

## LaRouche wins delegate in Louisiana primary

by Debra Hanania-Freeman

The final tally of votes cast in the March 12 Louisiana Democratic Presidential primary, certified by the Louisiana secretary of state, confirms that Lyndon LaRouche did indeed receive over 15% of the vote in Louisiana's 6th Congressional District, which, according to the 1996 Delegate Selection Rules adopted by the Democratic National Committee, entitles him to one delegate and one alternate delegate to the Democratic National Convention.

Since the LaRouche campaign did not file a slate of delegate candidates prior to the March 12 primary, campaign officials have asked the state party to convene a special post-primary procedure, as mandated by the National Delegate Selection rules, so that the LaRouche delegate and alternate may be selected. As of this writing, however, the state party has been unable to confirm that it will administer the special post-primary procedure, even though March 30 was the date that had been set for the first round of House district caucuses to elect district-level delegates and alternates.

### DNC's Fowler: 'Disregard LaRouche's vote'

What is at issue, is not whether LaRouche's vote entitles him to a pledged delegate and alternate. State party officials are not disputing LaRouche's vote. The problem is that the Louisiana Democratic State Central Committee is operating under a directive issued by Donald L. Fowler, the National Chair of the Democratic National Committee, on Jan. 5, 1996, which states that "state parties, in the implementation of their delegate selection plans, should disregard any votes that might be cast for Mr. LaRouche, should not allocate delegate positions to Mr. LaRouche, and should not recognize the selection of delegates pledged to him at any stage of the Delegate Selection Process." According to Fowler's directive, "This determination is based on Mr. LaRouche's expressed political beliefs, including beliefs which are explicitly racist and anti-Semitic. . . ." Chairman Fowler knows, as does the Louisiana Democratic State Central Committee, that these charges are scurrilous and flagrant lies.

If Louisiana Democratic Party officials comply with Fowler's demand, Lyndon LaRouche will be deprived of the delegate and alternate to which he is entitled, but, more significantly, 3,995 Democratic voters in Louisiana's 6th Congressional District will be completely and unlawfully disenfranchised, as the votes they cast for the candidate of their choice, are simply disregarded. And, while legal experts agree that such an act would almost certainly stand as a gross violation of the U.S. Constitution in and of itself, the issue becomes far more complicated when viewed in light of the U.S. Voting Rights Act. Although only 14% of the 6th District's total



*Lyndon LaRouche speaks to journalists in Norfolk, Virginia, March 29, 1996. Donald Fowler, National Chair of the Democratic National Committee, is telling party officials around the country to "disregard any votes that might be cast for Mr. LaRouche."*