

## Agriculture by Susan B. Cohen

### A new farm-labor coalition

*It's not to be confused with Hubert Humphrey's ghost. It has the potential to transform the Democratic Party, and the country.*

**M**ost Americans are now convinced that it is not in the major media-managed dog and pony show that anything of significance in Campaign 1980 is taking place.

But the contention was borne out even more strikingly last week in California at a July 17 press conference where prominent California farm and labor leaders launched a drive to build a national farm-labor alliance for Lyndon H. LaRouche Jr. The "dark horse" Democratic presidential candidate is a rallying point against Carter-Mondale efforts to batten down the August 11 convention hatches for a Carter re-nomination. He has also become the spokesman for American System solutions to the country's economic ills.

But, but, the pundits will sputter, farmers are barely 4 per cent of the population these days. And besides, the consumer movement has captured labor since, after all, labor is concerned about getting cheap food. If you are inclined to agree, pay close attention to the following.

As we began to indicate in this column last week, some far-reaching changes are afoot in the American political landscape. The farm-labor alliance now in the making has nothing whatsoever to do with the Minnesota Fabians; on the contrary, this coalition has the potential to transform the Democratic Party and the United States with it.

The drive to build a national farm-labor coalition for LaRouche

was announced at a San Francisco press conference by national farm leader Art Wilson and labor leader Wayne Thomas.

Wilson, president of the California Farmers Organization, is one of five executive board members of the National Farmers Organization headquartered in Corning, Iowa.

Thomas, financial secretary of IBEW Local 617 and past president of the San Mateo County Building and Construction Trades Council, is chairman of the California Labor Committee for LaRouche, composed of 15 labor leaders from throughout the state.

Sharing the podium was Nick Benton, LaRouche's California campaign coordinator, who also spoke. The LaRouche campaign had brought the farm and labor leaders together.

"We support LaRouche. He is committed to rebuild the nation as an industrial power," Thomas told the press. "This is a program labor needs and can support." Thomas outlined LaRouche's commitment to develop nuclear power and a rail and starport system to realize the nation's potential for development and trade.

"We in the NFO have never heard any candidate come out the way LaRouche has for what agriculture needs—the cost of production plus a reasonable profit," Wilson told the press at the July 17 San Francisco event.

"We have to open the Democratic convention," he added. "I don't think most people in this country know how we actually elect our President. They don't know how the Trilateral Commission controls the election of the candidates. It is a disgrace. Carter has created these new rules to guarantee his nomination. They must be voted down. The people, if they really had their choice, I'm convinced, would nominate LaRouche."

Both leaders, who stated that the farm-labor movement for LaRouche represents in-depth support and is growing, stressed the need and responsibility of the United States to meet its potential as an agricultural and industrial power to develop and feed a hungry world.

They were united in identifying the Trilateral Commission control over both the Carter and Reagan candidacies, and in opposing Carter's attempt to railroad the Democratic convention into renominating him.

The two leaders called upon all Democratic delegates to reject the proposed rules changes, open up the convention, and "dump Carter." They also endorsed the call made last week by American Agriculture Movement president Marvin Meek, reported in this column, for a farm-labor demonstration at Madison Square Garden on August 10 to put the demands for 90 percent of parity, an open convention and dumping of Carter before delegates and the nation.

You might call the San Francisco press conference a tour de force if the same thing weren't taking place in many different places across the country.