

The requirements of leadership

I remember this as well from the 1929-31 period. And I do remember, even as a young fellow, I remember how silly our neighbors were, and most of the people I knew. It was the Flapper Era. They believed in Wall Street — less than they do today, but they were insane. It was a crazy time.

And then, in 1929-31, a terrible reality hit. People were dying in the United States in the winter of 1932-33. They were dying in all kinds of places. Evicted, dying, particularly in the northern states, dying frozen in hobo jungles, things of that sort. Lots of them. It's going to be much worse now.

So, as the people come back to reality, because fantasy is no longer a safe place to live, we have to be there. Say "Calm down." Say, "Don't say 'Fire!' in a crowded theater. Don't run, don't panic. *We have ideas.*"

Roosevelt solved the problem once. You can criticize what he did for shortcomings or mistakes or whatever. It doesn't make any difference. The point is, he was there, he was concerned about the general welfare of the population as a whole, he took measures in that direction. Without those measures, this nation would have not gotten through the Depression and through the war as it did, and the postwar period.

So, if we have the leadership, even if it's a small minority of actual leaders now, with a minority support, in a time of crisis, that can change, as the American attitudes changed suddenly on Dec. 7 and 8, 1941, in the wake of the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

We have to be there. We have to provide leadership. We have to educate our fellow-citizens, whether they think they want the education or not. We have to spread, not slogans, but ideas, concepts.

Our fellow citizens can think. They just have to take a lot of encouragement to get them to do so. And that's what we're doing, I believe. And that's why you're sitting there in these various locations today, to assemble ourselves as a hard-core minority of people who are not only prepared to think, but are prepared to represent to our fellow citizens, a core of people on the day when reality strikes, that people can turn to, that neighbors can turn to, and say, "Okay, you were right. What is it we're supposed to do now?"

And then I think we'll do just fine. It's a tough thing. It's like fighting a war. You're sitting there, holding a nerve, waiting to take the flanking operation that might win the battle. It takes a lot of nerve. Don't jump out of the foxhole and go crazy. Or don't sit there too long and wait for somebody to drop a hand grenade in on you.

Be tight. Tight nerves. Clear-headed. Prepare to act, prepare people around you and the ground around you, to provide the kind of intellectual leadership, the leadership of ideas, which will be received by a population which has decided to escape from fantasy, which has become dangerous, into the hope of reality.

DNC to U.S. Supreme Court: We are exempt from Voting Rights Act

In his response to Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche's appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, which charges that the Democratic National Committee (DNC), by seeking to exclude LaRouche from the Presidential election process, is violating the Voting Rights Act, DNC attorney John C. "Cracker Jack" Keeney, Jr. claims that the Voting Rights Act (VRA) does not apply to any actions taken under authority of the DNC. In his argument, Keeney has invented a non-existent "exemption" from the preclearance requirements of the VRA for national political parties, and then, attributing virtually supernatural powers to the DNC, claims that the DNC can impart this exemption to state parties in covered jurisdictions (that is, jurisdictions which, under the VRA, must submit their election plans to the Justice Department for preclearance).

Keeney's logic stinks of the sophistries employed by the Texas Jaybirds and other racists, who, until the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965, sought to exempt themselves from the U.S. Constitution, by claiming similar extra-legal authority. The VRA, and the subsequent court cases, were supposed to put an end to this evil. Now, Keeney is saying that the DNC is a safe haven for racist policies and election-rigging practices. What state governments and state political parties can't do under the law, the DNC can — and, if the DNC waves its magic wand over these lesser sovereigns, it's all legal.

LaRouche's response

LaRouche's attorneys filed an immediate response to Keeney's arrogant attack on the Voting Rights Act, demonstrating the similarity between Keeney's argument and those of his racist, pre-1965 predecessors.

Like the Jaybirds, Keeney molds reality to his own liking. For example, Keeney claims that Don Fowler, then DNC chair, did not "nullify votes previously cast" for LaRouche in 1996. "All votes were counted," Keeney states. It's only that the votes were disregarded when determining delegates to the Democratic National Convention, in the party's privately run delegate-selection procedure.

