

LaRouche Opens Campaign Against Party Racism

by Nancy Spannaus

LaRouche Campaign radio ads began going out across Alabama on May 20, exposing the racism of the Democratic Party leadership, and putting out the message that the party had better reform itself *now*, if it is not to be destroyed in the upcoming Presidential election. The ad campaign follows a high-profile appearance by Democratic Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche in Montgomery, Alabama on May 14 and 15, which included a press conference and events with two of Alabama's most prominent civil rights organizations, the New South Coalition and the Alabama Democratic Conference. LaRouche is one of three candidates on the ballot in the June 1 Alabama primary, along with John Kerry and Dennis Kucinich.

LaRouche's contention that the Democratic Party will either go down to smashing defeat, or win a victory that will represent no victory at all for the American people, is borne out by the results so far in the primary elections. Ever since DNC Chair Terry McAuliffe got his wish in having the nomination nominally locked up by John Kerry in early March, and Kerry began to be run de facto by party "professionals," voter participation in the primaries has plummeted. While the Democrats went after the big money where it's still available, in the suburban areas, they ignored the general electorate. As a result, voter turnout in Arkansas, for example, ranged from 13-24%, while in Kentucky, it varied in the abysmal range of 7-14%!

Yet the only way that the Democratic Party could possibly win the election on an effective program of reversing the economic depression, dealing with the financial breakdown, and stopping the war policy, is by mobilizing the vast sections of the population who have been turned off by politics—and convincing them to vote *for themselves*.

LaRouche's Vote

LaRouche was on the ballot in Arkansas, Kentucky, and Oregon on May 18, and will be competing as well in the Idaho primary May 25, the Alabama and South Dakota primaries June 1, and the New Jersey and Montana primaries June 8.

His largest percentage vote came in Arkansas, where he won 6%, or 14,800 votes. As many local news outlets reported, this was a higher vote than that of Dennis Kucinich. In certain counties, LaRouche's total reached as high as 10-14%.

In addition to the low turnout in Arkansas, fostered by the Democratic machine, the outcome there was also greatly affected by the fact that an "uncommitted" line had been added in many jurisdictions around the state. This "uncommitted" line received 24% of the total vote, with the result that "front-runner" Kerry got only 66% of the vote overall.

It is a strong hypothesis that the "uncommitted" line was added to the ballots in order to suppress LaRouche's vote, since the Arkansas Democratic Party was desperately concerned to try to prevent a repeat of the major LaRouche vote in 2000. In that Presidential race, he polled over 18% in Arkansas against Al Gore in a one-on-one race. By Democratic Party rules, a 15% vote in a Congressional District entitles a candidate to a national Convention delegate.

In Oregon, LaRouche was backed by more than 8,000 Democratic voters, about 2%. This state had been a major focus of the Kucinich campaign, which garnered about 15%. As one of the LaRouche youth who had been campaigning in Oregon over the last weeks put it, it was clear that every one of the more than 8,000 Oregonians who voted for LaRouche, was not simply protesting, but voting *for* the FDR Democrat.

In Kentucky, where the ballot still contained dropouts such as Dean, Edwards, Lieberman, Clark, and Sharpton, LaRouche was credited with 1815 votes, or 0.8%.

The Fight Ahead

While continuing a major focus on the fight to remove Dick Cheney and his neo-con cronies from the Bush Administration, and to win support for his LaRouche Doctrine for peace in Southwest Asia, LaRouche is continuing to conduct an on-the-ground fight in Alabama, South Dakota, and New Jersey, all states in which he has a long-standing presence as a fighter for economic and social justice. The LaRouche Youth Movement is active in all of these states, carrying out major literature distributions, but also engaging the public, and youth, in profound discussion about the need to change their approach to politics.

In Alabama, home of close LaRouche associate and civil rights heroine Amelia Boynton Robinson, the civil rights movement is a major constituency for LaRouche. It was there, in January of this year, that he gave his much-celebrated speech in honor of the immortality of Dr. Martin Luther King, which speech is now circulating on a DVD in more than 50,000 copies. The LaRouche youth report that they are getting a very positive response from local party activists.

At the New South Coalition and Alabama Democratic Conference, LaRouche addressed hundreds of African-Americans, including the screening committees for both organizations. His speeches evoked a strong positive response, and obviously touched the core of why many have not turned out to vote for him. When citizens begin to take themselves, and their future seriously, they will have no other choice.