

# Carter official admits theft of 10,000 votes

by Kathy Burdman

The top Carter-Mondale official in California, state Democratic chairman Richard O'Neill, admitted to a reporter June 11 that he personally had ordered vote fraud in the state's June 3 primary against a Carter competitor for the Democratic nomination, Lyndon LaRouche. According to O'Neill's testimony, upon learning that LaRouche had been awarded 25 percent of the vote in Orange County (Anaheim), he consulted with Carter-Mondale supporters in Washington, D.C., and then approached the registrar of the county and ordered LaRouche's total reduced by 10,000 votes.

The connection to Washington has revealed what appears to be a "plumbers unit" for the Carter campaign, working out of the Democratic National Committee under Les Francis.

The figure first awarded to LaRouche, some 12,000 votes, was officially recorded by the state and announced to be adequate to earn him a delegate. After the recount, he lost the delegate.

The missing 10,000 votes, which the Carter-Mondale official claims were awarded LaRouche "by computer error," were not awarded to Carter or any other candidate. They have simply disappeared. The alleged "computer error" cannot be checked, since the computer's program was not filed with state officials as law requires. State officials say "it has probably been destroyed."

LaRouche spokesmen say that they have amassed evidence that the entire California Democratic primary was rigged. LaRouche was credited with 2 percent of the vote statewide. Highly improbable, he was credited with the same 2 percent in every county—and virtually every district—suggesting "a 2 percent formula for fraud." Moreover, in 12 counties where LaRouche had expected significant support, computer programs for vote counting were not filed with state officials—the same violation of law recorded in the Orange County case.

If LaRouche actually received a vote total in each of those counties proportional to the 10,000 O'Neill admits taking from him in Anaheim, the Democratic dark horse would have at present 15 delegates—and considering anomalies in other counties around the state, LaRouche suggests he won 150,000 votes, good enough for 35-40 delegates.

As of midnight June 3, LaRouche had 12,000 votes and one delegate from the 38th Congressional District. The California Secretary of State's report awarded him 25 percent of the vote, and one of the district's four delegates. Apparently, Carter-Mondale representative O'Neill took action 24 hours later.

O'Neill reports that he "mentioned" a delegate awarded to LaRouche which the Carter campaign would not be able to control. Peter Kelley of the Carter plumbers unit advised him to take care of it. He returned to California and contacted registrar Alvin Olson of Orange County, whom O'Neill refers to as "our guy." He was very confident that the Secretary of State would uphold the fraud. He was also very confident that "every judge in the state" will uphold the fraud, and be willing to do whatever registrar Olson indicates to them. They are "personal friends" of his.

By Friday, June 6, before news of LaRouche's misfortune had spread, a Democratic National Committee spokesman in Washington already knew. He told a LaRouche official: "You don't have a delegate."

O'Neill admits to coordinating his action with Washington. He told the inquiring reporter that he flew to the nation's capital June 4 to discuss LaRouche's delegate. He met with Les Francis and Peter Kelly of the "Campaign Support Services" unit of the Democratic National Committee. Together, they agreed to "recount" the LaRouche vote. O'Neill contacted the Orange County registrar to order the recount-subtraction of 10,000 LaRouche votes only after his return.

The "Campaign Support Services" unit has ill-defined responsibilities at the party's headquarters. LaRouche officials point to its role in giving O'Neill "clearance" for vote fraud, and charge that it is nothing but a Carter-Mondale "plumbers unit."

The California State Department's Office of Elections says that Orange County violated the state election code in not filing both computer programs used in the election. They filed only the "corrected" program that eliminated LaRouche votes. Moreover, even that filing occurred eight days late on June 11. The original "may have been destroyed," according to State Elections Assistant Ed Arnold. He also mentioned 12 other counties where things "just as funny" occurred.

One is San Luis Obispo County, where local and state officials have accused each other. County registrar Mibeth Wollman "refused to count the vote by congressional district altogether," state officials say, explaining why the vote totals came out in anomalous fashion—LaRouche showing poorly. But Wollman's office says that officials at the Secretary of State's office had called her election night at 7:30 p.m.—after the voting—and demanded a sudden change in the computer program for the Democratic primary only. She refused.

