

Market crash dooms Gore's candidacy

by Debra Hanania Freeman

In the five-day period of April 10-14, the entire world watched in horror while U.S. stock markets plummeted in an uncontrolled crash. By the time the markets closed on Friday afternoon, the Nasdaq—which is driven by “New Economy” and Internet-related stocks—had lost 25.3% of its value. These losses, combined with losses on the Dow over the same five-day period, wiped out \$2-3 trillion in U.S. equity values. It marked the largest loss in history. But, perhaps the most dramatic consequence of the Wall Street bloodbath, was the fact that it marked certain doom for the already-faltering Presidential aspirations of Al Gore.

It is certainly no secret that, from the beginning, Al “I invented the Internet” Gore has based his quest for the Democratic Party Presidential nomination *not* on the party’s traditional base of labor, farmers, and minorities, but on the upper 20% of America’s family-income brackets—the so-called “New Democrats.” But, the vast majority of those “New Democrats,” who make up the hard core of Gore’s support, are heavily invested in “New Economy” stocks. And, it is precisely this group that got clobbered in the meltdown. Indeed, a sizable portion of those whom Gore considers his most important supporters, were bankrupted, and are today undergoing a most unwelcome change in lifestyle. As Lyndon LaRouche, Al Gore’s opponent for the Democratic Presidential nomination, noted in comments over the weekend of April 15-16, this “change of life” experience for Gore’s “Baby-Boomer” constituency means that, as far as they are concerned, anyone boosting the Gore “New Economy” model is a candidate for the most hated political figure in the United States. Political analysts, both inside and outside the United States, watching as this group flees the Gore camp in droves, all seem to reach the same conclusion: Al Gore is doomed.

At the same time, the Wall Street meltdown, and all that it implies about the final collapse of the bankrupt global sys-

tem, has boosted the intellectual authority of Lyndon LaRouche, and underlined the urgency of LaRouche’s call for sovereign nations to come together in a New Bretton Woods conference, to put the world financial system through bankruptcy reorganization, so that those nations may proceed to reconstruct the shattered global economy, before the world is engulfed in deeper misery. An initiative calling on the European Parliament to take the lead in convoking such an international conference, is now awaiting action by the European Commission, and, here in the United States, LaRouche’s supporters have constituted an Ad Hoc Committee for a New Bretton Woods, which takes note of the European initiative, and urges support for it, as well as for the entire package of anti-crisis measures which LaRouche has proposed to overcome the systemic crisis (a copy of that call, which is being circulated for endorsements, is available at LaRouche’s campaign website, www.larouchecampaign.org). And, with Gore effectively out of the picture, and with the widespread acknowledgment that George W. Bush is emotionally, intellectually, and morally incapable of dealing with such a crisis, a growing number of America’s political leaders are stepping forward to endorse the call, and to put LaRouche in a position to act.

‘Brand-new leadership’ needed

LaRouche himself has compared today’s crisis, and what must happen now, to the action Franklin D. Roosevelt took on the morning following the bombing of Pearl Harbor. LaRouche said that it was not the bombing per se that changed the American people overnight, but FDR’s immediate action in mobilizing the population, in providing leadership, which made this nation’s victory over fascism and the Great Depression possible.

“Why appeal to the politically dead?” LaRouche said.

“The population needs brand-new leadership, relative to what they have considered establishment authorities until now. The leaders of yesterday’s popular fantasies are now relics of what are soon to be regarded as bitter memories.”

LaRouche’s supporters are not only engaged in an intense drive to win support for the American statesman’s economic solutions to this crisis. They are also engaged in a fierce battle against Gore’s desperate backers, who not only control the Democratic National Committee (DNC), but who are determined to stop LaRouche’s candidacy at any cost, even if it means destroying the Democratic Party. Indeed, this crowd has already alienated millions of minority voters who normally vote Democratic, by their vicious assault on the 1965 Voting Rights Act. And, that alienation is spreading to other sectors of the electorate, who are reacting with increasing disgust at the DNC’s Soviet-style election-rigging practices.

Despite the DNC’s efforts, LaRouche’s name has already been on, or will be on, the Democratic Presidential ballot in 43 states and the District of Columbia. During the third week in April, LaRouche’s supporters filed more than three times the number of signatures required to place his name on the ballot in New Jersey’s June 6 primary, and fought back a pathetic attempt to keep LaRouche’s name off the New Mexico ballot.

Originally, New Mexico’s Director of Elections, Denise Lamm, told LaRouche’s campaign that they were short the number of signatures needed to qualify for ballot status in that state’s First Congressional District, despite the fact that the campaign had submitted well over two times the number of signatures required. But, when she learned that the LaRouche Ballot Defense Fund was prepared to move for an audit, Lamm’s office suddenly “discovered” approximately 115 pages of petition signatures for LaRouche that had been “misplaced.” Within hours, LaRouche was certified for a place on the New Mexico ballot.

‘Freedom Democratic’ slates

But, the fight to force state Democratic parties to recognize and count the votes of LaRouche delegates to the August National Convention in California, despite the illegal actions of the DNC, seems destined to go all the way to Los Angeles. Democrats from South Dakota to Michigan to Virginia are being forced to form “Freedom Democratic” slates, constituted as a last resort when state Democratic parties have refused to count votes for candidates running as LaRouche delegates.

The Freedom Democratic slate in Michigan, which is headed by Michigan State Rep. Ed Vaughn, has filed 44 candidates seeking to go to the Aug. 14-17 Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles to support LaRouche. And, in Virginia, LaRouche supporters were forced to file as “uncommitted,” after the state Democratic Party officially ruled that it would refuse to accept the filings of any delegate candidate pledged to LaRouche. Had the LaRouche supporters not made the tactical move to file as “uncommitted,” the party would



Lyndon LaRouche addresses supporters in Philadelphia on March 31. The market crash has opened the way for new leadership to deal with the financial crisis.

have cancelled the caucuses altogether. As it was, LaRouche supporters on the “uncommitted” Freedom Democratic slates won at least 59 (and possibly more) delegates to the Virginia State Democratic Convention.

As we go to press, Democrats in North Carolina who have filed for spots on that state’s May 2 Democratic primary ballot as candidates for delegates to the National Convention pledged to LaRouche, are receiving letters from State Chair Barbara K. Allen, informing them that their Notice of Candidacy forms will not be accepted, based on instructions from the DNC. LaRouche’s name, however, will appear on the ballot, which is controlled by the state government, not the Democratic Party. Nevertheless, Allen’s letter insists that “any votes that might be cast for Mr. LaRouche will be disregarded.”

In an interview in mid-April, Representative Vaughn said, “What has been done [to LaRouche] is bad for African-Americans and minorities, but it is also bad for the nation, and it is *terrible* for the Democratic Party. If we want to be the party of the people, we certainly cannot do it like this.” He reiterated, “We will take this fight all the way to Los Angeles. We have no alternative but to do so.”

A spokesman for LaRouche’s national campaign agreed, saying that a revolt in the Democratic Party base is, in fact, the only way that the racist rulings of the DNC, which fly in the face of the Voting Rights Act, will be overturned. The campaign spokesman added that if that effort fails, and the party goes along with the DNC, it will “destroy itself and George Bush will win the election.” “And,” she said, “if Bush were elected, you would have a worse result than we got with Hoover in 1929. The U.S. and the world would not survive four such years. This time, people are going to have to vote their conscience. And, I’m confident that, in the end, especially as this crisis deepens, they will.”