

LaRouche campaign puts global spotlight on rigged election

by Edward Spannaus

In the two weeks since the March 7 “Super Tuesday” elections, when the U.S. establishment-controlled media declared the Presidential primary election campaigns over, the campaign of Democratic contender Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. began to internationalize the campaign, both by exposing the undemocratic, rigged nature of the elections to the world, and also by forcing U.S. citizens to see themselves and the debacle of the U.S. elections, as others around the world see them.

At the same time, LaRouche continued to roll up votes in number of primaries, and is mounting challenges to the Democratic Party’s vote-rigging in Michigan, Texas, and other key locations.

International observers report rights violations

The fight to hold the U.S. and the Democratic Party accountable internationally for abuses of voting and civil rights, was taken to the United Nations on March 22, when two members of the international delegation of observers who had monitored the Democratic Party’s Presidential caucuses in Michigan on March 11, were the featured speakers at an *EIR* seminar in New York.

Representatives from every continent, including countries which have been hammered by the United States as “violators” of human rights, attended the seminar, and were shocked to learn of the extensive violations of a free and democratic electoral process in this country, as exemplified by the blatant discrimination against LaRouche’s candidacy.

Reporting on the Michigan events and their background, were Bruce Director of the Constitutional Defense Fund, and Dr. Godfrey Lukongwa Binaisa, the former President and Attorney General of Uganda. The two were part of the delegation of international observers which also included Ernst Florian Winter, professor and former director of the Diplomatic

Academy in Vienna; Amelia Boynton Robinson, 1990 recipient of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom Medal and a founder of the American civil rights movement; JL Chestnut, one of America’s foremost civil rights attorneys; Dr. Hunter Huang, chairman of the National Committee for Chinese Reunification; Ortrun Cramer, representing the International Progress Organization, a non-governmental organization with consultative status at the UN; and Hannah Warnke from Poland. The delegation is currently preparing a report for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and for other international human rights agencies.

In the initial presentation, Director showed how Democrat LaRouche and his supporters were systematically denied those very rights which the U.S. State Department insists that other countries must provide to the “opposition.” Director laid particular stress on the treatment being given to the nation of Peru, which is being told that it must provide ample press coverage for the opposition, prevent *ad hominem* attacks on opposition candidates, and investigate reports of harassment of opposition candidates. Yet, here in the United States, LaRouche is subjected to a near-total media blackout, and is not even permitted to have his name on the ballot in Democratic Party caucuses such as Michigan’s.

Former Ugandan President Binaisa, an eloquent advocate of the principles upon which the U.S. republic is based, told the diplomats and press that he would have to tell his fellow Africans that the United States is full of hypocrisy when it tells Africa to hold fair elections, because it does not do so itself.

The presentations were followed by extensive questions, through which the diplomatic representatives present attempted to understand exactly what was going on in the U.S. elections. Particularly shocking to them was the fact that in numerous states of the Union, the Secretary of State can de-

cide whether an individual is put on the ballot or not, doing so, in some places, on the basis of whether the *media* did or did not give publicity to the campaign!

Equally disconcerting to many was the fact that the government was passing off the functions of running elections to private institutions, which were then allowed to violate all norms of fairness in running the elections.

‘Questions for Mr. Charley’

Exemplary of the type of international outrage which is emerging over this travesty of the U.S. elections, was a column published in one of the Dominican Republic’s daily newspapers, *El Siglo*, on the U.S. State Department’s campaign to allegedly protect “free elections” in Peru, even as the right to vote in the United States is being eliminated by the actions being taken against LaRouche.

The column, entitled “Seven Questions for Mr. Charley,” was addressed to the U.S. Ambassador to the Dominican Republic, former Democratic Party chairman Charles Manatt, and it opened as follows: “Just as the National Democratic Institute and the Carter Center come to our nations to give us classes on democracy, a group of international observers went to Michigan to observe the March 11 Democratic Party caucuses to choose delegates to its national convention.” The column described in detail the intimidation and threats of violence directed against those who tried to vote for LaRouche, and also against the international observers. (See also last week’s *EIR*.)

