

## Australia Dossier by Robert Barwick and Allen Douglas

### An Electoral Uproar

*The chess board of Australian politics has been overturned, in a mad attempt to keep Lyndon LaRouche out of the game.*

Prime Minister John Howard's Liberal/National Party Coalition was crushed in a state election in Queensland on Feb. 17, following its near-obliteration the weekend before in Western Australia (*EIR*, Feb. 23, 2001). In the latest election, Howard's Liberals were reduced from nine seats to three, while the National Party plunged from 23 seats to 11. Australian Labor Party state Premier Peter Beattie was returned to office with a massive 49.4% of the primary vote, increasing his majority from one seat to almost 50. Pauline Hanson's populist/nationalist One Nation party, which had sharply attacked the Coalition, played a key role in its destruction, receiving 9% of the vote, and winning three seats, maintaining its momentum from the Western Australia election, in which it won several seats.

Howard faces a federal election by the end of this year, and these state elections reflect voters' profound disgust with his globalist policies. On Feb. 19, Deputy Prime Minister and National Party leader John Anderson, a fanatical free-trade ideologue, conceded for the first time that "certain elements of competition policy [the deregulation and privatization 'reforms'] had gone too far." National Party Senate Leader Ron Boswell was even tougher: "Competition policy is a huge problem," he told the Feb. 19 *Australian Financial Review*. On the same day, a senior Liberal Party official proclaimed to the *Review*: "Economic rationalism [deregulation] is dead, dead, dead."

That a British Commonwealth government dominated by members of the Mont Pelerin Society, the Brit-

ish Crown's economic warfare unit, would begin backpedalling from globalism, is remarkable; even more remarkable, is how this came about.

To paraphrase Karl Marx: A specter is stalking Australia—the specter of Lyndon LaRouche. As *EIR* has documented (see the Feb. 16, 2001 issue), beginning in 1997, Australia's establishment, which had been hysterical about LaRouche's influence in the country since at least the previous year, began to promote a little-known federal Member of Parliament from rural Queensland, Pauline Hanson, and her One Nation party, to derail LaRouche's growing influence, particularly in rural Australia. Having built Hanson up, the establishment later crushed her, and One Nation bumped along at around 1-2% in the polls until December 2000. At that time, it became clear that at least one candidate of the LaRouche-affiliated Curtin Labor Alliance (CLA) in Western Australia, Jean Robinson, could well win a seat in state parliament.

LaRouche's associates in the CLA and the Citizens Electoral Council (CEC) had the best-developed grassroots organization of any party, as reflected in the fundraising figures for federal political parties released by the Australian Electoral Commission in January 2001. The figures showed the CEC fourth in total contributions (behind the Liberal, National, and Labor parties), and well ahead of One Nation. With the specter of LaRouche looming, Hanson received a sudden blaze of publicity, and her party miraculously rose from the dead in the Western Australia elections, a process which continued in Queensland. Now, media

monitor companies report that Hanson's federal electoral prospects are the single most-discussed issue in the national media, being mentioned seven times more than the next issue.

Hanson has complained about globalism, but she, unlike LaRouche, has no plans to overturn the free-trade financial system. Thus, the Mont Pelerin Society (MPS), bastion of free-trade lunacy, is participating in her resurrection. Mike Nahan, the executive director of the Institute for Public Affairs, an MPS front, wrote in the Feb. 26 *Australian Financial Review*, that One Nation and the Coalition have much in common, and that they should strike an electoral deal. Also, Hanson has been rejoined by a former adviser, John Pasquerelli, who introduced her to MPS networks in 1996 (then, she employed the Adam Smith Club's Jeff Babb as an adviser).

Hanson has been most strongly attacked by the media, whenever she sounds most like LaRouche. Thus, despite the new court-and-contain policy, she was savaged over her Feb. 21 claim, that the 1996 investigation into the Port Arthur massacre, in which 35 people were shot dead, was a cover-up. As CEC investigations documented, the "lone assassin," Martin Bryant, had been brainwashed by psychiatrists from Britain's Tavistock Institute (see *Australia Dossier*, May 17, 1996). The CEC's exposé circulated widely, even on the BBC, and led to the Howard government's first hysterical outburst against LaRouche: When 150,000 angry gun owners protested in Melbourne in mid-1996 against having their guns confiscated, by laws rammed through as a direct result of Port Arthur, then-Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fischer charged, "LaRouche is running the gun lobby." From that time on, the media blacked out LaRouche, and began promoting the previously unknown Hanson.