
Reuters' Censored Interview

LaRouche: The economic crisis is the major issue of my campaign

Since the beginning of the primary season, the double-digit percentile tally for Democratic pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche in numerous Presidential primaries, was secured despite a total blackout of the LaRouche campaign by every national television and print news medium. The only near-exception to that rule, was two appearances by Reuters news agency, once at a Wilmington, Delaware news conference, prior to the Delaware primary, and again, immediately following LaRouche's achieving the level of vote of the much-covered Steve Forbes, in the California primary. The interview, conducted on March 27, never appeared. For that reason, the reader may be interested in the following excerpts from the "spiked" interview conducted by Reuters' Los Angeles correspondent.

Q: This is Matt Sptalnik; I'm a bureau chief for Reuters News Service in Los Angeles. . . . Thank you for getting on the line with me, of course, I appreciate it. I just wanted to get your views on the results of the California primary yesterday. It looks like your campaign pulled in a fairly substantial number of votes. . . .

LaRouche: Okay. Oh, I'm not surprised by the fact of the large vote in the range of 150,000-200,000 in California. It's what I expected.

Q: Are you pleased with that number?

LaRouche: Well, I'm pleased with it, I think, you know, if you take two factors into consideration, which affect it very much: First of all, we've been under attack by the Democratic National Chairman, Don Fowler, and his crew in the Democratic National Campaign Committee, though not so much from the other leaders of the DNC and Democratic Party.

But, more significantly, from the standpoint of influence over elections, there has been not a stick of coverage of my campaign by any of the national *print*, or television, media. . . . Despite the fact that I've been running as the only significant campaign, nationally significant campaign, on the same slot with President Clinton. So, there's no coverage.

If those two factors were not there, I think you'd see very clearly that my vote, on the one side, would be as significant in numbers, or percentiles, as Pat Buchanan's was, or has been, on the Republican side. It's about the same thing; and, if you make that comparison, then a lot of the things about it

are more clearly understood—even though I have rather large differences with Mr. Buchanan.

Q: Well, you know, the Democratic Party establishment, the ones that I've spoken with today, say you're basically just a fringe candidate, and that they had campaigned against you, and pointed out your criminal record and some of your views, that—

LaRouche: That's Don Fowler; and the letter which he's issued, from which that is taken, contains some, not only merely lies, but some damnable lies, and there's a big fight in the Democratic Party about that, which is—does not pertain to personality as such—it pertains to issues. There are a lot of us in the Democratic Party, typified in the Congress by, oh, say, Congressman Gephardt, Senator Kennedy, Senator Daschle, Senator Bingaman, Obey, and so forth—particularly on the Democratic Policy Committee side, which is in opposition to what Fowler's saying.

And, the issue is, whether the *economic issue* is the major issue of the campaign. And, not merely of the campaign, but of national policymaking. So, the issue is between what Newt Gingrich, or Richard Armey, or similar people represent, on the Republican side, as opposed to what *we think* the Democratic Party should represent, addressing the fact, that we have a collapsing world economy, while 10%, the upper 10% of the U.S. income brackets, are exploding in income, and the lowest 60% are sliding toward destitution.

And, that is our issue, and I think that's where—apart from the fact that I have a core appeal of about a half-million supporters in the U.S. population even before the election campaign started—that this fully accounts for it, that with any national press coverage, despite the fact there is no sense of personal rivalry between me and the President, I would probably get about 25-30%, and would have gotten it pretty much the way Buchanan took his vote on the Republican side.

Q: You would have gotten 25-30% under what sort of circumstance?

LaRouche: The national press coverage: If the national press had done normal coverage of what anybody, a candidate with large single digits or allowed double digits, would have received; but, there was not a stick of reporting. So, many voters didn't come out because they didn't really realize I was

on the ballot; otherwise, they would have come out and voted.

Q: Because they didn't realize it.

