

LaRouche to campaign in Washington state

by Mel Klenetsky

In the aftermath of the Democratic Convention in July, a forum which did not deal in any way with the issues crucial to our times, Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. and LaRouche Democrats around the country have taken on the task of providing leadership.

LaRouche, when asked during the convention about the prospects of a Bush or a Dukakis presidency, rated Bush as a zero and Dukakis a minus, painting a picture of imminent disaster should either of these candidates take the reins of government.

LaRouche has now accepted a call by supporters in Washington state, calling themselves Democrats for National Economic Recovery, to run for the presidential slot in the November general election. Debra Freeman, a leader of the LaRouche wing of the Democratic Party from Baltimore, Maryland, was chosen as his vice presidential running mate.

In Alaska, a similar effort is under way to place LaRouche and Freeman's names on the November ballot. These independent efforts, coupled with those of the LaRouche Democrats who are running in Democratic primaries and the general election, in congressional and state legislative races, are designed to provoke policy discussion, at a time when the Democratic Party has stifled all debate and abandoned the interests of the electorate.

LaRouche, during the Democratic Convention in Atlanta, from July 18-21, circulated a draft platform, entitled "Mastering the Grave Crises of 1989-1992." LaRouche supporters also attempted to place his name in nomination for the presidency, which would have given LaRouche or a delegate nominator the right to address the convention.

Democratic National Committee chairman Paul Kirk and Michael Dukakis used every dirty trick in the book to prevent LaRouche volunteers from placing their candidate's name in nomination, arm-twisting and threatening delegates to prevent their signing the LaRouche petition. On the day that the petitions were to be handed in, July 19, LaRouche held a press conference announcing he could not hand in the petitions, for fear that the signers would be victimized.

In an attempt to present an image of "party unity" to the world, Kirk and Dukakis muzzled debate and dissent on every level, going way beyond the issue of LaRouche's nomination. Claude Jones, Democratic Party chairman of Houston's Harris County, the second-largest electoral district in

the country, was astounded at the thug tactics used. Jones, a LaRouche Democrat, was forcibly removed from the Atlanta hotel where the Texas delegation was staying, after trying to speak to delegates about signing the LaRouche petition.

The candidates' movement

Jones pledged to bring the policy issues raised by LaRouche's draft platform back to his constituency. The platform discusses the policy disasters of the Eastern Establishment. That Establishment, while pushing regional power-sharing arrangements with the Soviet Union and corporatist austerity measures for the West, have misestimated the full dimensions of the AIDS crisis, the food crisis, and the forthcoming repressive measures and possible military adventures that the Soviet Union will take, once the food crisis translates into even more severe Soviet food shortages.

LaRouche Democrats George Elder and Donald Hadley, Pennsylvania congressional candidates, who, having won their primaries, will hold the Democratic slot in the November election, returned to Pennsylvania after the Atlanta convention and renewed their efforts at mobilizing the electorate around these issues.

Hadley, running in the Fifth Congressional District in Pennsylvania, reported back to his volunteers, mobilizing them for door-to-door canvassing activity. Speaking to the County Farm Association, the Chester County Executive Democratic Committee, and constituency groupings throughout the district, he has raised the issues of the farm crisis and the economy, the heinous policy of euthanasia, and the AIDS crisis.

Hadley's primary election victory caused pandemonium in the party bureaucracy, after he defeated the handpicked candidate of the Chester County Democratic Party. More recently, the party machinery decided not to battle Hadley, nor to run an independent challenge against him.

Elder, running in Pennsylvania's 21st Congressional District, has sought to enliven the campaign with actual policy debate. An article in the *Erie Daily Times* was entitled, "George Elder Trying to Bring Congressional Campaign Alive with Drought and AIDS Issues."

Another LaRouche Democrat, from California's 39th Congressional District, Don Marquis, prints up thousands of poster-style weekly campaign updates on the economy, AIDS, and strategic issues, and plasters them around the district. Mark Brown, a LaRouche Democrat campaigning in Ohio's 12th Congressional District, has similarly mobilized his volunteers.

Other Democratic primary efforts are under way from New Hampshire, where Robert Patton and Lewis du Pont Smith are running for 1st and 2nd Congressional District, to New York, Minnesota, Washington state, and Oklahoma. LaRouche Democrats are filling the policy and leadership vacuum that the Dukakis-Kirk mafia have presented to the American electorate.