

# LaRouche Candidates Reviving FDR Coalition Through Their Campaigns

by Molly Kronberg

With a week to go till Election Day 2000, a kind of numbed despair is enveloping many American voters as they look at the standard-bearers of the two major parties. But in several states where LaRouche Democrats are in the running for Federal or state office—Louisiana, Wyoming, South Dakota, Kansas—the political process is entirely different, because out of these “LaRouche” campaigns are emerging the outlines of a new FDR-style coalition.

In these races, seven in all, what is being built is an alliance of farmers, labor, minorities; of civil rights, church, and community activists who understand the LaRouche candidates’ insistence that we stand at the brink of a catastrophic explosion of the economy and the financial system. And so, they are coming forward to support LaRouche’s program to create a new monetary system vectored toward production, and to use that monetary system to finance economic and technological development and infrastructure-building, here and abroad.

During LaRouche’s Presidential campaign this year, he struck the theme of the “Forgotten Man,” recalling Franklin Roosevelt, and identifying his own campaign as *the* representative of the lower 80% of family-income brackets. Those themes have been picked up in Mel Logan’s race for U.S. Senate in Wyoming; in Roger Beall’s campaign for U.S. Congress from Louisiana’s 5th CD; and in State Legislature races in South Dakota and Kansas.

Thus, the campaigns are circulating tens of thousands of copies of a pamphlet from the FDR-PAC, “A Democratic Platform for October,” which focusses on crises and solutions: the need to outlaw “managed health care” and HMOs, which kill people; the need to jettison deregulation and “free trade”; LaRouche’s ten-point emergency proposal to deal with the oil price explosion, and the like.

## Logan’s Race

It was a resounding victory in the Aug. 22 state primary, 65% of the vote, that made LaRouche Democrat Mel Logan, a miner and labor leader, the Democratic Party nominee for U.S. Senator from Wyoming. His general election opponent is Republican incumbent Craig Thomas.

Logan, who is president of the Sheridan Central Labor Council and secretary of his United Mine Workers local, is being backed by the state Democratic leadership, as the *Wyoming Tribune-Eagle* reported after the primary: “By nearly a

2-to-1 margin, a LaRouche Democrat has won the right to take on U.S. Sen. Craig Thomas, R-Wyo., for Thomas’ Senate seat,” adding that Logan’s Democratic primary opponent “Sumey [has] endorsed Logan, and Wyoming Democratic Party chairman Steve Freudenthal said he would call on Democrats to support the LaRouche follower.”

Also supporting Logan is the state AFL-CIO, which on Sept. 7, at the state AFL-CIO convention in Casper, made public its unanimous endorsement. The endorsement said that “Mel Logan has demonstrated that he can provide an effective and badly needed voice for workers and the Wyoming public as a whole,” and “has shown a concern for the economy.” For those reasons, and because “Wyoming workers have not been represented in the U.S. Senate for the past 24 years,” it concludes,

“*Now Therefore Be It Resolved*, Mel Logan be strongly and wholeheartedly endorsed by this 37th Constitutional Convention of the Wyoming State AFL-CIO; and be it finally

“*Resolved*, that the local unions, councils, and members in Wyoming work to ensure the election of Mel Logan to the U.S. Senate.”

Throughout the race, which has included an Oct. 22 debate in which the two candidates squared off before public television cameras, Logan has hammered on the theme of the collapsing economy, and the imploding financial system. “We have people working two jobs, people working longer hours,” he says; “inflation hits us, our electricity bill is up, they’re telling us, 40% or something like this the next few months; gasoline has been up 50% for the last three months. There’s nothing we buy there, or nothing we need, that hasn’t gone up a huge amount, and yet the government is telling us that we have 3% a year inflation. . . . Everybody knows that’s not true. . . .”

“That’s the message we’re delivering—Lyndon LaRouche talking about the bubble economy stripping the real economy. That’s where it’s at.”

As for his opponent, Logan recently remarked, of Craig Thomas on the economy, “Would you vote for someone who habitually lies?”

