

Calif. LaRouche PAC Meeting: Dems Must Revive FDR Legacy

by Harley Schlanger and Ed Park

“True leadership does not follow apparent public opinion blindly; true leadership shapes public opinion, by educating the electorate in what it urgently needs to know. This often means, as now, confronting the population with the urgency of changing prevailing . . . popular opinion on crucially relevant subjects.”—Lyndon LaRouche, “Prolegomena for a Party Platform: Franklin Roosevelt’s Legacy.”

In the aftermath of the collapse of Democratic opposition in the U.S. Senate to the nomination of Judge Samuel Alito to the U.S. Supreme Court, Lyndon LaRouche took up the task of, once again, lifting his Party off the floor. The failure to pull off a filibuster against a nominee who has shown contempt for the U.S. Constitution throughout his career, convinced LaRouche that it had become necessary to elaborate the principles upon which the Democratic Party must stand, if it intends to defeat the Cheney-Bush cabal in the 2006 midterm elections.



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Western states coordinator of LaRouche PAC, Harley Schlanger (left), and Eric Bauman, chairman of the Los Angeles County Democratic Party Executive Committee.

The result of his effort is the “Prolegomena for a Party Platform: Franklin Roosevelt’s Legacy,” published by LaRouche PAC. In it, LaRouche gives his readers a powerful tool for uplifting, from their present demoralized state, a potential Democratic majority among voters. Upon its release, LaRouche stated, in conversation with members of his youth movement, the LaRouche Youth Movement, or LYM, that it is now their responsibility to use it, to unleash a vigorous discussion, not only within the U.S. Congress, but throughout the nation.

Let the Discussion Begin

To initiate this process, LaRouche PAC held a town meeting in Los Angeles on April 1. More than 160 members and guests attended, participating for nearly four hours in an in-depth discussion of the principles of statecraft, science, and physical economy specified by LaRouche in his “Prolegomena.” Participants included more than 100 youth, as well as representatives of labor, the diverse ethnic communities of Los Angeles, and elected officials of the county and state Democratic Party, four of whom addressed the meeting.

The opening presentation, by LaRouche’s Western U.S. spokesman Harley Schlanger, set the tone. “Our nation gives each of you the right to shape the future,” he said. The purpose of this meeting, he continued, is to work through the ideas presented by LaRouche in his platform document, so that U.S. politics will be taken out of the “inner sanctum,” where it is



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Siri Martin: “The creation of infrastructure is a uniquely human expression of creativity.”



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Michael Steger: "How do we increase the rapid production of the machine tool sector?"



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Limari Navarette: We must wage a political fight against "free trade," so that food production is not in the hands of those committing mass genocide.

dominated by Wall Street money—through leading synarchist bankers like Felix Rohatyn in the Democratic Party and George Shultz in the Republican Party—and fought out, on the basis of ideas, in the workplaces and neighborhoods of our nation.

After describing the role of Rohatyn and Shultz, Schlanger asked, "What is their target? To destroy the nation, to destroy our institutions of self-government, to do this by wiping out the legacy of Franklin Roosevelt."

How do we combat them? Schlanger said there will be more meetings such as this, backed by mass distribution of LaRouche's platform document. And especially, through the continuing growth and maturation of the LYM, whose members have undergone a "development of the quality of leadership around ideas." They will never crawl before the bankers. They will not propitiate the sophistry of the academics. They are now poised to give the United States a new generation of leaders, Schlanger said.

The LYM Takes Charge

Schlanger then introduced four LYM members, who presented central themes from LaRouche's document. Siri Martin opened, with a report on the role of infrastructure in the economy. The creation of infrastructure, she said, is a "uniquely human expression of creativity, which reflects an integral aspect of man's nature."

She focussed on two major problems, which require the immediate intervention of government. First is the depletion of water, which was polemically addressed by LaRouche in a 1982 pamphlet, "Won't You Please Let Your Grandchildren Have a Glass of Water?" This can be solved by addressing a second area of needed infrastructure, a significant improvement in the development of the power supply, which requires the widespread use of nuclear power, which can be used to desalinate water.