In LaRouche's reply, his attorneys show that precisely this ruse was thrown out by the Supreme Court in 1953. At that time, the white Democrats of Fort Bend County, Texas sought to keep blacks from having an effective vote, by setting up the so-called "Jaybird" primaries. These elections took

place in March and were limited to white voters only. The winner of the Jaybird primary would then run, usually unopposed, in the regular Democratic primary in June, in which blacks could vote. LaRouche likened the DNC's disregard of his vote to the Jaybirds of 1953: "The 'counted' votes in the actual primary and caucuses were just as empty as the public votes in the old Jaybird primary process in Texas," he said, and quoted from the Supreme Court findings:

"To be sure, the Democratic primary and the general election are nominally open to the colored elector. But his must be an empty vote cast after the real decisions are made."

Keeney's flight from reality

Keeney's wildest flight from reality is his claim of an "explicit exemption" for national political parties from the preclearance requirements of the VRA. Keeney cites the Attorney General's Regulations, which say, "Changes with respect to the conduct of primary elections at which party nominees, delegates to party conventions, or party officials are chosen, are subject to the preclearance requirement of Section 5. Where appropriate the term 'jurisdiction' (but not 'covered jurisdiction') includes political parties."

Keeney argues that, since the state parties that implemented Fowler's edict to "disregard all votes cast for LaRouche," did so under the authority of the DNC, not that of a state, their actions did not need to be precleared. Thus, Keeney claims for the DNC (which he falsely insists is a private organization) a power above and beyond any sovereign authority in the land. The DNC, according to Keeney, has the power to implement changes in voting that would otherwise be illegal, if carried out by lesser powers such as states.

That was, of course, exactly the sleight of hand run by the Jaybirds and their Democratic Party accomplices before the adoption of the Voting Rights Act.

Sensitive to the affinity between of his argument and the racism of the past, Keeney nowhere in his argument mentions the "white primary" cases which LaRouche and his voters have demonstrated are the controlling legal precedent for this case.

Finally, Keeney claims that the First Amendment allows the DNC to exclude LaRouche and anyone who votes for him, and to nullify elections. This is just a matter of the Democratic Party's right to "define itself," he argues. Here again, the stench of Jaybird droppings. In the bad old days, the Democratic Party "defined" itself as all-white in many parts of this country. When this was outlawed, the South Carolina Democrats came up with a new way to exclude blacks under the guise of "defining" themselves. Any black could join the South Carolina Democratic Party, as long as he or she swore an oath of allegiance to uphold racial segregation! The party claimed it was just defining itself as a segregationist party,

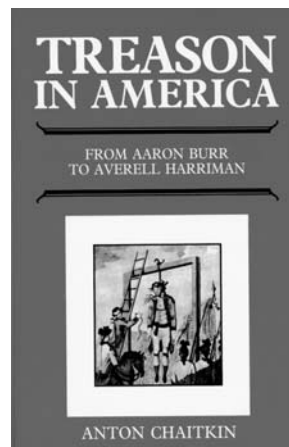
and claimed that was protected by the First Amendment, just like "The Forest Lake Country Club or the Colonial Dames of America."

In 1953, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals saw through this charade, and struck down the scheme, ridiculing the idea that a political party is a private club. What was rejected for South Carolina almost 50 years ago, Keeney now claims for the DNC.

Keeney claims that the First Amendment rights of a clique of bandits in the DNC, trump the First Amendment rights of the voters who supported LaRouche. In his reply, LaRouche notes, "This claim totally ignores the minority voters who joined with LaRouche to bring this action and the repudiation of Chairman Fowler's calumny against LaRouche by the civil rights veterans, minority office-holders, and former Democratic Party office-holders who defended LaRouche within the Democratic Party (J.S. App. 78-79A). The only reason for venting it again appears to be the vain hope that it might find resonance in this Court. A Motion for Leave To File an Amicus Brief has been filed in this case supporting Appellants' position by present and former Democratic Party office-holders and civil rights veterans. Appellees' emphasis of the candidate's race also underlines their extremely delimited view of the reach of the Voting Rights Act."

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