

Crowded Democratic field helps LaRouche

by Webster G. Tarpley

Whom the gods wish to destroy, they first drive mad—and the crowded field of Democratic presidential candidates is a case in point. With the addition of Senators Paul Simon of Illinois and Albert Gore of Tennessee, who have entered the race over recent weeks, the field has become very crowded indeed, with no less than a dozen mediocrities vying for attention. These include Babbitt, Gephardt, Dukakis, Gore, Biden, Simon, Jackson, and Hart, plus possibly Arkansas Governor Clinton, and possibly Nunn, with Cuomo and Bumpers still hovering on the sidelines although they say they are out of the race. Standing apart from this jostling pack of aspirants is the one statesman qualified for the office, Lyndon H. LaRouche.

Even with today's inflation, a dozen candidates is a lot. In 1960, after eight years of the Eisenhower administration, there were only four Democratic contenders in the primaries. In 1976, after the eight years of Nixon and Ford, Jimmy Carter emerged from a gaggle of nine Democratic hopefuls, several of whom joined the race in the later stages. Normally, of the dozen or so Democrats whose hats are now in the ring—or near it—some would be content to act as stalking horses, or otherwise to shoot for a pay-off that would be less than the White House itself.

This year, the word along Washington's Power Alley is that each one in this year's crop is taking himself and his chances very seriously. One part of this is understandable: As each contender eyes the competition, he is impressed by the number of fools and scoundrels in the pack, and says to himself: "If that jerk can be considered presidential timber, why, so can I." But the negation of the negation cannot yield a true positive. There is a story that Jimmy Carter was moved to contemplate a presidential run during the visits to the Georgia State House during 1972 by then-candidates George McGovern and Hubert Horatio Humphrey. "If these jerks can run for the White House, so can I," thought Carter, who thereby committed the sin of hubris. Megalomania among fools and scoundrels has now thoroughly infected the Democratic field.

This year, the result is an unbridled chaos of factional warfare that is creating big problems for Democratic National

Committee chairman Paul Kirk, who would like to see the campaign proceedings organized along neat totalitarian thought-control lines. As a result, Kirk's role as a political gendarme is in serious disarray.

Empirical evidence validated by the media points to Gary Hart as the present front-runner, but deeper political dynamics show the Coloradan as the man with everything to lose. Hart began his campaign with a warmed-over version of his 1984 "New Ideas" demagoguery, now including the SII—a strategic investment initiative. Hart's natural tendency would be to fall back into the pack, but he may get help from an unexpected quarter: from the Republicans, who with good reason regard Hart as the "Mondale of 1988." Their plan is to shore up Hart so that he can win the Democratic nomination, and then bring out the dossiers to finish off Gary with scandals, including his alleged philandering, in which he is deeply compromised.

Dukakis was originally a candidate fielded primarily to provide a point of unification for the Kennedy machine after Teddy was coerced to drop out of the race, and also with the hope of procuring a deadlocked convention from which Teddy could accept a draft. Dukakis is focusing on a big showing in New Hampshire, and is reported to have demanded guarantees against a New Hampshire challenge by the LaRouche forces before announcing that he would run.

Gore, who describes himself as a "raging moderate," has a rhetorical stock in trade featuring the crisis of the ozone layer over the antipodes and the greenhouse effect, points on which he is in agreement with Helmut Schmidt. As for Simon, he is designed to serve as a point of regroupment for the campaign moneybags of the Zionist lobby, who are seeking to restore their political clout after the heavy losses suffered during the Pollard affair and in the Irangate scandal more generally. "I'm not a neo-anything," Simon intoned, and pledged fealty to Jimmy Carter's "dreams for peace, arms control, and human rights around the world."

In addition to the problems created by the fierce presidential rivalries, the DNC is being paralyzed by scandals, including those that are rending the New York City Democratic machine. According to informed sources, there is more in store: Certain prominent investigative journalists are on the trail of monies deriving from the Iran-Contra transactions, monies which have found their way into the pockets of Democratic Party congressional factions. According to these sources, it would be inaccurate to say that congressional Democrats were totally in the dark on the diversion of funds from the Iran arms sales: The truth is that a number of leading Democrats were receiving those funds. Something even worse than Wedtech is therefore looming for these malefactors.

The prospect is thus for the crowded Democratic pack to swallow up Hart and prevent the emergence of any other front-runner, for the pack to resist attrition, and for the pack to persist well into the primary season, in all likelihood determining a deadlocked Democratic convention.