

Texans rise against Carter on farm issue

by Vin Berg

"The American farmer has not abandoned Carter, Carter has abandoned the farmer. It no way should we reward a man who has caused the worst four years ever for the producer."

With those words, Marvin Meeks, president of the American Agricultural Movement summarized the sentiment that swept over the Texas State Democratic Convention last week. On June 21, the convention's 3,000 participants passed by overwhelming voice vote a resolution demanding that President Carter immediately act to stabilize farm prices at 90 percent of parity. A second resolution calling for an open National Democratic Convention this August—enabling delegates to nominate someone besides Jimmy Carter—was only narrowly defeated, despite the fact that 70 percent of the Texas delegates were Carter delegates.

The "open convention" move saw supporters of both Ted Kennedy and Lyndon LaRouche unite around the effort. LaRouche, who authored the 90 percent parity resolution on agriculture, addressed the convention immediately after its passage.

"Today," said the candidate, "the Texas State Convention has taken a bold step in contributing solutions to the dilemma of the American farmers which I can assure you will be picked up by other states."

Minnesota Congressman Richard M. Nolan, speaking before the convention's agricultural caucus one day earlier, said that "farmers are caught in the worst possible crisis. The reasons for these problems are not Carter's fault. Carter's fault now is that he refuses to do anything about it."

Nolan, speaking on behalf of Sen. Edward Kennedy, said that "I'm for 100 percent parity and an open convention." Nolan's call to open the Democratic Party convention put Kennedy delegates on the same side as LaRouche's followers who spearheaded a strong "open convention" move, backed by demonstrations on the farm issue outside the convention.

Marvin Meeks' AAM and other farm groups came to

the Texas Convention in a tractor parade, not only to fight for passage of the parity resolution, which guarantees farmers a fair market price to ensure continued production, but also to oppose Carter's renomination. Meeks, five other AAM leaders, and candidate LaRouche held a joint press conference at the Alamo after the tractor motorcade. Signs on the sides of the tractors read "Carter lies. Dump Carter."

How precarious Carter's support is, despite his nominal claim to a majority of Texas's delegates, was clear in the overwhelming voice vote for the 90 percent parity resolution—a measure the President has refused to consider, although, as LaRouche told the convention, "it is estimated we are losing 2,000 farmers a week." Carter's problems became even clearer around the open convention proposal.

That resolution, too, was passed unanimously by the Agricultural Caucus and the Rural Caucus on June 21, both of which were addressed by LaRouche. The resolution then garnered more than 800 delegates' signature, over the 20 percent required to bring it to the floor for a vote by the whole convention—by-passing the astonished Carter faction in control of the Resolutions Committee. After a bitter fight, it was narrowly defeated—40 percent voting for, meaning that at least 10 percent of Carter's delegates had also voted for an open convention that would free them to reject the renomination of the President.

That fact might be considered the more remarkable in that, although President Carter is not very popular anywhere these days, he has used blackmail, patronage and arm-twisting tactics successfully in most places to force delegates into line.

Those tactics were also used in Texas. On the very eve of the convention, 12 leading political, business and labor leaders in the state were indicted on Abscam/Brilab entrapment charges. The threat hanging over Democrats by way of that Justice Department action did little to quash dissatisfaction with the incumbent, however.

Dave Samuelson, an AAM leader who spoke at the Alamo press conference, stated that they are seriously watching the way LaRouche is fighting for greater farm production, industrial development and high-technology exports, and are seriously considering his candidacy. "We can put Kennedy, Carter, Reagan, and Anderson in a rowboat and sink it for all they have to offer us."

It was clearly a LaRouche victory. The dark-horse candidate from New Hampshire came out of Texas with the agricultural parity resolution, a strong showing for the call for an open convention, and 10 "uncommitted" delegates clearly favoring LaRouche as they head toward the Democratic National Convention in August.

LaRouche's address to Texas Democrats

On June 21, Lyndon LaRouche spoke before the state convention of the Texas Democratic Party. Earlier that day, the convention has passed a directive, authored by LaRouche, instructing President Carter to "act immediately to maintain the market" for farm products "at the 90 percent of parity which it is the President's legal power and duty to ensure." The directive was endorsed overwhelmingly by voice vote.

The following is a transcribed version of LaRouche's remarks to the Texas convention.

The job of the Democratic Party in 1980 as well as in 1981 is to mobilize its ranks, its organization, to stop the onslaught of an unnecessary depression—a depression which has rolled through our Northern states, creating 14 percent unemployment in many of the industrial states and which is now rolling down toward the sunbelt. Take our farm situation—we're losing 2,000 farmers, it is estimated, a week. That is not just farmers in trouble, that is our nation's food supply for 1981 and 1982 in trouble.

Fight for the farmer

Your convention has made a service to the entire nation in voting a directive to the administration to act on its standby powers to assure 90 percent parity at least for agricultural commodities. That will save the American farmer temporarily.

And I assure you—and some of you know me—that within the week there is going to be a nationwide caucus throughout the Democratic Party with some Republicans recruited to support it, to support the Texas Democratic convention's resolution on parity for the American farmer. A lot of labor and other people who understand that the fight for the farmer is just the beginning of the fight for many other portions of this population, will rally behind it as a place to begin a

general fight for unemployed and others.