## *'I told him to fix it, and he did'*

*The following is excerpted from a reporter's June 11 interview with Richard J. O'Neill, California state chairman of the Democratic Party and also chairman of the Carter-Mondale campaign there.*

**Q:** The incident in Orange County, I don't know the details, I was hoping you could fill me in on that.

**A:** The computer went on the glitch here in Orange County, it malfunctioned and it came up with a vote of something like 12 or 14,000 votes for LaRouche in the 38th Congressional District, which I challenged. I said, "That's ridiculous," you see, this would entitle him to a delegate in California.

**Q:** You challenged it?

**A:** Yeah, and it was recounted and he came up with 2,000 votes. So he didn't get a delegate. . . . I went down to the Registrar of Voters and said, "What are you guys doing, this is crazy, he's averaging one to two percent of the vote and now he's come up with 20 percent. That doesn't seem right." . . . I went down there, I know the Registrar of Voters [Alvin E. Olson], and I said, "This doesn't look right. I'm going to want a recount." And he said, "Well, let me run it through again, we've been having trouble with the computer." And then he comes back and says, "Yeah, you're right, the vote was wrong that I put in the newspaper, it's 2,100 and something, instead of 12,200 and something." And that's the way it is now, he's working on it and when the figure comes out it'll be just 2,000 votes. When the official count comes out, it will show 2,000, which does not entitle him to a delegate. . . .

**Q:** Apparently the LaRouche people are discussing with the Kennedy people a joint effort for an open convention?

**A:** Let 'em. They don't have any delegates. They can't, I mean, I think the thing [Democratic nomination] is over with. I'm taking a stand here in California that it's a foregone conclusion that Carter will win . . .

**Q:** . . . You discussed this with Mr. [Peter G.] Kelly [Democratic National Committee Compliance Review Commissioner in Washington] when you were there the week before?

**A:** Oh, yes, I mentioned it to him. . . . I got there

[Washington] on Wednesday, [June 4] the day after the election and I said: "We might have a problem dealing with one vote," and I says, "I'll see to it when I get back," and I did. . . . I just went down there and talked to the Registrar, with our guy, and he said, "There was a mistake." So don't worry about it. I'd have absolutely no worry at all. *That's why the Carter-Mondale campaign isn't worried about it.*

**Q:** What will the Secretary of State do?

**A:** I'm absolutely sure the Secretary of State will throw it out. Because of past experience; they'd [LaRouche] have to demand a total recount and the Secretary of State has never authorized anything like that before.

**Q:** How do you know she won't this time?

**A:** They won't get any recount right here in my county, that's why. . . . He'd [LaRouche] have to come in here and challenge in the County Clerk's office here in Orange County and I don't think they'd give him the time of day. . . . They've got to go into court here in Orange County and the court wouldn't pay any attention . . . I know the judges and the people here, they wouldn't give LaRouche the time of day! . . . He'd have to go to court after we'd hand counted it—

**Q:** You mean these are personal friends of yours?

**A:** Oh, I don't say they're *all* personal friends of mine, but I know pretty well how they are; they'd go along with whatever the County Clerk said.

**Q:** But then when they demand a recount?

**A:** Let 'em, that'll cost 'em \$300 a day . . . I do not see any problem. I am not a bit worried.

**Q:** Twelve to 14,000 in that one congressional district was an error in the computer program? . . . It attributed votes due to the President . . .

**A:** [interrupts] It didn't take any votes away from the President or Kennedy; it just malfunctioned.

**Q:** It invented votes that did not exist?

**A:** Right.

**Q:** And gave them—

**A:** —to him, and to Governor Brown.

**Q:** And so when the program was fixed there were fewer votes?

**A:** Yes, yes.

**Q:** Net votes, altogether, total?

**A:** Yes, right, yes it dropped votes; the total vote was that much less . . .