
Interview: Melvin Klenetsky

Can anti-Kissinger Democrat LaRouche win the Pennsylvania primary?

EIR interviewed Mel Klenetsky, the campaign director for Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., on March 8.

EIR: Some people give your candidate, Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., credit for Mondale's upset in New Hampshire, though LaRouche didn't run in that primary.

Klenetsky: It was Mr. LaRouche's hardhitting campaign against the Trilateral Commission in the 1980 New Hampshire primary that enabled Ronald Reagan to beat Trilateral Commission member George Bush. And the LaRouche presidential campaign had an important impact in the 1984 New Hampshire contest, even though LaRouche did not run in it. The hatred for the Trilaterals manifested itself in the resounding anti-Mondale vote Feb. 28. Mr. LaRouche's Jan. 21 national TV broadcast in which Mondale was identified as part of a "fifth column" for the Soviet KGB was not irrelevant to the outcome.

We have always known that there's been a vacuum of leadership in the Democratic Party. The Harriman-Manatt-Kirkland wing of the party, which had placed all its eggs in the basket known as Walter Mondale, was now running roughshod and using thug tactics to get a Mondale steamroller going.

EIR: Your candidate did not enter the early primaries, which are usually considered to be crucial for winning the nomination. What is your strategy?

Klenetsky: The first two primaries we will enter are close together, Louisiana on April 7 and Pennsylvania on April 10. Louisiana just decided to have a primary, and we decided to go with it, but our major preparations have been for the Pennsylvania primary. Mr. LaRouche's goals have been two-fold: to initiate a candidates' movement able to implement policies that need to be implemented this year, *before* the election—policies concerning both the strategic issue and the economy. Mr. LaRouche's early exposure to the national electorate occurred with his two paid nationwide prime-time TV addresses Jan. 21 and Feb. 4, where he outlined his National Defense Emergency Mobilization Act as the necessary feature of a defensive beam-weapons program for the United States in a 1939-43 Roosevelt-style economic revival.

Mr. LaRouche has been encouraging the candidate-movement process and is happy to report that more than 2,000 candidates call themselves "LaRouche Democrats" and are running on his program nationally.

EIR: Democratic National Committee chair Charles Manatt claims that LaRouche is "not a real Democrat" and has called LaRouche's organization "bizarre" and "extremist." Is LaRouche a Democrat?

Klenetsky: Not only is LaRouche a Democrat, but thousands of his supporters are now running for office in the Democratic Party, and the LaRouche takeover of the party is occurring despite Manatt and Harriman's desperate tactics of slandering Mr. LaRouche and his supporters and trying to keep the policies LaRouche is promoting out of the party. Manatt and Harriman are appeasers. They are following the Moscow line on the nuclear freeze and disarmament questions, and have done as much as any group in the country to perpetrate the post-industrial society which has led to the industrial and agricultural collapse which threatens to make us a "former" superpower.

If LaRouche wins, Manatt and his minions will be ousted from power, and the Democratic Party will fall to LaRouche. That's the name of the game. Because of this situation, LaRouche wanted all the appeasers, "Snow Job and the Seven Dwarfs," to knock each other out in the early primaries, which is precisely what happened. First of all Manatt, Kirkland, and Harriman do not have control over the constituencies which have been increasingly disenfranchised since the McGovern race of 1972. More and more, the blue-collar worker, the American farmer, and your average citizen have watched with horror as the Democratic party was taken over by lesbian and radical caucuses.

What happened in New Hampshire was lawful—a grass-roots revolt against the symbol of this leadership grouping, Mondale. The vote for Hart was more of an anti-Mondale, anti-Manatt, anti-Kirkland vote. Very few people know Gary Hart. When they learn that he dropped his "pence"—shortened his name from Hartpence to Hart, and dyed his hair blond when he was McGovern's campaign manager, and advocates the same futurist policies as Benito Mussolini, most people will balk at getting on the Hart bandwagon, no matter how Pat Caddell packages this Colorado critter.

EIR: Certain media, not only in the U.S.A. but in Europe, have proposed that a deep economic recession brought about by Volcker's high interest-rate policy will topple Reagan's re-election chances no matter how repulsive the Democratic candidate is. Can you comment?

Klenetsky: Absolutely. There are two things that will lose Reagan the election. First is the re-emergence of Henry Kissinger as a factor in foreign policy, as witness his recent appointment to the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board and the use of his recommendations from the Kissinger Commission.

