

Australia Dossier by Allen Douglas

Vote fraud in Western Australia

As was done in the United States, the state election is being rigged to keep out the "LaRouche factor."

Frantic efforts are under way to exclude the fastest-growing political party in the state of Western Australia, the Curtin Labor Alliance (CLA), from appearing on the ballot in the state election expected early next year. Crucial indications are, that relevant state authorities are planning a form of vote fixing *before* the election, by ensuring that only Establishment-approved candidates are put before the electorate for consideration.

The election-rigging resembles what was done in the ongoing farcical election for the U.S. Presidency, particularly against Lyndon LaRouche. Fifty-four thousand of LaRouche's votes in the campaign for the Democratic Party nomination were stolen outright by Al Gore, in Arkansas alone. In Western Australia, the target of the vote fraud is the LaRouche-affiliated CLA, whose number-one "Fighting Platform" point is a call for LaRouche's New Bretton Woods.

A substantial portion of the electorate in Australia, both nationally and in Western Australia, is utterly disgusted with the pro-globalization policies of both major parties, the Australian Labor Party (ALP) and the conservative Liberal/National Party Coalition; given the option, many people would vote for someone else. It is in this context, that the Western Australia Electoral Commission (WAEC) has for months stalled and stalled, and changed its mind again and again, on the procedures necessary for the CLA to be certified on the ballot as a state political party. The following are merely a few highlights of the sordid process, which began on March 23, 2000, when the CLA first attempted to

obtain ballot approval from the WAEC:

- On March 23, the CLA submitted the 60 names of party members as required by the law as it then stood. On March 31, the WAEC Commissioner, Ken Evans, requested addresses, in addition to the telephone numbers submitted. On April 10, the CLA supplied the addresses, and the party should have been certified immediately thereafter, as had happened in 1997, with the LaRouche-affiliated Citizens Electoral Council, one of the major constituents of the CLA. The CLA did not officially hear from Evans for over three months; in response to repeated phone calls, his underlings first reported that the CLA submission had been "lost" and, then, that WAEC lawyers were "looking it over."

- On July 11, Evans finally replied to the CLA, with a letter which began: "I refer to your letter of 10 April 2000. I apologize for the delay in replying." Evans informed the CLA that he was likely to reject the name "Curtin Labor Alliance," because "it would appear that the name 'Curtin Labor Alliance' so nearly resembles the name 'Australian Labor Party' that it is likely to be confused or mistaken for that name."

That statement is absurd, because the two names are clearly not similar; moreover, a spin-off of the Australian Labor Party, the "Democratic Labor Party"—which, one might argue, does sound a bit similar—has been registered for decades, both in Western Australia and federally. However, the ALP is known to be hysterical about the emergence of the CLA; on June 17, ALP State Secretary John Haldon had

told the *West Australian* newspaper, that the ALP would apply to have the CLA's name struck out.

- During April 10-July 11, while he was stalling his response to the CLA, Evans was busily writing new legislation, which made it much harder for new parties to qualify for the ballot, by upping the required members from 60 to 500. The only parties exempted from the new membership requirements, *were those which already had a member in parliament*—a blatant attempt to maintain the *status quo*.

That legislation came into effect on Oct. 21; yet, when the CLA tried to submit the new figure of 500 names, Evans repeatedly refused to specify the correct form necessary for the CLA submission. After finally extracting the form from Evans, the CLA by Nov. 27 had submitted the names of 531 of its members it had signed up in a few short months, after Evans had rejected a further 160 members whose names he could not identify on the electoral rolls.

Then, rather than using the standard procedure of telephone calls to a sample of its membership, Evans decided to mail a request to all members, seeking written confirmation of their membership in the CLA; only after he receives 500 responses, will he begin phase two of the process: a one-month advertisement period declaring the existence of the new party, during which objections to the party's name will be considered—an opportunity to hold up ballot approval still further.

Since the election is rumored to be scheduled for as early as Feb. 3, and all party registration is "frozen" as soon as the election is announced, which announcement comes one month before the election itself (i.e., as early as Jan. 3), Evans clearly plans for the clock to run out on the CLA's registration, so that the new party will not appear on the ballot.