

## Elephants and Donkeys by Stephen Pepper

### Anti-LaRouche efforts backfire on the Democrats

If the Democratic National Committee pursues its policy of persecuting LaRouche Democrats through the remaining primaries, the result will be a massive victory for the Republicans in November. Although the GOP is very vulnerable throughout the country, and especially in the farm belt, old and decayed industrial areas, and black wards, to win, the Democrats have to turn out a large vote in these areas. If a significant number of voters from these traditional constituencies stay at home, then the Democrats are doomed to defeat.

This is exactly what is happening with the notable exception of the turnout for those Democrats supported by the National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC). In states as diverse as Idaho and Pennsylvania, as Illinois and Texas, the NDPC-backed candidates have steadily increased their core vote, and have generally increased their percent in farm precincts, black and Hispanic wards, and areas of double-digit unemployment.

Since Illinois, the media have reported in hysterical terms that LaRouche candidates have been defeated. While it is flattering to the NDPC that its success be measured only in terms of victory, it is unrealistic. NDPC-backed candidates running for federal office have yet to approach in any race the \$5,000 spent that requires filing a report with the Federal Election Commission (FEC). Since it is the

conventional wisdom that one must spend at least \$150,000 to win a congressional race, rising to \$550,000 in an urban area, the fact that NDPC candidates have spent less than 1% of that figure, and have still polled 30% or higher in every two-way race where there is no incumbent, is so astounding that conventional politicians are incapable of accepting it as true.

In one encounter, for example, between NDPC-backed Jerry Belsky and his Senate opponent, former Carter aide Hamilton Jordan in Georgia, Jordan claimed that Belsky had violated election law because he had not filed his FEC report, to which Belsky replied that he was only required to do so if he had spent \$5,000, which he had not.

Not only have the NDPC-backed candidates accomplished their results without money, but they have done so in the face of a blizzard of slanders. Since Illinois, in every state in which the NDPC has fielded a strong candidacy, the state party chairman has spent as much to *attack* the candidate as he would normally on an election campaign, usually including mass mailings, press conferences, and paid ads. What could be more eloquent testimony to the strength of the LaRouche candidates' appeal.

The latest demonstration of this is the primary that took place in Idaho on May 27. The NDPC's Joe Stewart, running in the 1st CD with a campaign staff of two and a budget of \$500, carried 40%, or nearly 10,000 votes. However, Stewart was greatly helped to attract voters by a mailing that Mel Morgan, the state chairman, sent out to every registered Democrat in the district, in which he repeated every canned slander of LaRouche he could lay hands on.

Stewart, in a tongue-in-cheek press statement following the campaign,

proposed that the cost of the mailing be treated as a contribution in kind to his campaign.

Morgan's effort epitomizes the situation: By calling attention to the hostility with which the Democratic apparatchniks view the NDPC, their anti-LaRouche efforts have added to the LaRouche candidates' appeal to those voters most discontented with the present party leadership. The NDPC has consistently run ahead of the regular candidates under such circumstances: In Mercer County, Pennsylvania, Senate candidate George Elder finished second in a race of four, polling 33% in an area where the farm sector is hurting; Georgia Irey, NDPC-backed Senate candidate in Indiana, polled 32% statewide, but actually ran ahead of Jill Long in the depressed steel-town of Gary, 5,451 to 4,367; in Texas, Noel Cowling, candidate for Texas agriculture commissioner, polled 17% statewide, but ran over 30% in Bexar County (San Antonio), the heart of the Hispanic vote. In the same county, the NDPC-backed candidate actually won the race for county chairman, while in CDs such as the 16th in Ohio (Masillon, Canton) and the 4th in Indiana (Ft. Worth), where double-digit unemployment has existed for years, NDPC candidates ran 42% and 34% (in a three-way race), respectively.

What this adds up to is that, wherever there is, so to speak, a significant concentration of the Forgotten Majority—the name LaRouche has given to traditional base of the Democratic Party—the NDPC has run ahead of its average statewide total. To professionals who look at such variations more than overall results, this means that if the Democratic regulars don't find a way to treat the LaRouche movement other than as poison, they will lose in November.