

## Will Gore's Crash Wake Up Endangered Democrats?

by Jeffrey Steinberg

One week after the May 23 Arkansas Democratic Presidential primaries, in which Lyndon LaRouche won a stunning 22% of the vote against Al Gore, thereby entitling LaRouche to as many as ten Arkansas delegates to the nominating convention in Los Angeles in August, the Gore camp is still reeling from that shock, and from the continuing pattern of top Democrats publicly decrying the Vice President's losing campaign strategy, and his rotten, wanna-be-Republican policies.

And, as if to demonstrate that all of the anti-Gore criticisms are more than justified, the Vice President's official campaign website has posted a delegates count, falsely claiming that all of the Arkansas delegates to the nominating convention went to Gore. In effect, Gore is confirming that he is behind the increasingly flagrant and discredited efforts of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) to air-brush Lyndon LaRouche—and his 53,000 Arkansas supporters—out of the Democratic Party.

The idea of writing Lyndon LaRouche and his millions of supporters out of the Democratic Party has been a standing DNC policy, since no later than 1996, when then-committee chairman Donald Fowler blocked a half-dozen LaRouche delegates from being credentialed to attend the national nominating convention. Current DNC chairman Joe Andrew has rubber-stamped the Fowler policy, and has told reporters that he intends to disenfranchise the Arkansas voters who selected LaRouche as their Presidential nominee.

But this policy—which is in direct violation of the spirit and the letter of the 1965 Voting Rights Act—is going to be a lot harder to sell, following the Arkansas breakthrough by LaRouche, that has grabbed national and international media attention, and is also now the subject of an Organization of American States (OAS) official inquiry into vote rigging by the Democratic Party.

Within days of the Arkansas vote, Associated Press, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, and the *Washington Times* had given prominent news and/or editorial

coverage to the LaRouche vote, characterizing it as part of a growing anti-Gore upsurge among traditional Democratic Party voters.

Wesley Pruden (certainly no friend of LaRouche) wrote a column in the May 26 *Washington Times*, describing LaRouche's strong showing in Arkansas as "something like a hooker showing up at a family reunion," adding that "some Democrats put it down to 'anybody but Gore' in a season where W. [Bush] is looking better every day." Nevertheless, Pruden reported that LaRouche's "surprising race against the veep . . . will split the state's delegation to the convention in Los Angeles, taking perhaps as many as 10 of the state's 48 delegates."

The *Wall Street Journal's* lead editorial on May 24 also touted LaRouche's 22% showing against Gore, noting the growing anti-Gore ferment has also been manifested in Bill Bradley's 27% vote in Nebraska and 19% vote in North Carolina, even though he dropped out of the race for the nomination in early March; and the 5% national polling by Green Party Presidential candidate Ralph Nader.

As the LaRouche campaign was getting the word of the Arkansas breakout into the hands of DNC members and Democratic Party activists and elected officials all across the United States, prospects of an "anyone but Gore" fight at the Democratic National Convention began to resonate among many in the party who see Gore as the personification of the abandonment of the "Party of FDR and JFK."

Even among more pragmatic party leaders, a growing perception that Al Gore is unelectable, has begun to feed the mood for an open convention, even among some previously staunch anti-LaRouche Democrats.

### Nuremberg Rally, or Psychotic Breakdown?

Several senior Democratic Party officials, when confronted with the simple logic of granting LaRouche his dozen or so Convention delegates, and averting a party-busting cre-



## Gore 2000 Delegate Count

State	Preference Date	Primary/Caucus	Unpledged 'Super'		Pledged		Total	
			G	B	G	B	G	B
West Virginia	5/09/00	Primary	9	0	27	3	<b>36</b>	<b>3</b>
Oregon	5/16/00	Primary	9	1	47	0	<b>56</b>	<b>1</b>
Arkansas	5/23/00	Primary	8	0	37	0	<b>45</b>	<b>0</b>
Kentucky	5/23/00	Primary	8	0	43	6	<b>51</b>	<b>6</b>

Al Gore's website lies that he won all 45 Democratic delegates in the May 23 Arkansas primary. What happened to the 53,310 people—22% of voters—who voted for Lyndon LaRouche? Presto! They're gone!

dentials and legal battle, have told LaRouche campaign officials that Al Gore personally has put his foot down against any LaRouche presence at the convention. They explained, Gore has insisted that the entire nominating convention be a controlled affair, with no surprises, no slip-ups, and absolutely no signs of dissent of any kind. Otherwise, they said, Gore could crack up on national television, in front of millions of viewers, not to mention the thousands of convention delegates and observers who will be on hand in Los Angeles.

