

LaRouche Rallies Democrats vs. Nazi-Style Emergency Rule

by Debra Hanania-Freeman

In the weeks following the disastrous Presidential campaign of the Democratic Party's anointed loser, Al Gore, the Democratic Party has been left in a state of complete disarray. With the sole exception of Bill Clinton, prominent national Democrats, from Senate leader Tom Daschle (S.D.) to The Rev. Jesse Jackson, have been engaged in a hysterical search for "consensus" and conciliation with a Bush Administration whose stated policies stand in direct opposition not only to the best traditions of the party of Franklin Roosevelt and John Kennedy, but to the founders of the Republic.

Increasingly, among those Democrats who recognize that the Democratic Party's year 2000 election campaign represented a terrible mistake, of substituting unprincipled political opportunism for policies designed to protect and uphold the principle of the general welfare, Lyndon LaRouche is emerging as the critical rallying point. He is central to the effort to save both the Democratic Party and the nation, from what would otherwise appear to be assured ruin at the hands of President-elect Bush's incoming apparatus. Nowhere has this critical shift been more evident than in the hours following LaRouche's Jan. 3 address to an international audience in Washington, D.C.

During the course of the Washington, D.C. event, which was also broadcast live via the Internet, LaRouche responded to a question from the Congressional Black Caucus regarding Bush's nomination of former U.S. Senator John Ashcroft to the post of Attorney General of the United States, by insisting that the Ashcroft nomination had to be stopped at all costs, including holding up Bush's then-pending certification by Congress unless Bush pulled back the nomination.

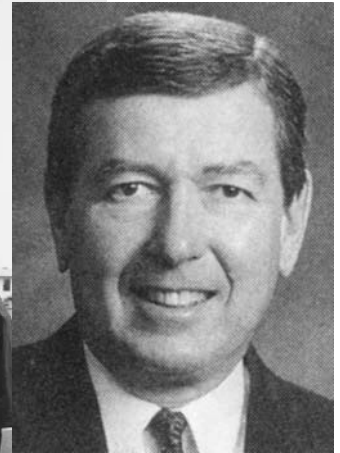
A Deliberate Provocation

Calling the nomination a deliberate insult and provocation, LaRouche compared the situation to that which existed

in Germany on Feb. 28, 1933 when, in response to the Nazi-orchestrated Reichstag fire, the famous *Notverordnung* (emergency rule) was established, giving the state the power to designate which parts of its own population were to be considered "enemies of the state," and to imprison and/or execute them under conditions of emergency rule. Thus, less than seven weeks after having been named as Chancellor, Hitler successfully established himself as dictator. (For the full text of the question, and LaRouche's response, see *EIR* Jan. 12, 2001, p. 77.)

LaRouche's answer startled the audience, and was clearly far more than the questioners had bargained for. Nevertheless, within hours, the situation on Capitol Hill was undergoing a dramatic shift. Prior to the LaRouche address, the Congress seemed to lack both the energy and the enthusiasm to mount any challenge to the incoming Bush regime. Indeed, rumors were that certification would not even require a roll-call vote, but would occur by simple acclamation. But, by midday on Jan. 4, a group of House members, most of them members of the Congressional Black Caucus, were searching feverishly for a member of the Senate who would sign on to a challenge, and force an immediate Congressional debate.

The momentum for this had also been fuelled by an earlier initiative by LaRouche and his supporters. As the 107th Congress was being sworn in, and LaRouche was throwing down the gauntlet on the Ashcroft nomination, LaRouche's supporters were on Capitol Hill acting on an initiative that LaRouche had launched a few weeks earlier. Every member of the House and Senate received a packet that included an Open Letter to Investigate Vote Fraud and Save the Constitution, signed by over 320 prominent Democrats, including a former member of President Clinton's Cabinet, several former Members of Congress, a former U.S. Senator, 126 state legislators, 40 labor leaders, and a host of others.



FDR-Political Action Committee demonstrates against the Ashcroft nomination outside the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, as Congress in joint session was debating the certification of George W. Bush's election. Black Caucus and other Representatives were about to walk out of the session. Inset: Attorney General-designee John Ashcroft.

LaRouche had launched the initiative at a Dec. 12 seminar, when he called for the formation of a special Congressional Commission to investigate what he referred to, as two compelling issues raised during the course of the recent electoral crisis: first, the question of the possible significance of evidence of willful misconduct in the case of the Florida Presidential vote; and second, the question of whether the kind of ballot confusion generated by the many types of ballot designs, and methods, used in Florida, was itself an impairment of the elections.

LaRouche had expressed his confidence that President Clinton, like President Grant in the 1876 electoral crisis, would be disposed to encourage such an independent commission. Indeed, amidst grave concerns about the legitimacy of an election fraught with numerous violations of the 1965 Voting Rights Act by both Bush and Gore, particularly in the midst of a global financial crisis of unprecedented proportions, support for LaRouche's initiative was immediate and overwhelming.

Gore Blocks Action

But, as LaRouche was seeking to rally his fellow Democrats around the need to return to that quality of leadership which FDR represented, including by announcing that he would seek the Democratic Presidential nomination in 2004, Al Gore clearly had a very different idea.