LaRouche: Secondly, you have the Democratic National Committee, as evinced by what you reported, which comes out of Don Fowler, the national chairman, who, together with a small group in the Democratic National Committee, has been running pretty much a *hate* campaign against me during this process, and threatening various committees that they should do things that deter me from getting votes or running.

Q: Okay. Does this say something about the fact that, you know, you were running against an incumbent President, who is unopposed except for yourself, and you got 160,000 some-odd votes—

LaRouche: Yes.

Q: Does it send a message to Clinton and say something about him?

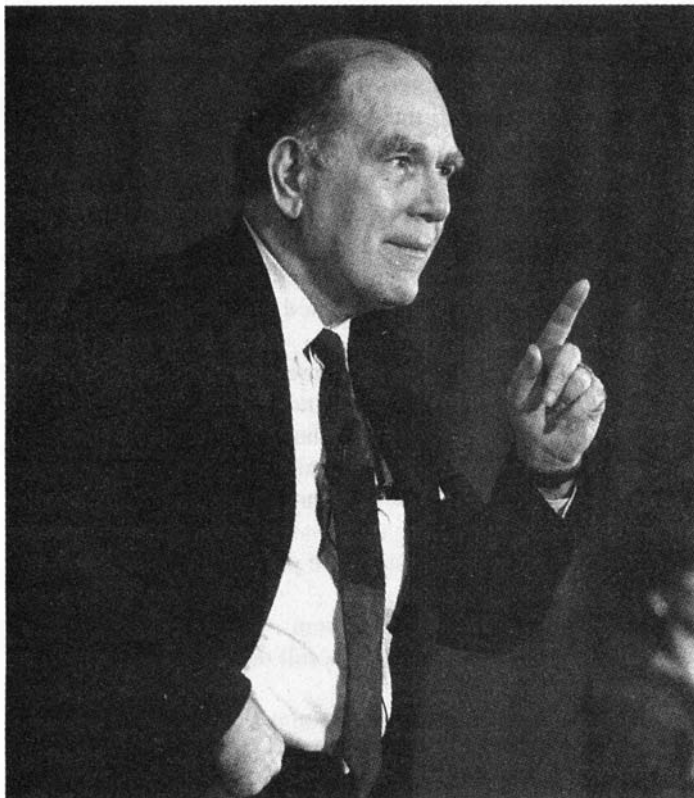
LaRouche: Well, not in the way that most people would think about protest candidates. This is not a protest candidacy. This involves something which is much larger than the election, though this election is very important. It involves the question of what is the *policy* of the United States going to be, or the policy-shaping matrix, or the, shall we say, the underlying belief structure, of the United States' political process during this and the coming period. That's what's at issue.

What this demonstrates is that, all things considered, what I represent controls probably 10%, approximately 10% of the Democratic vote for the general elections. And, that does, of course, send a signal: Without those who support me, the President probably couldn't win. Secondly, it indicates that what I'm saying on the economy, has touched off a spark within the population, which coincides in large degree with the same thing you might read in the papers of the Bingaman-Daschle report, or the statements of Senator Kennedy, or the statements of Obey from Wisconsin, Dorgan from North Dakota, and so forth; it's the same thing.

So, this crowd, us, within the National Policy Committee of the Democratic Party, are strengthened by saying, "Okay, look, he's running, he's demonstrating against these adversities that these ideas *sell*, let's go ahead." That's the kind of message it sends, as opposed to some protest, you know, kind of thing.

Q: Tell me, I mean—there is, of course, there's been much debate about some of the theories that you have espoused—

LaRouche: Well, not necessarily. I think, if I've got your message correctly, what you're referring to, is what has been said about me, in, oh, I should say, over the past 14 years, in the international, leading news media—which has virtually no correspondence to anything I've actually said or done; as a matter of fact. So, I don't espouse what the news media has advocated I should believe, I have my own beliefs, which—



Left: Lyndon LaRouche campaigns in Norfolk, Virginia, on March 29, 1996. Above: Democratic National Committee Chairman Donald Fowler. Fowler's directive to Democratic Party officials, telling them to "disregard any votes that might be cast for Mr. LaRouche," contains not merely lies, "but some damnable lies," says LaRouche, "and there's a big fight in the Democratic Party about that."

