
Interview: Warren J. Hamerman

Mondale must absolutely be defeated

Warren J. Hamerman is chairman of the National Democratic Policy Committee, Lyndon LaRouche's political action committee. At the San Francisco Democratic Convention he coordinated the LaRouche effort which succeeded in meeting all the requirements to have LaRouche address the convention after having had his name placed in nomination for President. Charles Manatt and the party leadership then refused to accept their own rules on the grounds that LaRouche was not welcome in their "private club."

EIR: Why won't Lyndon H. LaRouche and the National Democratic Policy Committee support Walter Mondale for President?

Hamerman: Lyndon LaRouche addressed the question directly in his press conference at the San Francisco Press Club on the morning of July 19, only hours after the rigged nomination of Mondale and before Mondale even gave his acceptance speech. LaRouche identified two reasons why any citizen for the good of his nation as well as the good of the Democratic Party would work to ensure Mondale's defeat. He stated: "Number one: Walter Mondale is not morally fit to be President of the United States, nor is he morally fit to be the standard bearer of the Democratic Party. He is, on the basis of massive and persisting efforts, an agent of Soviet influence on questions of strategic doctrine, and an agent of Soviet influence is not qualified to be President of the United States or be a presidential candidate of the Democratic Party. Number two: In terms of his domestic policy, he is a supporter of the present Depression, a supporter of the policies which have caused misery in the United States. He has been a consistent backer, together with [Charles] Manatt, of the policies of Paul Volcker of the Federal Reserve System."

LaRouche added that we face a potential food crisis in the United States by 1986, possibly as early as 1985. Mondale, who is a creature of the international grain trust, and an ally of Paul Volcker, is responsible for the disaster which has struck the American farmer, and which threatens to hit the citizen at the supermarket in the coming year. Now, anybody

who can vote for a food shortage, there's obviously something wrong with him. Mondale *must* be defeated.

EIR: Does that mean that you want Reagan reelected?

Hamerman: In San Francisco, LaRouche warned that we must not have a situation in which Reagan wins over Mondale, and that gives us Kissinger controlling the Reagan administration in the same way that Kissinger controlled the Nixon administration. LaRouche announced, "In order to try to save the Democratic Party, and to exert as much influence as possible on the way this election goes—not merely in terms of personalities, but in terms of policies—I shall be running as an Independent Democrat. I'm already filed in the state of Texas. In the state of Texas, a slate which is associated with me carried, on the average, among winners and losers in that primary election, carried 35% of the state Democratic vote, in the recent primary election. I have more nominating petitions for me than the entire Democratic primary caucus submitted in the primary caucus campaign down there. I shall be on in other states."

EIR: How do you think the delegates took having Mondale as their candidate?

Hamerman: No trick in the book could make Mondale himself seem exciting. The day of his nomination speech I overheard two worried DNC officials talking at Convention Center. One said he feared that after the "great" Cuomo and Jackson speeches, Mondale would come off even duller than usual. The other said not to worry, because they had produced a special "exciting" film on Mondale that would run longer than the candidate's speech. "People will remember the film and Gerry, and they'll leave happy. . . . That's all that counts."

EIR: On the eve of the convention, Mondale made a bungled attempt to oust DNC Chairman Charles Manatt. How did this affect the situation?

Hamerman: The paranoid DNC leadership of Charles Manatt was itself nearly toppled on the eve of the convention. As

a compromise, the symbol of sleazy political corruption in the Democratic Party—Bert Lance—was brought in as general chairman of the Mondale campaign. That very day LaRouche organizers went out with signs that said, “Save the Democratic Party. . . . Boil a Lance Today!” Hundreds of laughing delegates and alternates signed up. Sensing the situation, the party gamemasters took no chances of the rampant party dissent surfacing lest they face an instant mutiny. Delegates from one state delegation were not allowed to talk with another state delegation. Certain delegations were formally roped off from access to others. The physical circumstances were designed to force people into animal pens and through chutes to the next pen area. The floor telephones did not allow free access to other delegates. If a delegate from state A wished to telephone a delegate from state B, he would have to go through the DNC-manned convention communications center to state whom he wished to speak to and for what reason. Furthermore, there were no live microphones on the floor for delegates to intervene in the convention. Only during the roll calls was the “juice” turned on, and then turned right off, for the mike in front of the state delegation chairman.

EIR: Many people watching the convention on television were depressed at the spectacle. Some remarked that the very radicals who rioted outside the Chicago convention in 1968 were now on the podium running the show. Is that an accurate characterization?

Hamerman: Actually the situation was much worse. The 1984 Convention was a Seventh Avenue version of a Nuremberg rally. Chuck Manatt and his masters no doubt studied the “Memoirs” of Albert Speer before staging the San Francisco Democratic Convention. Hitler and Speer designed the Nuremberg rallies as “media events” to be filmed and viewed by millions through the camera work of Leni Riefenstahl and her movie, “Triumph of the Will.”

was to the Nuremberg rally, network television was to the San Francisco Convention. Most estimates place the number of media in San Francisco to cover the convention at well over 10,000, added to an approximately equal number of delegates (4,000), alternates and assorted party officials combined. The “mass” reigned supreme over the individual. Everywhere there were throngs of people crushing into each other, even in the vast interior of Moscone Center. Everywhere delegates turned they were being “interviewed” by several media on their latest “feelings” and “opinions.”