## Beall in Louisiana

Also seeking Federal office is Roger Beall, 62, a lifelong Democrat and cotton farmer from Louisiana’s Delta whose

farm operations went bankrupt. He is on the ballot for the 5th Congressional District seat currently held by Republican John Cooksey. Beall has the support of many labor, religious, and farm activists in the state, and recently became the first farmer ever to address a Louisiana state AFL-CIO convention. He also recently gave a keynote address at the state convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

To run as a LaRouche Democrat, said Beall in an interview, “was a hard decision. I can’t compromise with the system. The system has put me out of business. To save my business, and to save a lot of other people’s business, and to uplift the general welfare of people, I’ve got to get identified with somebody that understands all this, and that’s the reason I’m identifying myself with the LaRouche movement.”

He described the toll the “economic boom” has taken on Louisiana, and particularly the 5th CD, stretching throughout northeast Louisiana from the Arkansas border to Alexandria in the center of the state—one of the poorest areas in the country.

These rural areas are characterized by desperate poverty; towns have become ghost towns, with only an occasional Wal-Mart or Burger King still in business. Beall has made health care a major issue, as parish hospitals are bankrupt, and the charity hospitals, set up by Huey Long during the last Depression, are overcrowded. Billboards reading “Save Our Rural Hospitals” dot the landscape, and doctors are rallying to Beall’s campaign.

“We have 1 million adults who don’t have health insurance,” Beall says. “You have a lot of bankruptcies in my district. You have a lot of poverty in my district. The average per-capita income in the 5th CD is no more than \$7,000 per year. That’s half the state average, which is about \$12,000, and the state of Louisiana is at half the national average, which is something like \$23,000 per year. . . . The Democratic and Republican candidates say we’ve got a boom in the economy. That’s an outright lie. When you’ve got 47 million people in the U.S. who don’t have health insurance, you’ve got bankruptcies going out the top, and, most importantly, people can’t feed themselves any more.”

In the past, Beall has run twice (1994, 1998) for State Representative, and the second time, missed winning by 31 votes. Now, being known as a LaRouche Democrat, he expects to better that: “I’ve got strong union support, I’ve got strong black support. I’ve got strong Pentecostal support. In Louisiana, the traditional Democratic base is Pentecostal, black, small farmers, and labor unions. Lyndon LaRouche ran strong in the district where I ran.”

### Four Running in South Dakota

On Nov. 7 in South Dakota, four LaRouche movement-affiliated candidates will appear on the ballot for State Legislature. The candidates—Donald Beaner of Parker (District 9), Larry Elfrink of Highmore (District 23), Vance Feyereisen



Wyoming Democratic senatorial candidate Mel Logan.

of Gregory (District 25), and Robert Hockett of Pierre (District 24)—have been welcomed at high school and university homecoming parades across the state, where their now-famous slogan—“\$10 gas coming soon; Join LaRouche or walk”—has “caused people to grab the literature out of our hands so that we could barely get it out fast enough.”

The candidates, all LaRouche delegates during LaRouche’s Democratic Presidential primary campaign earlier this year, decided to run for State Legislature when their delegation was disenfranchised by the Democratic National Committee in the South Dakota caucuses. In an interview with *New Federalist* newspaper, Hockett said, “I’m not a lawyer or a professional politician—I work at the Pierre Indian Learning Center, Larry’s a rancher, Don’s a dairy farmer, and Vance works at the farmers’ elevator. We’re all veteran organizers and we’re going to lead the movement in the Legislature and throughout the state.”

Larry Elfrink summed up, in a radio debate on Oct. 5: “You have to consider the social cost of the things you’re talking about. What’s the social cost of families holding down two or three jobs just to survive? What’s the social cost of kids killing kids? We’re in a crash of the economy and we have to change our policies. We have to repeal [the free-trade agreements] NAFTA and GATT. We have to have full parity for our family farmers.”

Also running for State Legislature—in Kansas—is Nancy Stubbs of Lawrence, running in the 45th Legislative District against incumbent Tom Sloan.

Stubbs, a 63-year-old nurse and a grandmother, has been campaigning door to door as a no-budget citizen candidate, to get her message out.