue with labor leaders — the second in a month's time — by warning of the impending crisis:

"Now, actually three things are likely. We're on three tracks right now, so that you cannot predict what's going to happen at a particular time. You can only say, as when you're speeding up, with a jet, that you're approaching what is called a sound barrier, which is an area of extreme turbulence at that last time. We're in such a period of turbulence. What we're going to experience, coming out of turbulence, is not yet fully determined, but it's a crisis anyway.

"Three crises. One way, you can have a chain-reaction collapse, of the stock market, and other financial markets. If that occurs, that means that \$300 trillion or more, of short-term liabilities internationally, will be collapsing on less than \$41 trillion, in terms of world GDP. That means the whole system is bankrupt.

"The other alternative, which is also very much on the way, is that if Alan Greenspan and other central bankers continue to print money at the unprecedented and growing rates that they're printing money, the whole system would blow out in a hyperinflationary blowout, like that which happened to Germany in 1923. We're already close to the development of that kind of condition.

"The third thing, is, we're getting new wars, and similar kinds of conflicts, like this international terrorism business, and related things, spilling out around the world."

Participants on this labor webcast included officials from the International Longshoremen's Association, United Auto Workers, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), United Steel Workers, and building trades unions, including the Plumbers and Ironworkers, from around the country, as well as three Australian labor leaders. LaRouche's campaign has been endorsed in Australia by numerous labor leaders (see the campaign website, www.larouchecampaign.org, for endorsements).

LaRouche told his interlocutors that they, like Franklin Roosevelt's "forgotten man"—forgotten by the 20% who control the outcome of elections—now have the potential, as their predecessors did when they elected Roosevelt President, "to become the forgotten men and women who take power back in the United States."

"My politics," LaRouche told the labor leaders, is "to bring together the elements of what corresponds today to the Roosevelt coalition of the 1930s. That means African-Americans. That means Hispanic-Americans. That means Asian-Americans. That means labor generally. That means farmers, if you can still find one. That also means retired citizens, who are practically treated as a threatened, menaced race, in terms of their losses of their conditions of life. We have to bring this kind of coalition together, and unite ourselves to march into the polls to take back American politics. That's the only chance we have. . . . And labor is key to that."

Making history on American streetcorners

The LaRouche campaign is bringing that coalition together today on the streets of America, as he battles his way onto the ballot in every state of the nation. As of Dec. 28, Lyndon LaRouche's name has been certified for the Democratic Presidential ballot in ten states: Kansas, New Hampshire, California, Vermont, Delaware, Colorado, Maine, Missouri, Texas, and Michigan. Petitions have been filed, but not yet certified, in Tennessee as well. During January, the candidate will file in at least 17 more states.

Unlike almost every other candidate, LaRouche's campaign is conducting this ballot fight, as the television ad says, "the old-fashioned way": with volunteers out on street corners. While most of the major candidates are paying large fees to know-nothing petition firms to place their names on the ballot in states such as New York, LaRouche campaign volunteers are recruiting support for the candidate at the same time that they gather the tens of thousands of signatures required to put him on the ballot.

In Michigan, where the Democratic Party prevented him from gaining automatic ballot status, LaRouche was the first-ever major-party Presidential candidate to qualify for the Michigan ballot under the current statute, by petitioning. The campaign gathered more than 20,000 signatures from citizens throughout the state, activating close to 100 Michigan residents to carry this out.

The Feb. 22 Michigan primary will present that state's voters a unique opportunity to send a signal to the world about

LaRouche's Presidential campaign. Lyndon LaRouche will be the *only* Democrat on the ballot, since both Gore and Bradley opted out of the primary, choosing only to contest in the March 11 caucuses, where the delegates will be chosen. "Vote in the Michigan Primary, To Change the Way Things Are!" is the slogan LaRouche proposed, to mobilize a big turnout of support on election day there.

Sowing panic

That LaRouche's aggressive campaign is sowing panic among his opponents, is clear from recent developments in Arizona and Texas.

When Maria Elena Milton, former Democratic Congressional candidate and head of the LaRouche Presidential campaign in Arizona, went to the Secretary of State's Office/Division of Elections on Dec. 15, to file LaRouche's Declaration of Candidacy for the Feb. 22 Arizona Democratic Primary, she was told that the office could not accept the filing—the Democratic primary would be cancelled, based on the insistence of the Arizona Democratic Party! The Secretary of State's office handed Milton a letter from Arizona State Democratic Chairman Mark Fleisher, requesting cancellation of the primary.

The Arizona Democratic Party intends to hold its own primary on March 11. Arizona Democrats also cancelled the primary in 1996 in violation of the Voting Rights Act, in order to stop LaRouche. From their actions this year, it appears the Arizona Dems are still committed to the same racist policies.

In Texas, LaRouche campaign Western States spokesman Harley Schlanger filed LaRouche's Declaration of Candidacy and filing fee at the Texas Democratic Party headquarters in Austin on Dec. 15, and held an impromptu press conference afterward. LaRouche was the first Democratic candidate to file for the March 14 primary, and is expected to run a full slate of delegate candidates in the Texas caucuses which occur the same day as the primary.

The press conference was attended by two TV stations—Channel 7 (Fox), and Channel 8, which is a 24-hour all-news station in Austin. As an NBC cameraman joined them, and all three stations were filming Schlanger, Texas Democratic Party Chairwoman Molly Beth Malcolm came over, unaware of who Schlanger represented. "Oh, how good to see you," she gushed. "Welcome. It is really good to see active Democrats rallying to the party. What did you file for?"

When Schlanger told her he had filed LaRouche's Presidential candidacy, she abruptly withdrew her hand and said, "I take that back!" Schlanger calmly told Malcolm that is important to take the opportunity to recruit those who have left the party and there is only one candidate who can do that—Lyndon LaRouche. "No, it's not," she shot back. "He has nothing in common with the Democratic Party." Schlanger replied: "You've been misinformed and I hope you are not part of the grouping that is trying to get rid of the Voting Rights Act." Malcolm just scurried off at this point, without a word.