

LaRouche tells voters: 'Stop being fools!'

by Debra Hanania Freeman

In a 30-minute television address that will be played on Public Broadcasting stations in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Virginia, and other states, Lyndon LaRouche tells the American people that they can no longer avoid reality; that it is not a question of whether the current financial system collapses, but only a question of when that collapse occurs. And, he tells them, the question we will face is not just a financial one, but of civilization itself.

LaRouche doesn't mince words. He tells people, "The only chance you've got is, this time, don't be one of the majority of Americans who are fooled most of the time, as most of you who intend to vote are fooled right now.

"To put it bluntly, most of you who intend to vote are a bunch of fools. And you're going to get the reward, which is usually paid to fools, if you continue to be fools. The question is, when are you going to stop being fools? The way to stop being fools, is forget the deals. Don't say, 'I've got to vote for a front-runner; I've got to choose between George Bush and Al Gore because they're front-runners.' . . .

"Don't choose between front-runners; vote your conscience, vote for the welfare and the future of this nation instead."

Indeed, as the reality of the onrushing financial collapse becomes harder and harder to ignore, LaRouche's drive for the Democratic Presidential nomination has increasingly become the focal point of a rapidly intensifying revolt by Democratic elected officials, activists, and ordinary voters, who are convinced that, should the party nomination go to Vice President Al Gore, both the Democratic Party and the United States are doomed.

Alabama Democrats rally to LaRouche

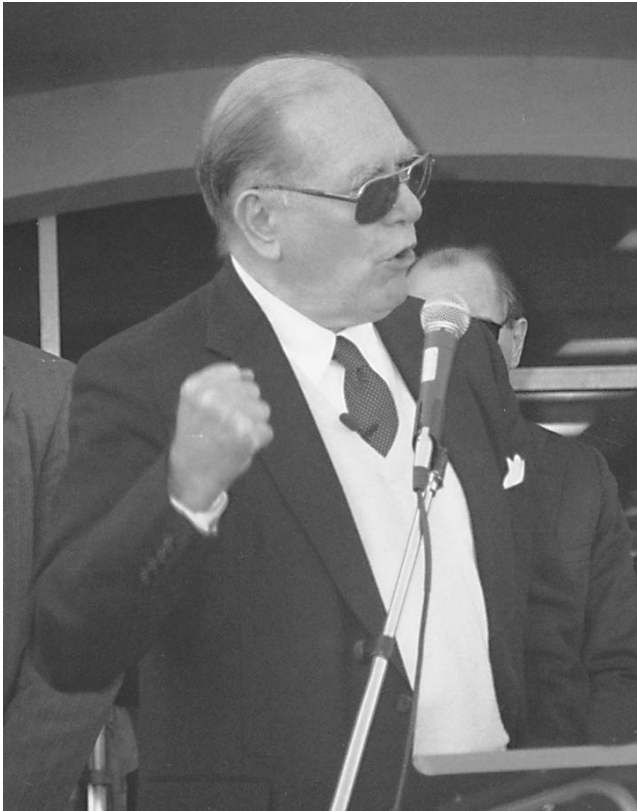
And, even though a majority of the U.S. Supreme Court, in a March 27 ruling, registered its support for the blatantly racist argument that the Democratic Party is a "private club,"

which had the right to evade the Voting Rights Act of 1965 when it acted to nullify election results during the 1996 Presidential primaries and caucuses by refusing to count votes that had been legally cast for LaRouche, that has done little to stop Democrats from Wyoming to Alabama, from continuing to register their vocal support for LaRouche's candidacy.

On March 23, Eric Thomas, LaRouche's campaign coordinator for the state of Alabama, held a press conference in front of the Alabama State House, to announce that 29 prominent Alabamans had filed to run as delegates to the Democratic National Convention, pledged to LaRouche. Thomas was joined by Democrats Rep. Thomas Jackson (Thomasville), Rep. Joe Mitchell (Mobile), and Amelia Boynton Robinson, well known as a veteran leader, for six decades, of Alabama's struggle for civil rights.

Mrs. Robinson had just returned to Alabama from Michigan where, with noted Selma civil rights attorney JL Chestnut, she was part of a high-powered team of international observers who had gone there hoping to protect the integrity of the Democratic caucuses. She gave a shocking account of what had occurred despite the team's presence, and said that she was "embarrassed to live in a country that was telling others how they should conduct their elections, when we are so very far from living according to our own Constitution." She said that she was very proud and honored to run as a LaRouche delegate, despite "brazen and shameless attempts at intimidation" by the Democratic National Committee (DNC). The distinguished lady, who is frequently hailed as a living monument to America's struggle for civil rights, concluded that she had "fought too hard and too long to secure the right to vote, to allow the DNC to declare that right null and void now, because of a vicious attempt to keep people from voting for Lyndon LaRouche."

