

# The Reform Party: America's bread and circus for the coming collapse

by Marianna Wertz

If “red-blooded” Americans knew anything about history, the Reform Party, which met over the July 24-25 weekend in Dearborn, Michigan to elect officers and prepare for the year 2000 elections, would be run out of this country on a rail. But most “red-blooded” Americans today, especially the type who prided themselves on rubbing shoulders with billionaires Ross Perot and Donald Trump at the convention, don't know history, and, in fact, don't think they need to. “If Jesse ‘the Body’ Ventura,” who now effectively runs the Reform Party, “can be Governor of Minnesota, then all I need to know is how to get the government off my back,” they boast.

As the Roman Empire collapsed, its oligarchy entertained the increasingly unhappy masses with what it called “bread and circuses” — in which Christian and other unwelcome sorts were fed to ferocious animals before blood-lusting crowds. These spectacles were intended to pacify what otherwise would have become a mass movement of enraged “populists” seeking to tear apart the Empire. A similar policy was implemented by the British-run leaders of the 1789 French Revolution, who unleashed the *sans-culottes* (literally, those unable to afford trousers) to guillotine the leading French scientists of the day, in the name of “the People,” to guarantee that the French Revolution would never move in the direction of the earlier American Revolution, and throw out the oligarchy altogether.

With the collapse of the global financial system now under way, Lyndon LaRouche warned a conference of his movement in Germany on the same weekend (see *Feature* in this issue), that we have the opportunity now to organize around his well-founded program of hope, or, if we don't, we'll see the equivalent of a new Hitler movement emerge. One option for that new Hitler movement is what London and Wall Street's Conservative Revolutionaries are preparing in the Reform Party.

The Reform Party has two distinct advantages for performing this role: It is on the ballot in all 50 states, as a result of Ross Perot's receiving 19% in the 1992 Presidential election and 8% in the 1996 election; and its Presidential candidate will automatically qualify for \$12.6 million in Federal money for the election, as do the Democratic and Republican nominees.

## Blood in the streets

The Reform Party is organized on one principle: blind rage. The only idea that unifies party members, who range in “philosophy” from LaRouche-hating communist-lesbian Lenora Fulani to supporters of Pat Buchanan, is anger at “the government.” But the question of what should be done — what “well-founded program of hope,” as LaRouche put it, should be implemented — is taboo. Tom McLaughlin, the Pennsylvania state party chair, told the Associated Press at the convention that the party can only be unified on negative issues, such as balancing the budget, reducing the national debt, and campaign finance reform. “Social issues,” i.e., those which require thought and compassion, should be left for the individual candidates to decide, he said.

The rhetoric of Jack Gargan, 68, just elected Reform Party chairman as Ventura's hand-picked candidate, reads like a page from Lord William Rees-Mogg's *Blood in the Streets* script for a fascist revolution. Gargan is a retired financial consultant, which means he knows Wall Street. He retired to Cedar Key, Florida, where he intends to move the party's headquarters, because, he says, he is convinced that the coming global financial crash will lead to widespread anarchy, and he wants to be prepared.

During a failed 1998 Reform Party bid for Florida governor, Gargan told reporters that a crash was inevitable. “When it goes, it'll be so fast that no one will have time to reposition their resources. That's why I'm in Cedar Key. You're going to see a bunch of angry people. I can foresee people storming the Capitol and hanging their Congressmen from the nearest lamp-posts.” He's in Cedar Key, Gargan said, because it will be relatively safe from anarchy. “This town is isolated. You've got to come 24 miles down that road [State Road 24] to get here. You could defend the . . . bridge and only let in friends and relatives, or no one at all. We'd tough it out until order is restored.”

According to the *Chicago Tribune*, Gargan was asked to confirm these thoughts at the convention. He replied, “In the event of a collapse, the have-nots . . . it's human nature . . . will go after what the haves have.” “Under the surface,” he said, the nation is seething, and “it will only take a trigger, like the Y2K problem,” to inspire chaos. “History tells us”

that our economic boom cannot be sustained. “It will fall apart . . . and I just feel better to be safe than sorry.”

Gargan told the convention, “I ride a motorcycle. I shoot a pretty fair game of pool. I’ve been known to stay up all night playing poker. And I have an eye for the ladies. And those are my good qualities.” The delegates responded, “Go, Jack, go.”

## Counterpole to LaRouche

It’s not accidental that many ignorant Americans think that Lyndon LaRouche is somehow connected to this thing. “Isn’t he the little guy with the big ears?” one sometimes hears. The Reform Party was founded in 1995 by Ross Perot in part to siphon off growing support for the LaRouche movement in an increasingly disgruntled population, just after LaRouche himself had emerged from political imprisonment. Perot’s populist “infomercials” were modelled on LaRouche’s deeply penetrating, half-hour nationwide Presidential campaign television spots.