First, Gore tried to dissuade Florida Representative Alcee Hastings, who was an initiator of the effort to mount an objec-

tion to Bush's certification, to back off. When that attempt failed, Gore and several others began phoning Democratic members of Congress urging them not to attend the Jan. 6 Joint Session where the objection would be raised. Gore lied that there was no opposition to Bush, and that, in fact, there probably wouldn't even be a roll-call vote.

But Gore wasn't the only Democrat who had cut a deal with Bush. Apparently, in order to get a power-sharing deal with Senate Republican leader Trent Lott (Miss.), Democratic Senate leader Daschle had promised Lott that Democrats would mount no challenge to Bush's certification. On Jan. 5, Daschle convened what turned out to be a four-hour meeting of the Senate's Democratic Caucus to ensure that no Democratic Senator would back Hastings's initiative.

Daschle succeeded in stopping any Democratic Senator from stepping forward, but the Joint Session was anything but tranquil.

Democratic Protests

The first protest came from Rep. Peter Deutsch (D-Fla.), who made a motion for a quorum call. It was obvious to all present that there was not a sufficient number of members present to conduct business. Both the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* reported that less than one-third of the members of the House, and less than half the Senate, were present. Despite the fact that quorum calls are among the most common legislative maneuvers in the Congress, Gore, who as Vice President serves as the presiding officer of the U.S.

Senate, immediately gavelled the motion out of order!

Deutsch was followed by a dozen members of the Congressional Black Caucus, including Alcee Hastings (D-Fla.), Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Tex.), William Clay (D-Mo.), Maxine Waters (D-Calif.), and Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D-Ill.). Gore repeatedly swung his gavel, ruling that unless their objection had a Senator's signature, they were out of order. Finally, Jackson appealed to Senate Democrats, "Is it the case, that no Democratic member of the Senate will rise in support of this Democratic objection, brought by Democratic members of the House, on behalf of Democratic voters?" Silence. Again, Gore swung his gavel. Thirteen members of the Congressional Black Caucus walked out in protest, and immediately convened a press conference.

In that press conference (see report, p. 62), the visibly upset and angry Representatives delivered powerful and articulate statements slamming the rampant violations of the Voting Rights Act that were apparent in the Federal elections, along with the unconscionable role of the right-wing U.S. Supreme Court majority around Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Associate Justice Antonin Scalia. Four speakers made clear that there would be no peace for the Bush Administration, and specifically challenged the Ashcroft nomination.

Meanwhile, Gore joked with the House Parliamentarian, whose advice he had repeatedly invoked in silencing the Congressional Black Caucus, "Hey, thanks, guys! I always do well when I'm given a script." Gore also smiled for photogra-

phers as he autographed the gavel he had swung so freely on Bush's behalf for Dennis Hastert (Ill.), the Republican Speaker of the House.

The Ashcroft Nomination

Now, the focus has shifted to the mounting controversy over the Ashcroft nomination. Despite an attempt to rush Ashcroft's confirmation through with hastily scheduled hearings that are to commence on Jan. 16, the nomination is recognized to be in serious trouble.

LaRouche has thrown the full weight of his international movement behind the effort to stop Ashcroft, and opposition to the nomination is growing rapidly. Although Lott has threatened to nullify all power-sharing deals if Ashcroft is given a hard time, it seems that this time, Daschle has no chance of silencing Senate Democrats, who have no choice but to respond to the growing outrage of their constituents. Lott has insisted that he has the 51 votes required for confirmation. But, as we go to press, there is a growing threat that a group of Democratic Senators will defy Daschle and launch a filibuster. And, although Lott and Daschle may be able to find 51 votes in favor of confirmation, well-placed Senate sources say that they absolutely do not have the 61 votes they would need to quell a filibuster.

Testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee strongly opposing Ashcroft's nomination, delivered on behalf of Lyndon LaRouche, follows below.

LaRouche Spokesperson Tells Senate

Ashcroft as Attorney General Threatens Constitutional Rule

The following is testimony by Dr. Debra H. Freeman in opposition to the nomination of John Ashcroft to the post of U.S. Attorney General, as delivered to the Senate Judiciary Committee, Jan. 16, 2001. Subheads have been added.

My name is Dr. Debra H. Freeman. I appear before the Committee as the national spokesperson for Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., to voice the strongest possible opposition to the nomination of John Ashcroft as the next Attorney General of the United States. My opposition to Mr. Ashcroft's confirmation is shaped by two considerations that go beyond the normal factors that one would weigh, in considering a candidate for the top law enforcement post in the U.S. Federal Executive Branch.

The first of those factors is the extraordinary global finan-

cial and monetary crisis that will be the first and overriding order of business confronting the incoming Bush Administration, as even President-elect Bush and Vice President-elect Richard Cheney have limitedly acknowledged in public statements. The scope of the onrushing world financial and economic crisis, however, goes far beyond anything that anyone in the incoming Administration now anticipates, and it will require a dramatic reversal of most of the policy axioms that have governed U.S. official policy over the past 35 years, if the United States is to survive in its present, albeit weakened, Constitutional form. Unlike the so-called "Asia Crisis" of 1997-98, and the so-called "Russia" and "Brazil" crises of 1998-99, the epicenter of the current phase of global monetary and physical economic disintegration is the advanced sector, specifically the United States, with our skyrocketing balance