

LaRouche Campaign, Leading in Contributors, Breaks Blackout

by Paul Gallagher

News of the Federal Election Commission's (FEC) April report, showing Lyndon LaRouche with more campaign contributors than any of the nine other Democratic Presidential candidates, has "put the fox among the chickens" in the race for the Democratic nomination, as LaRouche's campaign is breaking the blackout and containment which the media and Democratic National Committee were trying to keep around it. Despite "frontrunner" Sen. John Kerry's reported attempt to downplay the news by assuring that he has "more deep-pocket contributors," LaRouche's more than 40,000 contributions from over 18,000 individuals show that he has broader and more active support than any of the nine media-recognized candidates in this otherwise timid and nearly invisible primary election campaign. This is big news internationally, in all the countries where LaRouche's New Bretton Woods and Eurasian Land-Bridge anti-depression policies are well known. And the spreading reports of it are of great interest to those political factions in the United States which are opposing the imperial "perpetual war" policies now dominating the Bush Administration.

South Carolina media reported on April 29 that the state's Democratic Party chairman had received a letter from nearly 40 current and former Democratic elected officials asking that LaRouche be invited to the May 3 Presidential debate in Columbia (see box). The Democratic leaders—roughly half from South Carolina and the other half from other states, joined by former Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders—pointed out LaRouche's lead in contributors over the other Democratic candidates invited to the debate, from which the party was excluding him. "It's outrageous. It's stupid" that LaRouche has not been invited, campaign spokeswoman Dr. Debra Freeman was quoted in a statewide AP wire. "The Democratic Party in the state of South Carolina has long been under the influence of Don Fowler," she said, adding that the campaign did not plan legal action. "We will continue to take the campaign directly to the people."

On April 30, the South Carolina Democratic leadership still refused to invite LaRouche. But as coverage of this intervention spread from South Carolina ABC affiliates and the state's radio networks, to dozens of local papers via a state-wide AP wire, to the very widely read national political Internet site, "The Drudge Report," to the C-SPAN national political cable network's "Washington Journal" program on April 30, and then to the *Washington Times* newspaper on May 1, some national press and media began to warily circle around the new development, which many wanted to bury but some wanted to cover. A national AP wire on May 2 appeared in many newspapers, citing LaRouche's \$3.7 million raised. ABC-TV's national network dropped live coverage of the May 3 debate, none of whose nine participants, with LaRouche excluded, generate any measurable interest among the electorate.

More Democratic leaders are now signing the letter which originated in South Carolina, and the demand is being raised to include LaRouche in upcoming candidates debates and fora in Iowa, Wisconsin, and Ohio. On May 1, LaRouche's Presidential campaign released figures showing that he is number-one in contributors in those three states, and also outdistances all other candidates in the total amount of campaign funds raised from residents of Iowa, Wisconsin, and Ohio. In Iowa, for example, fundraising by "leading" candidate Rep. Dick Gephardt (Mo.), who won that state's primary in 2000, is "anemic," with only three contributors and \$1,000 raised, wrote *The Hill*, a Washington political weekly. "Although the race for the Presidency is still in its early stage, first-quarter filings are significant for campaigns, because they demonstrate the viability of a candidate. Financial support from such early-decision states as Iowa, New Hampshire, and South Carolina is especially important." LaRouche has raised over \$24,000 from 43 Iowa residents.

LaRouche also has the only coherent and growing corps of youthful campaigners—the LaRouche Youth Movement—

Democratic Leaders' Letter: Include LaRouche in Debate

A letter by Democratic state and local officials sent to the South Carolina Democratic Committee and chairman Richard Harpootlian on April 12, was made public April 28 and reported in the South Carolina media the next day.

Dear Sirs:

It has been brought to our attention that on May 1-3, you are hosting the annual Democratic Party State Convention and Jefferson-Jackson Day events. As part of that weekend, you are also sponsoring a forum for candidates seeking the Democratic Party nomination for President.