As LaRouche has indicated it would, his campaign entered a new phase after the “Super Tuesday” primaries. In the March 14 “Southern primary,” LaRouche received sizable votes in many areas, topped by his 6% in the Oklahoma Democratic primary. In Texas, LaRouche received 27,341 votes (3.4%); in Louisiana, his vote was 4%. Then on March 21, LaRouche was credited with over 11,000 votes, or 2%, in the Illinois primary. To date, official tallies show that over 130,000 voters have voted for LaRouche in the Democratic primaries; that of course does not reflect votes which were stolen, thrown out, or simply ignored.

Also in Texas, LaRouche supporters won dozens of Democratic Party posts, including the chairmanship of one county Democratic organization—victories reminiscent of the 1988 upset, when LaRouche Democrat Claude Jones was elected chairman of the Harris County (Houston) Democrats.

Dozens of LaRouche supporters won positions throughout Texas on County Executive Committees, with the bulk of the victories coming in Harris County. In four counties, LaRouche Democrats ran strong contests for county chair positions, with Brenda Whalen narrowly losing the race in San Jacinto County, with 49.6% of the vote. Well-known activist Noel Cowling garnered over 40% in Erath County, while Charles Murray received 37% in Atascosa County, and Olin Jobe over 35% in Lubbock County.

But the big surprise for party hacks came in Williamson

County in central Texas, where LaRouche supporter Steve Womack was elected county chairman with 77% of the vote. Womack, a land surveyor, was quoted in the voters’ guide saying that his goal in running was to “bring the forgotten man back into the system,” and to reconstitute the FDR coalition, to take the party back from Wall Street flunkies like Al Gore.

In addition, at least 60 Democratic voters were elected as LaRouche delegates at the precinct caucuses, despite efforts at some precincts to prevent their election. In several precincts, the anti-LaRouche, anti-Democratic policy of current Democratic National Committee (DNC) Chairman Joe Andrew prevailed, and supporters of LaRouche were forced to sign in as “uncommitted.” There were also a number of cases of “regular” Democrats who refused to go along with the exclusionary practices demanded by Andrew and the DNC.

The election of the Texas LaRouche delegates now sets the stage for a confrontation on April 1, when Senate District and County caucuses convene to elect delegates to the state convention. It was at this level, in 1996, that LaRouche delegates were excluded, and it is likely that the hacks will try to do the same this year. A letter is being circulated by state party chair Molly Beth Malcolm—a Republican until recently—which says that no one will be allowed to sign in as a LaRouche delegate. As in Michigan, international observers are expected to be present at some of the caucuses on April 1.

The fight in Michigan is also far from over. On March 24, LaRouche and 43 members of the Michigan Democratic Party filed a challenge with Michigan Democratic Party Chairman Mark Brewer, demanding that the results of the March 11 caucuses be voided, and that delegates to the Democratic National Convention be apportioned according to the results of the Feb. 22 Michigan Democratic Primary, in which LaRouche received the highest vote total of any candidate.

The Michigan challenge has three major elements: that the March 11 caucuses violated internationally recognized standards of free and fair elections; that the caucuses were so permeated with intimidation and fear, that voters were discouraged from voting freely; plus additional specific violations to the implementation of the Michigan Delegate Selection plan. The heavy-handed thuggery, use of police, and exclusionary tactics against LaRouche supporters is thoroughly documented. The Michigan Democratic Party now has 21 days in which to file its response to the LaRouche challenge.

With respect to upcoming primaries, LaRouche has been certified for the May 2 Democratic Primary ballot in Washington, D.C., where campaign volunteers had filed more than twice the 2,000 signatures needed to place his name on the ballot. LaRouche and Gore will be the only candidates listed, since Bill Bradley has withdrawn. LaRouche’s campaign has filed petitions qualifying him for the June 6 Alabama primary, and the candidate has also been certified for the May 9 Nebraska primary. In Idaho, the Secretary of State has put LaRouche on the ballot for the May 23 primary.