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Q: Have you in fact, espoused the theory that Queen Elizabeth is involved in, somehow connected to, international narcotics traffic?

LaRouche: That was done by a reporter for NBC from Chicago, and picked up by the NBC network, and spread all over the place. That was not what I said. This reporter came to me in '82 and asked this question. I said, "Of course not." I said, "She obviously is not pushing nickel bags on the street corners of New York City and things of that sort. There is a problem, though, in the question of the money-laundering problem, in which she is not taking as aggressive an attitude as she should, as head of state of the United Kingdom and some other territories in the world." And that's what I said, and that's what I've always said.

Q: But, nothing that she's, in that sense, that she's somehow in league with the—?

LaRouche: Well, the point is, that I never get into this kind of stuff, because, why should I say things, of which I do not have direct knowledge? I have a great number of things of which I *do* have direct knowledge, and I say those things; why should I bother stretching things out and saying things which I don't have the evidence to support?

Q: And there was another, I think, at least reports, that somehow you had suggested that Henry Kissinger was somehow involved in spying for the, I guess, the then-Soviet Union?

LaRouche: No, no, I didn't say that. I said that he was what *he* said, in his Chatham House address of May 10, 1982. In July of that year, I issued a comment on this subject at some length, stating that this, what he stated—when he said he had been an agent of the British Foreign Service, and gave this address at Chatham House, in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the establishment of the British Foreign Service, and said that he, that his, this belief, his attachment to the British Foreign Service's views, was predicated by his confidence in Churchill's view on the Franklin Roosevelt-Churchill dispute during the war, and he went on at some length to dilate that. And, I said that, I said here's a guy who is a professed agent of a foreign country, Britain, who has often been *alleged* to have Soviet connections, but that quite misses the point. That he may have had many things, it is clear, but essentially, he's professed himself to be, with supporting evidence to buttress his claim, that he's been de facto an agent

of influence of the British Foreign Service, since Harvard days under Wilton Park. . . .

This is the stuff that the press says—

Q: Do you feel that international bankers are somehow involved in a plot to destroy the world economy, or something?

LaRouche: Well, I don't know, that's crazy. I mean, that's not the right way to put it. The point is, look, there is, there has been a quarrel on this planet: Today there are only four major powers in the world: the United States, as a nation-state; what the British oligarchy represents—not the United Kingdom, but the entire British influence, the Commonwealth and so forth—that's a major power; Russia is still a power, despite its reduced circumstances; and China's a major power.

Now, everything else in the world, at its best, is second tier. Therefore, in this conflict, there is a policy conflict between two tendencies in international policy, apart from the fact that Russia and China both have their own peculiarities, but they're major powers.

The question is: Are we going to continue with the nation-state, as the highest authority, political authority, on this planet, as an institution, or, are we going to something like "the world government" in the guise of the United Nations, or something of that sort? And, that's the major issue. There are those who would like to have no more nation-state. There are plenty of them in our State Department, you don't have to go to the British Foreign Service to find them: You can find them in the State Department—and in some parts of our military—who believe that the United Nations—

Q: What is your belief in that area?

LaRouche: I'm a strong fighter for the nation-state. You might say that, for me, it's in the tradition of the fight of the heritage of Solon of Athens against Lycurgus in Sparta, and I stand with Solon. That's the nut of the issue, eh?

Q: Okay. How many states are you competing on the ballot in?

LaRouche: Twenty-eight, about. . . . It fluctuates one or two, plus or minus, because there's still some up for grabs.

Q: And, you're continuing through the convention?

LaRouche: Oh, absolutely. It is a policy issue, as described in the weekly publication of which I am contributing editor,

in the March 29th issue; this is a battle for the soul of the Democratic Party, but also for the nation. So, that fight goes on, the President seems to be a shoo-in for renomination, but, the fight goes on, on the issues.

