

# LaRouche candidates: running for America's future

by Mel Klenetsky

The growing support for LaRouche Democrats in the 1988 primaries has many Democratic Party leaders both alarmed and intrigued. Those alarmed are the handpicked minions of the Kirk-Dukakis leadership. Those intrigued are the old warhorses of the party, who have seen the Democratic Party disintegrate as a constituency-based institution, once a pillar of the American electoral process.

Vibrant Democratic Party clubs, active ward and precinct captains, and a committed voting electorate are rapidly becoming phenomena of the past, with voter turnout at an all-time low. With the current Democratic Party leadership failing to address the fundamental issues in a way that the electorate can respond to, it is no accident that LaRouche Democrats, wherever they present themselves, have found increasing support.

Claude Jones, a LaRouche Democrat from Houston, Texas, this spring was elected chairman of the Harris County Democratic Party, the second-largest electoral district in the country. Jones won 53% of the vote against the incumbent chairman Larry Veselka, in spite of Veselka's vitriolic attacks on Jones for being a LaRouche Democrat. Veselka and his Harris County cronies responded by stripping the chairmanship of its powers. Nevertheless, two years after the famous Hart-Fairchild victory in the 1986 Illinois primary, a LaRouche Democrat had secured a major party position, in the second-strongest county machine of the Democratic Party.

In 1986, the names Janice Hart and Mark Fairchild became household words when they beat the machine's choices in the Democratic primary for Illinois secretary of state and lieutenant governor. They lost in the general elections, but only after Adlai Stevenson, the Democratic candidate for governor, dropped off the ticket, and refused to run with the LaRouche Democrats. The Illinois Democratic Party has yet to recover from Adlai's antics.

In the 1988 primaries, 17 LaRouche Democrats and 1 LaRouche Republican have secured victories and will represent their respective parties in the November general election. In addition, Nicholas Tarzia, a LaRouche Democrat from Connecticut, is running for the 4th District congressional seat as an independent, under the "War Against AIDS" banner. George Elder and Donald Hadley are running in the 21st and 5th C.D.s of Pennsylvania. Don Marquis is running in the 39th C.D. of California against Republican incumbent

William Dannemeyer. Mark Brown is running in the 12th C.D. of Ohio.

State legislative races include Marian Hatch in Seattle's 48th District, Richard Van Bergen in Minnesota's 22b Legislative District, Jim Olson and John Chaney for Georgia's 61st House District and 41st State Senate District, Georgia Irey for Indiana's 53rd Assembly District, are Gary Genazzio for Iowa's 20th State Senate District.

## Significant New Hampshire gains

In New Hampshire, where LaRouche built up substantial support during the primary race, the featured LaRouche congressional primary candidates Robert Patton and Lewis du Pont Smith did not win their races but seven legislative candidates did, despite a major effort by New Hampshire state Democratic Party chairman Joe Grandmaison to discredit the LaRouche Democrats. Ken Bush of Plaistow, David Ayala of Merrimack, Wayne Blanchard of Guilford, Lucien Fogg of Franklin, Charlotte Tatro of Allenstown, Dick Werren of Concord, and Hector Hidalgo from Nashua are running for the legislature. Smith, a du Pont heir whose family conspired to have him declared legally incompetent on the sole grounds of his political beliefs, polled an impressive 8.5% in his congressional race.

LaRouche is running as an independent in 12 states and the District of Columbia. The 12 states are Alaska, Hawaii, Washington, Utah, North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Louisiana, Tennessee, Ohio, and Vermont.

When recently asked by a Reuter reporter how many votes he expected to get in the forthcoming elections, LaRouche responded that he didn't know, but expected significant support. LaRouche specified that the support is more important than the votes.

"You know, the fellow walking into the polls says, 'I like this guy,' then they get in there and pull the lever for Bush," LaRouche said. "The important thing is what I do by campaigning the way I'm doing, in order to pull together the coalition of forces. That was the way this funny relationship I had with the Reagan administration back in March of '83 occurred, through the 1980 election campaign. I didn't get much in the way of votes, but I had a devil of a lot of a support. And the Reagan people knew that."

In 1984, almost 1,000 candidates ran as part of LaRouche's candidates' movement, and many of them received more than 30% of the vote. In 1986, the Hart-Fairchild victory shook the rafters. Now, in 1988, there is already the Jones victory and 18 primary successes. Texas, California, Ohio, and Pennsylvania are swing states in the Dukakis-Bush battle for the presidency, and in each of them, LaRouche himself or candidates associated with him are in crucial races.

The panicked reactions continue on the part of the Democratic county chairmen. Olson was even kicked out of the county machine and denied support. He still has the Democratic slot—and certainly the support of the electorate that voted for him.