Like the Nuremberg stadium, the internal architecture of Moscone Center was designed to belittle the individual into submission. The podium was set 20 feet above the ground as part of a massive bulky stage set whose block segments filled the front of the hall. On both sides of the podium high above it, were two giant television screens to show the magnified images of the speakers whose heads could barely be seen above the podium from the floor. Sometimes the two huge

TV screens focused on the speaker but most of the time they showed shots of the “mass”—screaming, swaying, dancing, pulsating and entranced. The entire 20,000-plus delegates, media, and associates were kept in a constant state of physical exhaustion. Each night the convention ended at approximately 8:00 p.m. Pacific Coast Time (the end of prime time television on the East Coast) and the “mass” went partying til the wee hours of the night.

On one night, the California Assembly leader, the radical Willie Brown, hosted an extravaganza on the docks at Pier 54 for 10,000 partygoers at once; this event was called “Oh, What A Night!” San Francisco mayor Dianne Feinstein hosted a mass party at City Hall. Delegates arriving for the “Mayor’s Reception” were greeted by a Polynesian Band pounding on huge wildly-amplified drums. After these lunatics, a new musical act took over the beat—a Transvestite brass ensemble from Stanford University. Liquor was free and plentiful, so soon the so-called “Middle America” ladies and gentlemen were giggling and dancing to the Stanford Transvestite Brass Ensemble. On the last day, as delegates were leaving, inside the convention hall with full credentials to say goodbye to them was a 6-foot, 2-inch transvestite in red, white, and blue and wearing a black strapless corset. Delegates were having their photos snapped with “it” as mementos of the convention. Inside the convention, every ear was constantly assaulted with nearly unbearably-high volume, super-amplified music from the large band. The traditional pieces, “For He’s A Jolly Good Fellow,” “Hail to the Chief” and so forth, were replaced by driving “soft rock,” such as the theme to “Chariots of Fire.” The National Anthem was sung in two “modern” renditions—by a country and western star, and by a blues singer.

EIR: The texts of the Cuomo and Jackson speeches seemed pretty vapid as printed in the press, yet there was a lot of enthusiasm while they were being given.

Hamerman: The “emotionally charged” atmosphere after key speeches was created in a precalculated way. Their demagogic rhetoric was intended to mobilize the “mass” or “the people” against industrial capitalist development. The themes were meant to destroy America’s heritage as a republic whose strength rests on the responsibilities of an informed citizenry, and to promote the alternative enraged feeling-states of Jacobin democracy. When the stage managers wished to create an emotional high-pitch in the crowd, they would turn up the volume on the music, show crowd shots on the giant TV screens, dim the lights, and race many fast-moving spotlights over and over the heads of the madly-squealing crowd.

EIR: Charles Manatt argued in court that the Democratic Party was a “private club” which would not invite LaRouche to join. How did this translate inside the convention?

Hamerman: The Democratic Convention was organized

around keeping out Lyndon LaRouche and the 35% of the party constituency he represents. Manatt's first move after his reinstatement as party chairman was to autocratically issue an official "order" that Lyndon LaRouche was not a presidential candidate. At 5:30 P.M. on July 17, I presented to the representative of the Democratic Convention secretary, nominating petitions signed by 370 individuals seeking to place Lyndon LaRouche's name in presidential nomination. These nominating petitions were accepted by the convention secretary even before the nominating petitions of Gary Hart. Earlier that day, Manatt had sent a force of 10 lawyers into the Superior Court of San Francisco to argue that the Democratic Party was a "private club," a "private association" which will only accept those it invites to join.

EIR: How would you assess the LaRouche forces' impact on the Democratic Convention?

Hamerman: Chuck Manatt is like the impotent King Canute who issued an order for the tides to turn the other way, only to have his throne drowned. The signers of the LaRouche petition in some instances had their credentials revoked, or in other cases, were coerced and intimidated into "lying low." Nonetheless, each day of the convention a well-disciplined LaRouche organizing team was doing its job on the convention floor. Two mass leaflets were distributed inside the convention hall: 20,000 copies of a facsimile of the acceptance receipt of the LaRouche nominating petitions by the convention secretary, and 15,000 copies of a leaflet entitled "Manatt Uses Undemocratic Tactics to Stop LaRouche."

Despite the elaborate controlled environment which the Manatt clique had created, the LaRouche forces succeeded in relentlessly driving ahead like Patton's Third Army, and organized well over the number of delegates required to sign a petition placing LaRouche's name in the presidential nomination. The signers of LaRouche's nominating petition included Hart delegates, Jackson delegates, uncommitted delegates, and even Mondale delegates. They came from the north, south, east, and west. Hundreds of Democratic Party delegates and regulars signed up with LaRouche when his organizers asked: "Are you a Democrat or are you with Mondale?" In 1984 to date well over two million Democrats voted for candidates openly running for office on a common slate headed by Lyndon LaRouche. More than 17% of the candidates who ran with LaRouche were elected; many, in fact, to party positions. Do Manatt and Mondale think they have the power to throw more than two million registered Democrats out of the party? When all is said and done, every delegate and party regular in San Francisco knows that the only force to put up a fight against the Mondale nomination was the LaRouche forces. At the convention Manatt, Lance, and Mondale rigged the rules, and deployed tens of thousands of party, media, and auxiliary San Francisco services to keep LaRouche out of the convention. LaRouche had 34 organizers on the scene, including himself, and he won.

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