

LaRouche Dem builds Oklahoma machine

by Mel Klenetsky

LaRouche Democrat George Gentry, running in the Oklahoma Democratic First District congressional primary on Aug. 23, garnered 12.6% of the vote, and effectively mobilized a 45-50 person political machine. Kurt Glassco won the five-person race and Gentry finished third, only 25 votes behind runner-up Virginia Jenner.

Reminiscent of the LaRouche-led candidates movement of 1984, when over 2,000 candidates ran for political office, Gentry's campaign and other 1988 efforts of LaRouche Democrats are reconstituting grassroots and political-club style organizing. Leading the effort is the independent effort of Lyndon H. LaRouche for President and Debra Hanania Freeman for vice president. The LaRouche-Freeman ticket will have filed petitions to run as an independent slate in 12 states, as of Sept. 2.

These include Alaska, Hawaii, Utah, Washington, North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, and the District of Columbia. This independent effort will spearhead a base-building drive of other candidates across the country.

In his congressional primary race, Gentry proved himself to be far more than a gadfly or spoiler to the political aspirations of the Jim Jones or David Boren machines. Former Congressman Jones, and current Senator Boren are the Democratic powerhouses of the state. Gentry is building his own political base, a true grassroots machine, while Jones and Boren find it increasingly difficult to mobilize theirs.

In 1986 Gentry ran against Jones in the Democratic primary for U.S. Senate. Gentry received 33% of the vote, spending less than \$5,000, compared to a record campaign chest for Jones. Jones lost to Republican Don Nickles in the general election. Political pundits of the state cited Jones's poor showing against LaRouche Democrat Gentry, a virtual unknown in the state until that election, as one of the reasons for the Jones defeat.

This year, Jones and Boren made a major effort for Gentry's opponent, Kurt Glassco, a Tulsa lawyer. Glassco had little support in the district, including little enthusiasm from the Democratic regulars. Glassco was supposed to win an easy victory in order to concentrate his campaign funds and efforts on the general election, when he will face the incumbent congressman, Republican Jim Inhoff.

Gentry, a working farmer, had made headlines through-

out Oklahoma in 1986, when he held a press conference during the auction of his own farm to expose the plight of America's farmers and the need for emergency agricultural measures. Gentry's name recognition and his consistent fight to force Glassco to debate the issues forced Glassco to change strategy. Senator Boren's top aide, Mike Morgan, became Glassco's campaign manager. Jim Jones lined up \$35,000 of support for Glassco in one fundraising dinner alone.

Instead of waiting for the general election run-off against Inhoff, Glassco spent \$40-50,000 on television time, road signs, and mailings in the primary, and still only received 60% of the vote, with very low voter turnout, a signal that he may have quite a bit of difficulty in the general election.

Gentry and other LaRouche Democrats around the country are addressing the issues and crises of the day and bringing people back into the political process. In contrast, Boren, Jones, and other Democratic leaders throughout the country are avoiding these issues, relying more and more on media to win their elections, and telling their handpicked candidates to avoid discussing policies. The old Democratic political club, a centerpiece of the grassroots organizing of the pre-McGovern Democratic Party, is rapidly becoming an institution of the past, because so many citizens are disgusted with the Dukakis-Kirk-Boren-Jones brand of politics.

"We spoke at four forums together," commented Gentry on his rival, "and all Glassco would say were the normal clichés and buzz words." By Gentry's account, "I want to be your congressman"; "I'm proud to be endorsed by Jim Jones"; and "I'll be a team member, I'll work with other congressmen," typified Glassco's campaign speeches, which avoided the substantive issues.

Defense, economy key issues

In contrast, Gentry called for supporting the defense sector by doubling funding for the SDI, backing the MX missile and the B-1B bomber—positions that are important for national defense, and also important to Oklahoma, where Rockwell and McDonnell Douglas have facilities. Gentry also called for a trigger-price oil import tariff and comprehensive measures in the farm area, including restoration of parity prices and ending farm foreclosures, to deal with the drought-worsened agricultural crisis.

"There was a virtual media blackout of the primary," asserted Gentry, lambasting the press for not forcing the issues out into the open. Gentry had issued a debate challenge to Glassco, which he refused. Gentry's continued goading did result in Glassco's saying he might support an import fee and he would support funding of SDI. Glassco, like many mainstream Democrats of today, is caught between the more pro-defense inclinations of his constituency, and presidential nominee Michael Dukakis's opposition to the SDI, the MX, and the B-1 bomber. Gentry was quick to point out the rock and the hard place that this "so-called" team player Glassco is caught between.

The story of those who paved the way for the American Revolution, long before the Declaration of Independence: Massachusetts Puritan Cotton Mather, Virginia's Governor Alexander Spotswood, British satirist Jonathan Swift. . . .

How the Nation Was Won

America's Untold Story 1630-1754

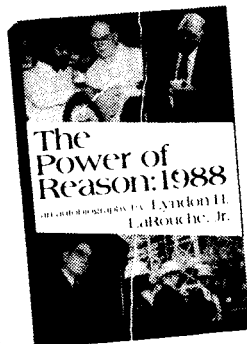
by H. Graham Lowry

Published by Executive Intelligence Review

Order from Benjamin Franklin Booksellers, 27 South King Street, Leesburg, VA 22075. \$14.95 plus shipping: \$1.50 for first copy, \$.50 for additional copies. Bulk rates available.

FED UP WITH WASHINGTON POLITICIANS?

Then Throw The Book At Them
(but read it first)



THE POWER OF REASON: 1988

An Autobiography by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

Published by Executive Intelligence Review
Order from Ben Franklin Booksellers, 27 South King St., Leesburg, VA 22075. \$10 plus shipping (\$1.50 for first copy, .50 for each additional copy). Bulk rates available.

Project Democracy: The 'parallel government' behind the Iran-Contra affair

An invisible, parallel government has been running U.S. foreign policy and economic policy—into a series of disasters that leave us open to Soviet conquest. Now, this invisible government can be exposed and driven from power. The United States can regain its sovereignty.

Order *EIR's Special Report*, for yourself and your congressman. Full documentation of the investigation behind the exclusive news stories you read in *EIR*. An indexed guide to Israeli and Soviet foreign intelligence networks in the Department of Justice and other government agencies, as well as the key "private" law firms, with greater power than most elected officials.

Please send me _____ copies of the "Project Democracy" Special Report at \$250 each postpaid. Please send (Rep. or Sen.) _____

a complimentary copy of the Report, at \$250 each postpaid.

I enclose \$_____ check or money order.

Please charge my MasterCard Visa

No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Make check or money order payable to:

EIR News Service

P.O. Box 17390

Washington, D.C. 20041-0390