

Democratic policy committee launched

by Anita Gallagher

A National Democratic Policy Committee has been formed whose advisory committee will be headed by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., former candidate for the 1980 Democratic presidential nomination and founder of *EIR*. LaRouche described the committee's purpose as assisting selected candidates for congressional and state offices in November. LaRouche said: "I will remain highly active in the Democratic Party, putting together an alliance based on the major constituencies of the party. I have initiated a National Democratic Policy Committee to assist in local races."

The National Democratic Policy Committee will function as a multi-candidate political action committee, headquartered in New York City. LaRouche will head the advisory committee of scientific, agricultural, business, labor and minority leaders which will soon be announced. Warren Hamerman of New York City will serve as the committee's chairman, and Kenneth Dalto of Michigan will serve as executive director. Both were officials of Citizens for LaRouche, the former candidate's principal campaign committee.

The National Democratic Policy Committee, LaRouche says, will be an alternative think tank to the Rand Corporation, Brookings, and other bodies which have traditionally shaped Democratic Party policies.

The National Democratic Policy Committee's tax program has already been put before both the Michigan and West Virginia Democratic Conventions and found significant support at both. The tax policy is part of an overall economic recovery program whose elements are a gold-backed monetary system, reorganization of credit, and a new tax policy.

The individual component of the tax policy would incrementally reduce the taxes on households, starting with a \$2,500 exemption per dependent. For productive industries, the policy would increase amortization and tax depreciation allowances. This, said LaRouche, allows

the use of tax policy as a means of discouraging non-productive investment.

The effects of both measures would be to increase both the tax base for local communities and the savings in local banking institutions available as credit. LaRouche said that action around such an economic program was necessary because delegates to the Democratic National Convention in August voted 2,500-800 in support of platform planks which compel its representatives to oppose the policy of inducing recession.

In foreign policy, LaRouche noted: "We are the most poorly informed of any literate nation in the world. Compared to the citizen of Mexico, or New Delhi, the U.S. citizen is abysmally informed." Therefore the National Democratic Policy Committee will outline foreign policy alternatives, and also provide information that is otherwise lacking.

Warren Hamerman, the committee's chairman, added that another area in which the committee will be very active is the effort to enact Rep. Mike McCormack's (D-Wash.) bill, which calls for \$20 billion to be spent over the next 20 years to demonstrate fusion commercially by the year 2000. The Democratic Party's 1980 platform states: "The Democratic Party vigorously supports substantial funding for the construction of an engineering test facility for fusion technology. Fusion energy is a safe, clean, alternative source of energy which can be used to generate energy efficiently."

The Policy Committee will also issue emergency agriculture measures, including debt moratoria and low cost credit to keep farmers in business. LaRouche proposed a resolution for 90 percent parity for farmers at the Texas Democratic Convention in June which passed overwhelmingly. The President of the U.S. is empowered to declare 90 percent parity without any approval by Congress.

LaRouche says: "I am determined to rebuild the Democratic Party. Under Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the party underwent a period of transformation that made the Democratic Party much closer to the Republican Party of Lincoln. The Democratic Party was an alliance of entrepreneurial businessmen with farmers and labor, and beginning with the Al Smith campaign for President in 1928, there was a crossover of black minorities to the Democratic Party. Because of our constituencies, we in the Democratic Party are forced to adopt policies that are simultaneously in the interest of all groups. Therefore, we object to the depression austerity proposed by Paul Volcker, which will not benefit labor or minorities or farmers."

The National Democratic Policy Committee has requested 30-minute spots from all three television networks in September and again in October, and will soon announce support of specific candidates.