We call upon you to extend an invitation to Mr. Lyndon LaRouche to participate in the upcoming candidates' forum. Mr. LaRouche is a registered Democratic Party candidate, filed with the Federal Election Commission, has raised well over \$3 million for the upcoming primaries, and qualified for Federal Matching Funds in the last several election campaigns on the Democratic side. According to the FEC, he now ranks fourth in total contributions raised and first in total contributors, among all major Democratic candidates.

Mr. LaRouche is an outspoken opponent of the policies of Donald Rumsfeld and Vice-President Cheney, and a proponent of policies like those of former President Franklin Roosevelt. Like FDR, Mr. LaRouche proposes to rebuild our nation's deteriorating economy. He has been spending significant sums of money on a radio campaign in Washington, D.C., and has been delivering speeches throughout the nation.

The attempt to limit the nominating process to an agreed-upon number of candidates, as designated by the news media and a handful of people in the national party, is discriminatory. Now is the time for fair and open debate

on the critical issues facing our nation and our party. We urge you to extend an invitation to Mr. LaRouche to participate in the upcoming party weekend and candidate debate.

South Carolina Signers:

Sen. Theo W. Mitchell, 1990 Democratic Party nominee for Governor, Greenville, S.C.
Sen. Maggie Wallace Glover, Florence, S.C.
Sen. Robert Ford, Charleston, S.C.
Rep. Leon Howard, Columbia, S.C.
Rep. Walter Lloyd, Walterboro, S.C.
Rep. Robert Brown, Hollywood, S.C.
Rep. Seth Whipper, Charleston, S.C.
Rep. Brenda Lee, Spartanburg, S.C.
Rep. Joseph Neal, Columbia, S.C.
And 11 local and labor union elected officials.

National Signers:

Hon. Joycelyn Elders, Former United States Surgeon General, Little Rock, Ark.
Sen. Joe Neal, Democratic Nominee for Governor of Nevada in 2002, Las Vegas, Nev.
Sen. Carlos Cisneros, Questo, N.M.
Rep. Jan Judy, Fayetteville, Ark.
Rep. Edward Dugay, Cherryfield, Me.
Rep. Albion Goodwin, Pembroke, Me.
Rep. Barbara Boyd, Anniston, Ala.
Rep. Michael Obuchowski, Bellows Falls, Vt.
Rep. David Gibbs, West Point, Miss.
Rep. Benjamin Swan, Springfield, Mass.
Rep. Esther Haywood, St. Louis, Mo.
Rep. Harold James, Philadelphia, Pa.
Rep. Christine Sinicki, Milwaukee, Wisc.
Rep. Barbara Richardson, Richmond, N.H.
Sue Daniel, Delegate to the Democratic Convention 2000, Frankston, Tex.
Barbara Lett Simmons, Democratic National Committeewoman, Washington, D.C.
Stuart Rosenblatt, LaRouche in 2004

among the candidates, who are otherwise unable to reach and mobilize the apparently apolitical "no future generation." During April's final weekend and the first days of May, the LaRouche Youth held "schools" in Los Angeles, Seattle, and Baltimore, addressed by the candidate and attended by hundreds of "cadre." The LaRouche Youth have waged war since February against the Democratic National Committee's "LaRouche exclusion rule," cooked up in 1996 by the DNC's then-Chairman, Southern conservative Donald Fowler, and enforced by repeating the discredited anti-LaRouche slanders in the media.

As of the first of May, upcoming scheduled debates still

had not invited LaRouche, but as the candidate told one newspaper, the DNC would either have to end the exclusion policy, or it would take them down. There is no popular interest in the other Democratic candidates, because none of them is a serious opposition to the policies of Vice President Cheney's imperial warhawks; and because with most Americans focused on the plunging U.S. economy, none but LaRouche knows any more about an economic recovery, than did Herbert Hoover in 1932. The South Carolina letter signers' demand for "the FDR recovery policy" represented by LaRouche, is the sign of what has made him, as of now, the most-supported Presidential candidate in the Democratic 2004 race.