Kissinger is a liability to the entire human race and certainly to any presidential aspirant, a simple fact of life which Gerald Ford learned the hard way. His March 5 *Time* magazine piece calling for pulling U.S. troops out of Europe and eliminating the nuclear umbrella was clearly seen by Europeans as a policy which had to be designed or advocated in Moscow, coming out of the mouth of the biggest butcher that the Third World has known in the 20th century. To the extent that Reagan embraces Kissinger on the one hand, and allows Paul Volcker's economic policies to prevail on the other, he is risking the wrath of the electorate, if the economic blowout occurs in the next few months and the strategic situation worsens due to Kissinger's manipulations.

LaRouche, in opening the major part of his effort in Pennsylvania, will be using that important industrial and agricultural state, the center of our steel and farm industries, to rally citizens around the policies needed to get us through this crisis. As indicated by New Hampshire, people are in a state of rebellion against the existing party leadership. LaRouche will use the Pennsylvania primary as a rallying point for his National Emergency Defense Act to send shock waves through the Democratic Party and policy circles across the globe.

That process of rallying the population will escalate in all the candidate races of LaRouche supporters that begin to come on line and the primaries and caucuses that LaRouche is running in from then on: Nebraska, California, Ohio, Oregon, Maryland, South Dakota, and West Virginia, where LaRouche is currently on the ballot; and New Jersey, North Dakota, New Mexico, North Carolina, Idaho, Texas, Colorado, and other states where LaRouche plans to petition or fight in court to be placed on the ballot by the secretaries of state.

EIR: In 1980, LaRouche ran in the Democratic presidential primaries in about 15 states. His official vote totals were relatively low. Given the lack of media attention to the LaRouche campaign, how do you anticipate a substantial showing for him in Pennsylvania, which is key to your strategy?

Klenetsky: In the 1980 campaign LaRouche bought four half-hour prime-time TV spots to get across his message. We faced a hostile press then as now. The effect of those spots was a grassroots movement around LaRouche's policies.

That became the NDPC, which now has over 30,000 members and is fielding more than 2,000 candidates for public office; we expect the total to be 10,000 by the time of the November election.

The Manatt faction of the Democratic party is hysterical. The Democratic county leadership in Will County, Illinois, for example, is taking out ads for write-in candidates against the LaRouche slate, for fear that they now control already one-fourth of the Democratic Party in suburban Cook County. LaRouche supporters have already contributed more money to the LaRouche campaign than was raised in 1980 and he has already appeared on two half-hour TV shows and will appear on March 17 on a nationwide NBC telecast and five half-hour TV spots in Pennsylvania on the same night on different channels on March 17. Mr. LaRouche intends to capture the imagination of the Pennsylvania electorate by presenting the importance of Pennsylvania steel and waterways and ports and agriculture for the entire nation.

During this program the candidate will detail plans to open up unutilized capacity, even if it means doing so under the confiscation guidelines of the National Defense Production Act. Mr. LaRouche will address the problem of the Mellon banks and their foreclosure procedures against unemployed steel workers, and will propose to outlaw foreclosures until unemployment drops below 2%, all in the context of a National Defense Emergency Mobilization. There is no policy in the Democratic or Republican Party except Mr. LaRouche's that can save the nation. By media campaigns and a large volunteer effort and candidates movement, this message will get across, and we fully expect the population of Pennsylvania will rally to the LaRouche campaign.

EIR: Our investigations show that Mondale, Glenn, Hart, McGovern, and Jackson all have ties to Henry Kissinger in policy and overlapping sets of advisers and funders. Who are Mr. LaRouche's advisers and funders?

Klenetsky: Mr. LaRouche's rallying cry for the Democratic Party is a call to arms for patriots within the party to reforge the farm-labor-ethnic-industrial alliance that existed during the last period of the FDR administration. Mr. LaRouche has been in regular contact with regional and local leaders representing these constituents.

His campaign coordinator for Western Pennsylvania is former UAW Local 544 president John McCarrell, who sees the LaRouche effort as the only thing left for the party. Hulan Jack, the former borough president of Manhattan, a prominent spokesman in the black community, and a civil-rights leader of the 1940s before civil rights became fashionable, is among LaRouche's advisers. More than any other candidate Mr. LaRouche draws on a broad base of contributions from these constituencies that have no other institutional form of expressing their views than The LaRouche Campaign and the National Democratic Policy Committee, the political action committee of which Mr. LaRouche is chairman emeritus of the advisory board.