

'Get LaRouche' task force stung by Texas vote

by Harley Schlanger

A political earthquake hit Texas on March 13, as hundreds of thousands of voters in the Democratic primary election cast ballots for candidates running as part of the "LaRouche Democrats" slate. These candidates, running for offices from local precincts to the U.S. Senate seat now held by Sen. Phil Gramm (R), were the target of harassment and slander by Lyndon LaRouche's enemies in the Democratic Party who worked with the national "Get LaRouche" task force right from the beginning of the campaign on Jan. 2.

In spite of the brutish and vicious tactics of their opponents, the central message of the LaRouche candidates got through to the voters—that we are heading into a depression collapse, and only the economic and cultural policies drafted by LaRouche can prevent this nation from a rapid decline into a dark age.

Two candidates won the Democratic Party nomination outright, as they were unopposed. Despite efforts to keep them off the ballot, Bruce Director won the nomination for Congress in the 22nd District, and El Dorado farmer Lester Dahlberg won the nomination for state representative in the 67th District. In addition, at least 20 candidates for precinct chair won their races.

Harley Schlanger received 25% of the vote statewide, more than 250,000 votes, in his race for the U.S. Senate, in a race in which his opponent spent more than \$700,000. Schlanger did not begin his campaign until January 1990 and spent less than \$10,000.

Schlanger campaigned extensively in rural areas, where farmers and those who live in small towns have been hit hard by the economic collapse which has devastated the Texas economy since 1983. During his campaign travels, he said he was shocked by the poverty and despair he found. Under President Bush's budget, rural areas face further cuts in health care spending, leaving residents in the Texas panhandle with a 100-mile drive to get to a hospital. Fertile farm lands in the state have become dry, empty fields, with swirling dust and swarming insects, as family farms have been shut down by Reagan-Bush policies. Schlanger's campaigning for LaRouche's Food for Peace policy, which would gear up American agriculture to stop genocide based on food shortages and would save the family farmer, helped him win more than 30% of the vote in many rural counties. These totals shocked the so-called experts, one of whom had pre-

dicted that Schlanger would be "lucky" to get more than 8%.

The strongest showing for the LaRouche candidates was in the Dallas-Ft. Worth (DFW) area, where one out of every three votes cast went to LaRouche Democrats. This was once a rapidly growing area of high-technology production, with SDI-related defense plants, computers, electronics, and aerospace firms, and a high percentage of scientists employed in research and development. As in the case of Houston, the collapse of the oil industry and the subsequent crash of real estate values triggered the demise of local banking and put an end to economic growth. The planned defense budget cuts of the Bush administration will plunge this area into total collapse.

The sleek, glass downtown skyscrapers are vacant, while residential neighborhoods are filled with empty homes and boarded-up apartments, as temporary shelters fill up with the homeless. Many children are hungry, as food banks ran out of food this winter. In races in the DFW area, the LaRouche candidates blasted the economic policies that caused this crisis, mobilized against the Bush defense cuts, and demanded justice for the victims of the Reagan-Bush economic policies.

Showdown in Dallas

The leading candidate in Dallas was Greg Witherspoon, a veteran civil rights activist who had finished second in a field of three running as a LaRouche candidate for Democratic Party county chairman in 1988. When he announced he would run again in 1990, a small clique of local Democratic Party leaders working with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL, also known as American Dope Lobby), tried to keep him off the ballot. In a precedent-setting legal case, a three-judge appeals court panel ordered that Witherspoon be put on the ballot.

The only issue in this race was Witherspoon's support for LaRouche's policies. His opponent, Molberg, who is a member of the State Democratic Executive Committee, used campaign appearances to spread every lie concocted against LaRouche. Molberg spent \$90,000 on his campaign (no one has ever spent more than \$50,000 for a campaign like this, and \$3,000 is considered a lot) to buy radio time to spread his filth. Witherspoon spent less than \$200, but was able to put the ADL and his opponent on the defensive, exposing them as part of the "Get LaRouche" task force.

Witherspoon received more than 36% of the vote. One of Molberg's cronies told the press that, if they had not spent the money, Witherspoon would have won.

In other major races in the DFW area, Belinda Holtzclaw received 35% of the vote running for Tarrant County chairman, while her husband Craig received 35% in his campaign for U.S. Congress in the 26th District.

