

Is David Duke a Bush Republican?

by Harley Schlanger

In March 1984, Lyndon LaRouche addressed the Louisiana Democratic Party state convention in New Orleans. LaRouche, who was a candidate for President in the upcoming Louisiana primary, told the delegates they faced a moment of decision. Unless they supported him and his policy for Hamiltonian financial reorganization, with a "war mobilization" crash program for recovery like that launched by Franklin Roosevelt in 1939-43, featuring long-term, low-interest credit to rebuild infrastructure, industry, and agriculture, the United States was heading for a deep depression and the Democratic Party for rapid dissolution.

Though his speech was well received, his candidacy was rejected. Walter Mondale won the Louisiana primary and the Democratic nomination, but was crushed by Ronald Reagan in Louisiana. In 1987, Louisiana Democrats backed former U.S. Rep. Buddy Roemer for governor, who defeated former Gov. Edwin Edwards.

With growing evidence of economic catastrophe in Louisiana, Roemer charted a course as a "reformer," rejecting economic emergency measures proposed by LaRouche Democrats, pursuing instead what he called the "Roemer Revolution." His revolution was nothing but a technocratic, free trade austerity regime combined with "good government," a form of administrative fascism favored by Bush and other "reformers" such as Governors Weld (Massachusetts) and Engler (Michigan), designed to sacrifice lives to save the banks and their debt structure.

While Roemer linked himself to Bush—going so far as to switch parties, becoming a Republican—the forecasts made by LaRouche have proven to be completely accurate: The state economy is in continuous decline, as is the outlook for the Louisiana Democratic Party.

The Duke 'phenomenon'

It is this background which explains the "phenomenon" which occurred in the primary election on Oct. 19, which seems to so baffle press and politicians, i.e., the large vote for David Duke, placing him in the Nov. 16 runoff with former Governor Edwards. Roemer finished a poor third. Pundits who marvel at Duke's vote (he received 32%, Edwards 34%), pronouncing themselves "shocked" that his support did not show up in the polls, are playing into the "former" Nazi/KKK grand wizard's hands, building up a mystique

around him.

Duke's vote comes almost entirely from disgruntled white voters, who are enraged by the collapse of the state's economy. Although the White House is promoting the idea that the economy has recovered, and Roemer has been touting his "efficiency" in budget cutting, there were more than 148,000 officially unemployed in the state (7.7%) in August, with a \$1 billion budget deficit looming for fiscal year 1992. Since January, 17,519 unemployed have exhausted their benefits, with an equal number expected to do so from September to the end of 1991.

Duke's campaign theme is honed to appeal to the fears of these voters who are falling from the ranks of the middle class, who see no alternative program on the horizon. While not overtly appealing to racism as he once did (Duke describes his past as "youthful indiscretion"), his appeals for less government, lower taxes, smaller bureaucracy, and an end to affirmative action and "quotas" win him the support of the racists, who see these as minority-bashing issues, as well as of those who are merely desperate. The former make up his open supporters; the latter are too embarrassed to admit to the pollsters that they will vote for him.

This explains the much-commented-upon Duke "phenomenon."

Duke and Bush: the same agenda

There is much more to David Duke, however. He has a past which includes rumors (which he himself feeds) of ties with both the State Department and the Central Intelligence Agency, revolving around time spent in the CIA-linked Agency for International Development in Laos.

Further, investigators report that Duke's career has been promoted by high-level Scottish Rite Freemasons, who coordinate their activity with the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. ADL leaders have scheduled a meeting for the weekend of Oct. 26 to map out plans against Duke. In the past, ADL deployment into Louisiana against Duke, such as sending the New York-based terrorist and FBI informant Mordechai Levy into the state to oppose Duke's 1989 race for state representative, has aided Duke, who asks Louisianans to reject such "outside intervention."

Duke's polarizing program and tactics, which feed into the activation of ADL-linked and controlled networks, are similar to those of President Bush, even though Bush campaigned for Roemer and contributed large sums to his campaign, and has expressed dismay over Duke's success.

Both have attacked, repeatedly, civil rights bills and "quotas." Both favor population control measures and oppose Third World development, backing instead anti-growth "environmentalism." Both use racist appeals—remember the Bush "Willie Horton" ads? And there is the unresolved question of possible CIA ties to Duke.

These similarities have led some in Louisiana to conclude that Duke is, in fact, a Bush Republican.