

LaRouche in Kentucky, Oregon: Primary Campaign's Not Over

by Nancy Spannaus

“People think the primary campaign is over. It’s not over. It’s not even close to ending. Because the issues which are going to decide what happens in the election are not decided, and Kerry has not decided what his program is. So, what’s going to happen is, the explosion of an international financial crisis is going to change the agenda, during the coming months, between now and the Convention in Boston this July. What will come on the agenda, is the fact that we have to go back to an FDR-type policy, to get out of what is going to be the biggest depression in anyone’s memory. This would mean that there’ll be a fight in the Democratic Party—which is already ongoing—and I am part of that fight.”

With this statement at a March 9 press conference in Frankfort, Kentucky, Democratic Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche sought to cut through the sports-arena atmosphere which lingers in the perception of the Presidential campaign. He identified the key issues which must be addressed. “It’s a fight between people, including Bob Rubin—who I generally am sympathetic to, although I have my own views—opposed to Felix Rohatyn’s policy, and Rohatyn, an associate of Lazard Frères, one of the kingmakers behind the scenes in the Democratic Party today. . . . If Felix Rohatyn controls Kerry’s election, Kerry will be an office boy for the bankers during the middle of a depression. The issue is to fight that out. I think Kerry personally is a man of good qualities, and courageous, but he’s ignorant of economics. My job is, among other things, to replace him—that would be the best option, because I know how to make the decisions—but the other option is to educate him, and therefore I’m running for those two purposes.”

LaRouche’s pursuit of this job has taken him to a wide variety of audiences in recent weeks, ranging from the Geor-

gia Association of Local Elected officials, to the Senate Democratic Caucus in Kentucky, and the Mock Political National Convention which is put on every four years in Portland, Oregon, by Portland State University and the Beaverton School District. Flanked by his Youth Movement, which is on a determined recruitment drive leading into the July Democratic National Convention in Boston, the only FDR Democrat in the race is seeking to provoke the dialogue required to rebuild the party, and save the nation.

Mobilizing the Youth

LaRouche was the only Presidential candidate to personally address the Portland Mock Convention, a gathering of several thousand high school youth who engage in the kind of historical discussion, politicking, and give-and-take which used to characterize Presidential politics. The students, who come from Oregon, take on roles as representing different states of the union, and form caucuses, give speeches, and vote on the candidate.

From the start of the Convention on March 10, the environment was shaped by the intervention of a contingent of the LaRouche Youth Movement, largely coming from Washington State. Approximately 35 youth from the ages of 18-25 set up tables, distributed literature, put up pedagogical displays and showings of LaRouche’s speeches, posted signs, and provoked intensive discussion with the high school youth. By the end of the first day, numbers of convention delegates indicated that they wanted to set up a LaRouche caucus, and began to organize this effort.

It didn’t take long for LaRouche’s enemies to respond. Numerous teachers and other Baby Boomers “counseled” the high school youth that LaRouche was not a “real” candidate,

and instigated both the circulation of the slanders of pro-drug author and professional LaRouche slanderer Dennis King, and the ripping down of LaRouche for President posters. Essentially, what they accomplished was to heat up the political atmosphere, all of which must have served to build up interest in the speech that LaRouche himself was scheduled to give, on the evening of March 11.

LaRouche spoke immediately after the Governor of Oregon, and was introduced by a student posing as a “New Mexico” delegate, who presented the candidate as “the foremost economist of our time.” Approximately 1,000 youth delegates were present with some members of the public in the bleachers of the Portland Memorial Stadium, where the event was being held. During his 20 minute address, LaRouche identified the two major issues of the election campaign: how to stop the unconstitutional war launched against Iraq; and how to solve the financial crisis which is leading into depression collapse and breakdown. The Democratic Party must take up these issues, LaRouche said, and he is the only candidate with the competence to carry out the policies.

Several times during his address—in which he attacked NAFTA and globalization, and called for adoption of Classical educational policies, as opposed to the test-taking mania currently dominating “education”—the student audience broke out in applause. But the best response came from LaRouche’s direct appeal to the youth on their responsibility for bringing the world out of the current crisis.

How are we going to get a future for you? LaRouche asked them. Your parents, and the Baby Boom generation in general, have left you no future, so you have to act to secure one for yourselves. If you work with me, you can mobilize your parents to fight to change the nation’s economic policy, and save the country.

The LaRouche Youth organizers reported a largely positive response to the candidate’s address, with numerous youth indicating that they had never encountered such a direct and truthful challenge, both as to the real situation they face, and to their responsibility and ability to change it.

Addressing the Legislators

LaRouche’s address to Kentucky’s Democratic Senatorial Caucus on March 8 was the flip side of his appeal to the youth. During an intense hour-and-a-half discussion, in which event sponsor State Sen. Joey Pendleton commented many of his colleagues were the most concentrated he had seen them in years, LaRouche challenged a number of State Senators and statewide labor leaders to deal with the problems that have led to their decline. (Ironically, the evidence of that decline was occurring as they spoke, with the legislature being convened to pass the latest budget cuts dictated by the predominant, incompetent response to the bankruptcy of the U.S. economy.)

The meetings with legislators and labor officials featured some of the most intense and provocative exchanges of

LaRouche’s campaign thus far. Many reacted with insightful shock at LaRouche’s straightforward identification of the core problem in the outlook of the Baby Boom generation. After he sketched out the cultural downshift of the country following the introduction of the rock-drug-sex counterculture, with all of its wild side-effects, one Senator blurted out, “I hate to admit it, but there are some of us here that are guilty of that behavior.”

There was a long give-and-take on the manifestation, in the economic crisis, of the effects of that cultural shift. LaRouche developed the horrible results of NAFTA, outsourcing, and the consequent massive budget shortfalls. The labor officials present, including the state presidents of the AFL-CIO and the American Federation of Teachers, wanted to know what LaRouche would do, and he discussed how the next President must be prepared to bankrupt both the Federal Reserve System, and the International Monetary Fund financial institutions, and return to a policy of re-regulation and job creation at home. LaRouche challenged the labor leaders on the need to build a mass movement in a time of crisis, comparing the current disaster to the postwar period when the labor movement—a youth movement of returning veterans—fought to achieve a higher standard of living for the nation.

Perhaps the hottest exchanges occurred on the twin ideas of the bankruptcy of the Democratic Party, and the need to recruit youth members to the party and the political movement. All the participants complained that the Democratic Party’s active organization was falling apart, and lamented the lack of younger members. LaRouche reviewed the shift in the party away from the ideals and organizing of Franklin Roosevelt around the theme of the “Forgotten Man,” and the turn of the last 20-odd years—by today’s Terry McAuliffe grouping and their predecessors—toward courting the white suburban vote.

Senator Pendleton asked LaRouche to describe how he had recruited the LaRouche Youth Movement over the past several years: “When I attend your conferences, there are 500, 600 young people there. . . . It’s great. . . . Tell these men how you do it.”

LaRouche responded that “we have become a society of lies, yet we are still a Christian society where some of us believe that Man is in the image of the Creator and capable of truth. The Youth Movement that I created was around that principle, of truth, and especially the breakthroughs typified by Carl Gauss’s 1799 attack on empiricism, his so-called Fundamental Theorem of Algebra. . . . [S]o the youth, in working through this and other similar ideas, come to discover what is true themselves, and no one can take this from them, and they develop a different conception of themselves in the process.”

LaRouche challenged the legislators to join this exciting process of recruiting young people and, in so doing, compel themselves, the Baby Boomers, to give up their fantasies and rejoin the fight to save civilization, even at this dark hour.