In these races, the stronger the attack against LaRouche, the higher the vote total for the LaRouche candidates. In Montgomery County, north of Houston, Darrell Hansen, who was attacked by his opponent and the local paper for "trying to take over the Democratic Party for LaRouche," received 47% of the vote, losing by only 200 votes. Tom Grothe, in Parker County, received 40%; Terry Lowry, an oilman, received 27% in Midland County; Helen Portwood received 31% in Wichita County.

In Harris County (Houston), the anti-LaRouche Democrats carried out a special mobilization to defeat Claude Jones, who won the election for county chair in 1988, but was removed in a Stalin-style purge. So frantic were party bureaucrats to prevent a second Jones victory, that they ignored a candidate who was a transsexual and paroled murderer. They held Jones to 12%, but the transsexual received enough votes to get into a runoff, exposing the party-destroying tactics of party officials.

The size of the pro-LaRouche vote is a major blow for the "Get LaRouche" task force, which allies the U.S. Department of Justice with private agencies such as the ADL, and has conducted illegal operations against the LaRouche movement since the late 1960s. This task force has deployed millions of dollars in its attempt to crush the movement associated with the world's leading economist, and was able to jail him in January 1989 in a legal railroad so blatant that more than 800 American lawyers and legal experts around the world have intervened in his defense.

LaRouche, when informed of the Texas vote, said that these results demonstrate why the "Get LaRouche" task force still is continuing its vendetta against him, trampling on the U.S. Constitution along the way.

From his prison cell in Rochester, Minnesota, LaRouche said, "Despite all the lying propagand, despite the effort to smear me with these phony fraud charges, which were cooked up by a corrupt administration; despite all that, we are a major force within the American electorate still, and while we've been battered, we've been depleted, we've been robbed by the government, we've been robbed by others, our friends have been robbed by the government and robbed by others, betrayed by the government, which itself we did so much to assist in its hour of need . . . nonetheless, we've come through. We're still here, and we're going to become stronger rapidly. Because we have the basis for credibility; we have been right, those who attack us have been consistently wrong, on the most vital questions, especially the economic and strategic questions."

Thornburgh underling tied to drug dealing

by Our Harrisburg Correspondent

U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh may be politically crippled by revelations beginning to surface in the news media in Pennsylvania involving charges of drug dealing against a law enforcement official who served under him while he was governor, and a coverup by other state officials close to him. The attorney general has already made himself infamous for his so-called "Thornburgh Doctrine," which holds that the United States does not have to abide by either U.S. laws or those of a foreign nation when in pursuit of foreign nationals targeted by the Justice Department, and for his justification of the lawless U.S. invasion of Panama to the American people on the faked pretext of pursuing the war on drugs.

Richard Guida, a former deputy state attorney general under Richard Thornburgh at the time Thornburgh was governor of Pennsylvania, was reported on March 7 and 8 to have been under investigation by a federal grand jury since May of 1989 for sales of cocaine while he was in public office. The story was based largely on the first public statement by a grand jury witness, made at the office of her lawyer, Don Bailey, former Democratic State Auditor General who once subpoenaed Thornburgh in a corruption investigation.

According to an Associated Press wire story, "a former state prosecutor bought and sold cocaine while he supervised prosecutors whose duties included handling drug cases, an ex-dealer said she told the FBI. . . . Brenda Snell, 31, of suburban Harrisburg, said that on one occasion in 1985, Guida paid her \$17,000 in cash for one pound of cocaine. . . . She testified before a federal grand jury in Harrisburg last week . . . Sources said other witnesses have implicated Guida in the drug case and have offered evidence of alleged public corruption by *officials* who, they said, *covered for him* [emphasis added]. . . . Guida, now a defense attorney in private practice, characterized Ms. Snell's allegations as 'absolute lies.' . . . He left the office in 1986 amid allegations that he was a heavy cocaine user.

". . . Ms. Snell said she began cooperating with state and local investigators as an informant in 1986, and told members of a drug task force about Guida and others she had been dealing with. Others she mentioned were investigated, and many were charged after she sold drugs to them while wearing a body wire to record the transactions. But she said Guida's name wasn't mentioned again.