Q: Okay. And will you, in fact, be attending the Democratic Convention?

LaRouche: Oh, I intend to. Yes. I intend to get as much support as I can going in there, as possible.

Q: And you said that you believe that you represent a 10% slice of the Democratic electorate?

LaRouche: I think that's what the vote indicates, the vote across the nation. We're getting into double digits in a good part of the states. We're getting it more frequently on the county and district levels, double digits, sometimes 30% or higher.

Q: Could you see yourself putting your support behind Clinton, under any circumstances?

LaRouche: Oh, sure. I mean—as of now, I've always had the view that I would wind up supporting him for the Presidency. The question is, what kind of a motor are we going to put in the car?

Q: Are you looking for any specific platform statements or participation in the convention?

LaRouche: Not that, no. I don't play that type of cheap-shot game. I don't believe in it. I think the question is, as to policy, there are two things: a policy as being stated by Senator Kennedy, Senator Daschle, and others in the Democratic Policy Committee group, on economic policy. I agree with that direction; I will support that direction.

What they are not yet prepared to accept, of which I'm persuaded, is that we are in the final phase, the terminal phase, of the disintegration of the present international monetary and financial system, and that the United States, as the principal power of this world, will not only have to clean up its own house in this matter, but will have to take a leading role in bringing together principal and other powers of the planet, to set up a new monetary system before this thing disintegrates. And, that's the one area which other people in the policy committee will be looking at.

Q: A release from your office back in January, that your feeling was, that we're on the verge of such a financial, world financial collapse, even before the election?

LaRouche: Well, it could, it could happen. The point is, when does it go off? I mean, if France and Japan go at the same time, can the system stand the storm?

You have these fellows, if you note, on the European side of the economics side: They're all screaming that the function of the IMF, now, must not be a regulatory function in the ordinary sense, but the IMF has got to get its facts together

and pick out potential Mexicos before they occur. So, the great concern, in all these institutions, is precisely what I'm saying: The system is about to go, it *can* go; regulatory measures may delay this, or that, crisis; but, in the long run the thing is going to happen—unless we take rather, shall we say, axiomatic action, before that occurs.

Q: Why do you think that you have re-raised the ire of the Democratic Party establishment, to such an extent that you do?

LaRouche: Well, you know, it's just like any country in the world: Our country is run by establishments. You have powerful families and related interests, often associated with financial power, which sit behind the stage and often orchestrate with their money and influence, the things that happen on stage. Now, there's a certain element in both the Democratic and Republican Party—and I have friends on both sides of the aisle—but there's an element there, which it crosses, say, the Harriman interests; and, some of what used to be called the Morgan interests—which is typified by George Bush. Then, you have "Bush Democrats," just as well as you have "Bush Republicans."

And, that's the kind of problem which I have: these fellows that considered me a threat. They think that my influence is altogether too great for their nightly comfort, and, in 1982, when they perceived that I was influencing the policy of the United States, and a number other governments, on some monetary questions, economic questions, and what's more specific, the SDI: They blew the lid, and said, "Let's get rid of this guy, he's becoming altogether too dangerous." It's that simple.

Q: Is this number—I have 162,656—is that the largest chunk you have received in any primary this year?

LaRouche: So far this year. We've gotten 80,000 and so forth, in a couple, in the large states, something like that. So, we've had a lot of double digits, a whole string of double digits.

Q: Could this be the biggest you've had, ever, in your runs? Or, is this the—

LaRouche: Well, I'd say that the 1996 results in the primary, are the largest—by far, by orders of magnitude—it's the largest turnout we've ever had in primaries. . . . I'd say an order of magnitude is about right.

Q: Where are you calling from, now?

LaRouche: Oh, out in Virginia, Northern Virginia—I reside in Virginia—where I work.

Q: In Virginia, what city or town?

LaRouche: I'm working out of Leesburg. . . .

Q: Okay. Well, then, thank you very much for your comments. . . . They're interesting, I appreciate your help.