In challenging the unreasoned fear of many in California that arises when nuclear power is mentioned, Martin showed a clip from a 1954 Warner Brothers film, "Them," in which 12-foot ants, supposedly mutated by radiation from nuclear



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Ted Smith, chairman of the California Democratic Party African-American Caucus: "You are the Democratic Party."

bomb tests, threaten to destroy humanity. This "science fiction" was deployed by Bertrand Russell and his allies in the Congress for Cultural Freedom, to make Baby Boomers afraid of necessary advances in science and technology, she said. This fear has been used to turn a whole generation away from "the universal condition under which human creativity can flourish," i.e., the scientific outlook in the tradition of Kepler, Leibniz, and the American Founding Fathers.

This theme was advanced in the second presentation, by Michael Steger, who spoke on "Industrial Policy and the Machine Tool Principle." Steger poetically counterposed the ongoing dismantling of the nation's most important machine tool sector, in the automobile industry, with its embedded potential in designing and employing machine tools.

"How do we increase the rapid production of the machine tool sector," Steger asked, which is necessary to improve the standard of living of all people on our planet? This is what we, in the LYM, are studying, how "advancements in machine tool design, advancements in . . . the overall economic processes in the physical economy of the United States, come from scientific discovery."

Franklin Roosevelt understood this principle, Steger said,

as evidenced by his use of the power of the Federal government to foster retooling and the creation of new machine tools needed for the United States to win World War II.

Feeding the World

The next presentation was by Limari Navarette, a LYM member who is an elected member of the Los Angeles County Democratic Party Executive Committee (LACDPEC). She spoke on how we must apply advanced principles of both science and economics to revive family farms in America. Navarette presented a concise history of agriculture in the modern age, of how Leibnizian circles in Europe developed the new technologies which revolutionized food production, from the use of steam power, to the importance of railroads in developing agriculture in the Great Plains.

Today, we need irrigation, power, and parity pricing, to insure an adequate food supply. Instead, we have the takeover of land and the food supply by the grain cartels. We must wage a political fight against “free trade,” she concluded, “so that our food supply is not in the hands of those who are committing mass genocide on the planet (the bankers and their allied food cartels), but rather in those that are contributing to the maintenance and development of this nation.”

The final presentation of this part of the program was by another LYM member who is an elected member of the LACDPEC, Cody Jones, who spoke on “Advancing the Noösphere: The Transmutation of Materials.” (See his speech below.)

‘You Are the Democratic Party’

There were two other speakers who made presentations and joined the discussion. Eric Bauman, a long-time Democratic activist and Chairman of the LACDPEC, challenged the audience to take up the theme of the meeting, to become active in shaping the future.

“We’ve got to get organized,” he said. “Learn to think, learn to organize, learn to be focussed, and never forget why we do this. We’re not doing this for blatant power. If anybody’s doing this for blatant power, they belong in the other party.

“We’re doing this,” Bauman continued, “because hundreds of thousands of people within five miles from where we sit today have no health insurance, they’ve got jobs that pay less than the minimum wage, their children are not getting a good education—that’s why we’re doing this.” He concluded: “Keep doing what you’re doing, keep organizing. . . . Don’t be afraid to speak out, even if you disagree with me. . . . It’s got to be about the future generation.”

The final speaker was Ted Smith, the Chairman of the African-American Caucus of the California Democratic Party. Smith gave a fiery speech, beginning by acknowledging whom he was addressing. “You are the Democratic Party. . . . The Democrats must take up a new frontier,” he said, in part a reference to the “new ideas” in Cody Jones’s speech.

“There was a time when Democrats laughed about the

LaRouche Movement, when you were on the outside.” But I wanted to know, he continued, why you had some many youth members, when we were not recruiting youth. So I spoke to you, and I am here now, Smith said.

In response to a question about how many in the audience would attend the Democratic state convention in Sacramento at the end of April, Smith was surprised when he saw almost every hand in the room raised. “You will be heard,” in Sacramento, he concluded, encouraging attendees to “establish the platform.”

The full town meeting can be heard on the website of the LaRouche Youth Movement, at www.wlym.com.