

## **EIR**Feature

# **John Shadegg: Hit man for Newt's Contract on America**

by Jeffrey Steinberg

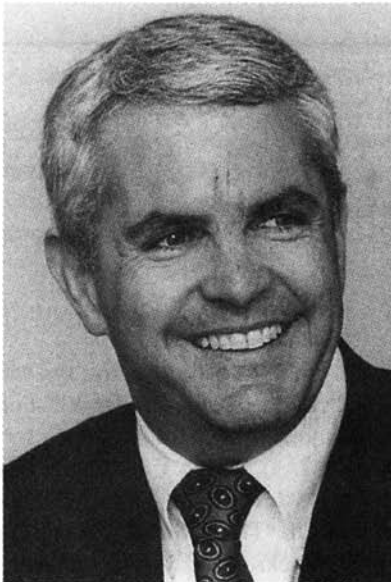
It is shaping up as one of the most important Congressional contests of 1996: John Shadegg (R-Ariz.), the freshman congressman who heads House Speaker Newt Gingrich's GOPAC political action committee, and has been one of the most zealous backers of the Republican Party's murderous "Contract on Americans," is facing a strong challenge from LaRouche Democrat Maria Elena Milton, who won the Sept. 10 Democratic Party primary election, and has received the formal endorsement of the Arizona AFL-CIO's Committee on Political Education.

Milton won the Democratic primary with nearly 53% of the vote, even after she sued Arizona Democratic Party Chairman Sam Coppersmith and Democratic National Committee Chairman Donald Fowler, for excluding LaRouche delegates from the Democratic nominating convention in Chicago in August.

Milton, who refers to Shadegg as "Congressman ValuJet," a reference to his strong political and financial ties to ValuJet owner and "Conservative Revolution" ideologue Richard Gilder, has set out to establish a standard for other candidates, with her no-holds-barred attack against the Gingrich "Contract" as outright mass murder. And, with the ouster of Fowler and Clinton campaign strategist Dick Morris, both of whom attempted to recast the Democratic Party as a "second Republican Party," the opening now exists for Democrats all across the country to repudiate the outright fascist character of the current GOP majority.

While vast sums are pouring into Shadegg's campaign chest from all over the United States—in large measure, due to the strategic implications for the Conservative Revolution crowd, of a defeat at the hands of a LaRouche Democrat—the Arizona race will be determined by the power of ideas, not the checkbook.

Speaking before over 1,000 people on Sept. 21 at the Arizona State Inter-Tribal Council political conference, Milton vowed to stop Shadegg "from carrying out economic policies that threaten the very lives of many of our citizens." A Milton campaign brochure declares: "It is clear that the policies of Newt Gingrich, his GOPAC, and John Shadegg represent a clear danger to you and your loved ones.



Arizona Democratic Congressional candidate Maria Elena Milton, with Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. Milton is running a nationally prominent campaign against incumbent Republican John Shadegg (inset), head of Newt Gingrich's GOPAC.



The actual purpose of GOPAC is to protect the derivatives bubble, no matter what the cost in human life! Trying to save the bubble, under conditions of financial collapse, means mass murder."

In an interview with the weekly "EIR Talks" on Sept. 25, Lyndon LaRouche commented on Milton's prospects for defeating Shadegg. He cited three issues that could draw many GOP and independent voters into the Milton camp: the GOP's efforts to loot Medicare and Medicaid in order to pass on hundreds of millions of dollars in tax breaks to America's wealthiest speculators; the Gingrichite schemes, endorsed by Shadegg, to privatize—or as Milton dubbed it, "piratize"—Social Security; and the growing epidemic of illegal drug use.

Recent media exposés of the role of the Reagan-Bush administration of the 1980s—especially Vice President George Bush—in flooding the streets of urban America with crack cocaine, in order to generate funds for the Contras in Central America, have undercut GOP efforts to present themselves as the party that's "tough on crime." Milton has been in the forefront of exposing the Bush cocaine connection, which began with the Aug. 18-20, 1996 *San Jose Mercury News* exposé of a West Coast Contra cocaine-smuggling ring. At a mid-September Bob Dole campaign appearance in Phoenix, Milton, accompanied by a team of campaign workers, unfurled a banner demanding to know whether Dole would "jail crack kingpin George Bush."

In his interview, LaRouche emphasized the role that the Milton campaign can play in shaping the national campaign

efforts of Democrats between now and Election Day:

"She can be very significant in affecting the Democratic Party Congressional effort more broadly. Not only in Arizona, but elsewhere, because this campaign is being watched very closely, not only for ideas on how to run campaigns in these remaining weeks of the season. But also, in terms of what kind of a Congress we should have, in terms of commitments, agenda, and so forth, after the election is over. . . .

"We need new ideas, genuine new ideas, which actually address the problems which the old ideas aren't addressing. There are many people in Congress, in the leadership in the Democratic faction in the Senate and House, very good people. But, they need the impetus to be convinced and to convince their colleagues and people in the party around them, that this approach can win.

"So, the quality of showing that Maria Elena can make, with whatever help she gets to do her job, will be beneficial to the party as a whole. . . . If she does win, or comes close to it, she's going to shake up the way that the Democratic faction and others in the Congress will think after the November election."

Shadegg is one of the golden boys of the most rabid wing of the U.S. Conservative Revolution. On occasion, during the 104th Congress, he was part of a die-hard anti-government faction that even denounced Gingrich and House Majority Leader Dick Armey (R-Tex.), for making legislative compromises with the White House and Congressional Democrats. Shadegg's policies kill, and this is the issue that the Milton campaign will put before the voters of Arizona on Nov. 5.