We have a situation among our youth which is a moral disaster. In our cities we have 40-60 percent unemployment of youth. Youth who are undereducated, youth who are demoralized, who lack the education for the jobs that don't exist. We have to move on this.

People say there's no money to move on this, but that's nonsense. Every one percent of the labor force that is unemployed causes a \$20-25 billion increase in the federal deficit.

If we were to put even just 1 percent of the labor force in the ranks of the unemployed back to work, especially among youth, that would add \$20-25 billion to our present income under present tax structures. Four percent would add \$100 billion dollars. Six percent, which is achievable over the next 16-18 months, would add \$150 billion dollars. With \$150 billion we can give some tax relief to households, we can provide programs to get the country moving again.

No need for depression

There is no need for this depression. Right today at this moment, in Venice in Italy, there is a summit of the heads of state of seven nations. Our allies, people we should recognize as our allies, people who are trying to save the dollar and save the world economy—the President of France, Giscard d'Estaing, the Chancellor of West Germany, Helmut Schmidt—are moving to institute a gold-based measure to stabilize the world economy, to stop international depression and to get credit moving to begin developing the developing nations of this world where people are dying of famine and epidemic.

Let me give you just one indication of that. It's one of the things we've got to change. During 1979, the government of Zaire reported that its people are on an average food consumption per day of 800 calories. That's about two-thirds of what a concentration camp slave got in a Nazi concentration camp in World War II.

The International Monetary Fund and World Bank and the Paris bankers told President Mobutu of Zaire to cut the consumption of his population. And there is epidemic and famine. There is destruction of the nation of Zaire. The same condition exists in Uganda, and so far our government has supported those policies of genocide by famine and epidemic in many countries in the world.

Credit to rebuild the nation

That's not necessary. If we develop the countries of the world that want to be developed, that want our exports to develop their nations, we can increase their purchasing power and create jobs for ourselves. Our

allies in Western Europe are dedicated to that. We should be dedicated to it.

We can turn this country around, the way Franklin Roosevelt turned it around at the beginning of the war. We can do that any time we want to, if we get the leadership in Washington to do it.

All we have to do is get the credit back to the local banks to the projects that need to be done, building ports, building a modern steel industry, rebuilding our agriculture industry. We can put our youths and others to work, not at make-work but building useful productive things that will make this nation again a great industrial power. We lost 18 percent of our national economy over the last year, and we've got to reverse that.

We've got to go to European and Japanese allies—we've got to begin to cooperate with Mexico instead of treating Mexico as an enemy, which is the current policy of the administration. We've got to cooperate with Lopez Portillo. He needs \$40 billion more of capital imports a year. That will give us a lot of jobs. He's willing to produce the oil to buy those imports. So what are we talking about, in our present relation to Mexico?

India is one of the greatest development opportunities in the world. We can develop Africa, it will take us two generations, but we've got to do it and we can do it. By playing that kind of role in the world, we will finally have the moral strength, the allies and resources, so we won't have any problems in terms of our national security for ourselves or our descendants.

So let's do it. The one thing we must do, if we're going to have a next generation—we must reverse the policy towards youth. We must restore our public school system, we must teach science and the classics, so that we have children who come into adulthood who are able to work. We must provide the jobs and the educational programs to put our next generation to productive work or there isn't going to be a next generation after that.

New quality of leadership

We've got to get back to a moral sense for this nation. Every citizen, every child of this nation, has the right to be born and developed with a sense of self-development and a meaning and purpose to their lives. If we don't have a next generation, then everything we do in this generation doesn't mean anything.

What's needed at this time, in this nation, is a new quality of leadership. A President who speaks directly to the people and not through the newspapers. A President who leads in building constituency organization in this country. So that every citizen knows that the President wants people in the Congress and at all levels to represent constituencies. That we've got to do. Thank you very much.

'The farmers' dark horse'

The following report appeared in the San Antonio Light, June 21.

Angry farmers on their tractors paraded through downtown San Antonio Friday in protest of President Carter's agricultural policies.

The group, part of the "Farmers to Dump Carter" campaign, staged a joint rally with Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., a Democrat running for President, to show support for an open Democratic convention in August.

The farmers were among the scores of Texas Democrats meeting at the Convention Center to select 152 delegates and 77 alternates to the national convention in New York City.

Tim Richards, spokesman for the Citizens for LaRouche in Texas, said farmers are angry at Carter because he has not authorized the 90 percent parity they say they need to survive.

"About 2,000 farmers are going out of business every week," he said. "Carter has the power to enact a parity but he is not doing so.

"He is bankrupting us through high interest rates and he is not letting the farmers sell grain at world market prices.

"U.S. products just can't compete."

Richards added that Carter had "promised" to buy all the excess grain following the Soviet grain embargo.

"But," Richards said, "he lied. He depressed the price of grain."

Marvin Meek, national chairman of the American Agricultural Movement, said his organization was not formally endorsing any political candidate although it was against President Carter.

"We appreciate Mr. LaRouche," Meek said. "But some of our delegates will go with LaRouche, and some with Kennedy. But we are not endorsing anyone formally."

Meek said his organization also supports an open convention which he hopes will decrease the chances of Carter being nominated.

"We may have to go to the House (of Representatives) for a candidate," he said. "We may have to search for alternate candidates."

LaRouche, who arrived heavily guarded at the Alamo, said he supported 100 percent parity for farmers.