The Reform Party is targetting both Reagan Republicans and the core constituencies of the Democratic Party — particularly minorities and laid-off workers, who are rightly furious at the North American Free Trade Agreement and related free-trade policies which both Al Gore and George W. Bush support—to position themselves as a wrecking factor in the 2000 elections.

The role of Dr. Lenora Fulani, who ran for Reform Party vice chairman at the convention and is presumably attempting to take over the party, is key to understanding how the Reform Party is being manipulated.

Fulani, a black sex-therapist, avowed communist and lesbian, and former Presidential candidate of the New Alliance Party, ran a national campaign in 1996 to drive African-Americans out of the Democratic Party and into the Reform Party, in order to defeat President Clinton in his re-election. As part of that effort, that year she launched a tirade against Lyndon LaRouche in a commentary in the July 26 *Philadelphia Tribune*, calling LaRouche a “neo-fascist charlatan” and denouncing LaRouche’s political relationship to Minister Louis Farrakhan of the Nation of Islam. In the piece, she heaped high praise on former Colorado Governor Richard Lamm, then a Reform Party Presidential wannabe, who, she said, “has a long record on behalf of civil rights and affirmative action—one which surpasses that of Clinton.”

For those with short memories, Dick Lamm, Fulani’s “civil rights” advocate who keynoted the 1996 Reform Party convention, is an unabashed Malthusian who believes that the world is overpopulated, and that it’s foolish to try to help starving people in the Third World. “It is my conclusion that ‘Toughlove’ means that we let God’s judgment take place in much of the Third World and that by trying to relieve this suffering all we do is postpone it.” Translated: Poor people deserve to die. Lamm is the leading advocate of active euthanasia, demanding that old people *get out of the way* when their time is up, so they don’t eat up the national budget. In the

mid-1980s, Lamm was quoted, “We’ve got a duty to die and get out of the way with all our machines and artificial hearts and everything else like that.”

LaRouche replied to Fulani’s insanity with the following statement, titled “Dr. Fulani’s Lamm Stew”: “She libels a Democratic Presidential candidate, myself, a well-known anti-fascist, as a fascist, and endorses, as her political ally, an ex-Governor, Richard Lamm, a figure best known for demanding the early deaths of the aged: hence, a fascist.”

Fulani was “recruited to politics” via one Dr. Fred Newman, also a “sex-therapist” who, with Fulani, runs a string of off-beat psychotherapy fronts in New York. Newman briefly infiltrated LaRouche’s political association in the 1970s, attempting to play the same kind of wrecking role there, before he was thrown out, that Fulani is trying to play in the Reform Party. In her autobiography, *The Making of a Fringe Candidate 1992*, Fulani (née Lenora Branch) writes, “At that time I had been in individual therapy with a Black lesbian gestalt therapist for about a year. I wanted to be in group therapy, but my therapist only saw people individually.

“I was intrigued when I first came to [Newman’s] New York Institute for Social Therapy and Research. They were talking about therapy and psychology in very progressive ways and they did group therapy, which I found very stimulating intellectually.” She and her friends asked Newman to lead a study group for them on politics, “so we could learn more about who he was and who we were. We wanted to read the *Communist Manifesto* with him.”

## Presidential contenders

Jesse Ventura, who has yet to send LaRouche a thank-you note for wiping his Democratic “shoe-in” opponent, Skip Humphrey, off the political map in the election for Minnesota governor, told the *Detroit Free Press* during the convention (which he could not attend because of back problems stemming from his career as a professional wrestler), that he likes both George W. Bush and Al Gore. But, Ventura said, “by the time [Bush and Gore] get to this time next year, we are going to be so sick of these people that a third-party candidate can win the whole thing.”

And just whom does he have in mind? Neither Ventura nor Perot is expected to run in 2000. Casino billionaire Donald Trump led the straw poll among the 350 delegates at the convention. Ventura himself says he wants former Republican U.S. Senator and Independent Connecticut Governor Lowell Weicker. Ventura also mentioned GOP Presidential hopeful John McCain (R-Ariz.), who has publicly declined the offer (perhaps because he is already endorsed by Henry Kissinger). Others being mooted, but not so far accepting, are Pat Buchanan, Colin Powell, and Ralph Nader. Then, there’s Lenora Fulani.

Whoever ends up being the candidate, his or her mind will be firmly controlled by Wall Street’s purse-strings, and the Conservative Revolution will be running his or her mouth.