The problem, from the Gore campaign's standpoint, is that momentum inside the party is going in exactly the opposite direction. Senior Democrats, now including former Clinton Labor Secretary Robert Reich, have broken their silence, coming out publicly with harsh attacks on the Gore candidacy, not just focussed on his hard-to-find personality, but on the substance of his announced policies. As *EIR* reported last week, over the past several months, Reich has issued two written attacks on Gore and his losing ways, accusing him of pursuing policies to reduce the national debt that are to the right of Herbert Hoover. Gore's idea of paying down the debt, even in a recession, Reich wrote in *American Prospect*, is "worse than Reaganomics. It's Coolidgeomics."

On May 19, Jeff Faux, head of the Economic Policy Institute, a Democratic Party think-tank, told the *Washington Times*, "After eight years of being good soldiers, there are a lot of Democrats who are getting restless. We've been playing defense for so long, it's about time we had an inspiring agenda, and we haven't had that from Gore."

On May 30, "Friend of Bill" E.J. Dionne, Jr. penned a stiletto attack in the *Washington Post*, which began, "The 'Al Gore Is In a Huge Mess' story line is at least a month-and-a-half old. It's reaching its crescendo right about now as Democrats go public with criticisms of Gore's campaign, his failure to engage voters and his ceding public attention to George W. Bush. The problem for the Gore campaign is that the story line, broadly speaking, is true." Dionne wryly conceded, "Gore has succeeded in one thing at which Democrats usually fail: He's united the party across ideological lines. Unfortunately for him, the factions are united in a critique of his effort. Moderate New Democrats are no less frustrated than traditional liberals." Dionne proceeded to spike the Gore cam-

paing's latest candidate reinvention scam: "In the coming weeks, Gore plans to answer his critics by going positive, policy heavy and autobiographical."

So, when Gore and his wife Tipper showed up at a community center in the Friendship Heights section of Washington, D.C. two days later, with plastic grins on their faces, talking about "uplifting" and "deeply personal" matters, the belly laughs could be heard all the way across town at Republican National Committee headquarters. Dionne ended his piece with a dour warning to the "spinmeisters" at Gore headquarters: Either the poll numbers show a marked uptick by the Fourth of July, or Gore is sunk.

Indeed, throughout May, all major nationwide polls showed Gore nearly 10% behind Texas Governor and purported Republican Party nominee George W. Bush. But the real horror, for Democrats, was that Gore lost the most ground among the core Democratic Party constituencies, including senior citizens, youth, Catholics, and voters in the Northeast Corridor. And Gore was not helped by strongly worded threats from the leadership of the United Auto Workers and the Teamsters, angered at the Administration's support for Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China, that they might either sit out the 2000 general elections without endorsing a Presidential candidate, or, in the case of the UAW, bolt and endorse Green Party candidate Ralph Nader.

### A Rallying Point

Left to their own devices, the disparate Democratic factions that have concluded that Gore is the kiss of death for the party, would likely fail to muster the momentum to create a genuine open convention drive. But, with the LaRouche breakout in Arkansas demonstrating potential for a revival of the "FDR Coalition" of ethnic Americans, civil rights leaders, labor, small business entrepreneurs, farmers, and scientists, the chemistry now potentially exists to break the fix, and turn the August convention in Los Angeles into a genuine battle for the revival of Democratic Party of Roosevelt and Kennedy.

That may be Al Gore's worst nightmare come true. But for the American people, and for the world as a whole, facing the worst financial and monetary crisis in modern times, no news could be better.