

## Elephants and Donkeys by Kathleen Klenetsky

### It's LaRouche or Roman circuses

The "bread and circuses" atmosphere which dominated the Democratic Party's presidential convention in San Francisco is rapidly infecting the rest of the party—even in supposed bastions of conservatism like Texas.

An early August meeting of the Harris County (Houston) Democratic Executive Committee bore far more resemblance to a Studio 54 disco party than it did to a political conference.

Acting in the same cynical spirit as the Roman emperors, the local party leadership attempted to draw attention away from serious political concerns by providing the 600 attendees with such diversions as a "break dance" performance and a Chinese dragon dance. Loud rock music was piped in throughout the proceedings—which were billed as a "unity fest."

But even this wasn't enough to prevent the local National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC), the political action group formed in 1980 by presidential candidate and *EIR* founder Lyndon H. LaRouche, from bringing real politics into the meeting—and upsetting the pathetic attempt at "unity" in the process.

A team of NDPC organizers blanketed the event with a resolution calling on the Executive Committee to denounce the racist, pro-austerity policies of the national Democratic leadership and to endorse NDPC leader Nick Benton for state party chair.

The document blasted the party leadership for its "discriminatory and arbitrary" rules "disenfranchising black and Hispanic voters" from proportional representation at the San Francisco convention, and for its support for the Simpson-Mazzoli anti-immigration bill. It further charged that party leaders used "strong-arm tac-

tics" and "intimidation" against convention delegates for the purpose of imposing "the nomination of presidential and vice-presidential candidates who advocate disastrous austerity policies . . . such as food shortages, medical care cutbacks, and tax increases."

### Unity, unity, where's the unity?

To the chagrin of party enforcers, the resolution was formally introduced by NDPCer Claude Jones, one of three LaRouche Democrats who had won positions on the executive committee and were sworn in at the meeting.

The NDPC team also distributed a petition charging that both Mondale and Henry Kissinger are tools of the international grain cartel, and are now engaged in a conspiracy to create massive food shortages in the United States and elsewhere by deliberately destroying American agriculture.

Despite attempts by party bigwigs to keep things under control, the NDPC intervention set off an explosion. One Jesse Jackson delegate to the San Francisco convention went up to the microphone to verify the NDPC charges, stating that the only word in the name "Democratic Party" that had any meaning at the convention was the word "party," because that's all that had taken place there.

When the meeting chairman tried to appoint this same individual to an "outreach committee chairmanship," he responded angrily: "Okay, since now you've appointed me, let me tell you a thing or two. We're not going to have any more of this cheating and intimidation at the caucuses," referring to the intimidation tactics which Texas Democratic officials had used to keep Jackson and LaRouche supporters from participating in the state presidential nominating caucuses.

Moments later, a pro-Jackson sen-

ior citizen took to the microphone to blast Mondale. Fritz "didn't have to do or say anything," he charged, "because he knew he had the delegates to win. We must never allow this to happen again!"

One attendee, a conservative who has been active in the Party for years, was overheard grumbling that "Hell, the Democratic Party isn't going to get near the White House for another 20 years!"

### Goons for Mondale

Given the widespread opposition to the Mondale-Ferraro ticket evident from the Harris County meet, it is not surprising that Manatt et al. are relying more and more on straight thug tactics to keep the Party in line. When Fritz and Geraldine, whose husband has an interest in a New York building housing one of the biggest pornography distributors in the country, came to Houston on Aug. 1, a gaggle of big, beefy goons were deployed by the AFL-CIO to make sure that no dissenting voices were heard.

That didn't stop the NDPC from sending a contingent bearing banners that read "Mondale Pals Are Kidnappers!"—a reference to the AFL-CIO's involvement in the kidnapping of anti-drug leader Patricia Londoño in Colombia—and distributing documentation of Mondale's fascist-austerity program.

The labor goons ripped up the banner, and one, sporting a Steelworkers' Union hat, attempted to eat an NDPC leaflet.

The thugs also pinched, shoved, and pushed a group of Right-to-Life demonstrators, who greeted Mondale and his running mate with banners and signs reading, "Catholics Don't Kill Babies: What's Wrong With You, Geraldine?" and "Geraldine's Business is Warehouse Smut."