Representative Mitchell, who is also a former state chair of the New South Coalition, said that he had decided to file



Lyndon LaRouche addresses a Martin Luther King Day rally in front of the Lauderdale County Courthouse in Florence, Alabama, in January 1997.

as a LaRouche delegate because LaRouche represents “the kind of substantive ideas that I have yet to hear from the other candidates.” Mitchell attacked the Democratic Party and the national press and electronic media for shirking their responsibility by denying his constituents access to crucial information, or knowingly distorting information regarding LaRouche’s candidacy, that he said they had “both a right and a need to know about.” Mitchell told the gathering, “So, I am taking that responsibility on myself, as I can. My support for this campaign is so that my community can make an informed and intelligent decision,” adding that LaRouche gives Democrats a much needed alternative to Vice President Gore.

Finally, Representative Jackson, who serves as the Chairman of the Alabama House Agriculture Committee, delivered high praise for LaRouche’s economic policies, saying that, above all else, those policies reflect the fact that “LaRouche is a man who believes in the principle that we are all God’s creatures, made in his image, and that we are, indeed, our brothers’ keeper.” Jackson said that LaRouche’s ideas and policies were crucial if the United States had any hope of restoring the principles on which the nation was founded.

LaRouche’s Alabama slate also includes Talladega City Councilman Eddie Tucker; Fairfield City Councilman Ron Kidd; Mayor Essie Madison of Aliceville; Cornelius Fancher, former President of the Bessemer City Council; Erskine

Davis, a former member of the Brighton City Council; Thurman Underwood, recording secretary of United Mine Workers of America Local 5986; James Barnett, President of the Northwest Alabama Coalition of Black Trade Unions; Bobby Fox, former regional coordinator for the Plumbers and Pipefitters Union; and, Dr. Eunice Moore, former Dean of Arts and Sciences at Alabama State University in Montgomery.

Support doesn’t go unnoticed

The fact that so many prominent Alabama Democrats, including well-known elected officials, trade union leaders, and civil rights leaders, have come out for LaRouche, in open defiance of continuing attempts by the Washington, D.C.-based Democratic National Committee to lock LaRouche and his supporters out of the Democratic Party, drew headlines across the state, and did not go unnoticed in Washington, D.C.

It was no surprise that, the next day, the *Mobile Press Register* ran an outrageous editorial entitled “Truly Weird (Political) Science,” the editorial reads:

“State Reps. Joseph Mitchell (D-Mobile), and Thomas Jackson (D-Thomasville), have demonstrated appalling lack of judgment by running as delegates pledged to the Democratic Presidential primary candidacy of avowed fringe candidate Lyndon LaRouche.

“Who is Mr. LaRouche. . . ? His official biography actually boasts—yes, *boasts*—that Mr. LaRouche is the ‘only Presidential candidate to have been convicted in a Federal criminal case.’ What he calls the ‘fraudulent character of that conviction,’ he says, qualifies him for the Presidency precisely because it proves the numerousness and savagery of his enemies. . . .

“Mr. LaRouche has written that ‘Al Gore personally is an ideologically perverted, wooden-headed fool . . . and crony and bloody-handed accomplice of the Ramsey MacDonald-style fascist ‘mad bomber’ Tony Blair. Politically, he is thoroughly owned by . . . intimate circles of the British royal family.’

“Mr. LaRouche writes that former President George Bush, meanwhile, is a drug trafficker who way back in 1981 took control of a ‘secret government’ possessing ‘evil, bootleg, unconstitutional power’ and is ‘one of the vilest, meanest, and most corrupt figures in any part of the world today.’

“If Reps. Mitchell and Jackson truly want him to President, *are they themselves worth of public trust?*”

Celebrating ‘Confederacy Month’

A prominent member of the Congressional Black Caucus in Washington, D.C. who is from the area, laughed disgustingly at the slanderous piece. His comment, “Well, what exactly did you expect from a newspaper that the day before used their editorial to heap praise on [Virginia Governor James] Gilmore’s move to declare April ‘Confederacy Month.’ They’re just celebrating a little bit early with a political lynching of two black legislators who stood up and spoke out.”

There is little doubt, that as more and more Democrats from around the nation rally around LaRouche's candidacy and mobilize themselves to derail the current DNC leadership's "New Democrat" racism, the fight will intensify.

Meanwhile, as the nation enters this next round of primaries, in which LaRouche is the sole opponent and alternative to Al Gore, LaRouche continues to focus his efforts on forcing the American people to face the reality of the strategic crises and financial collapse, and to prepare them to adopt the necessary shifts in policy for an emergency financial reorganization of the U.S. and the global economy. As LaRouche repeats at the end of his most recent TV broadcast, "The only question is when Americans will stop acting like fools." The fact is, it couldn't happen a moment too soon.

U.S. Supreme Court upholds DNC attack on Voting Rights Act

At the request of the Democratic National Committee, the U.S. Supreme Court on March 27 let stand a lower court ruling gutting the Voting Rights Act of 1965. In its one-sentence ruling, the court affirmed the decision of a three-judge U.S. District Court here in Washington, D.C., that lets the Democratic National Committee (DNC) evade the Voting Rights Act, by claiming it can act as a "private club."

This potentially mortal blow to civil rights, has been brought about solely by the actions of the DNC—which, in defiance of the hard-won struggle for the right to vote, has insisted on its right to return to the days of "Jim Crow" in order to nullify elections and exclude Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche. Democrats wishing to reverse this attack on civil rights, can begin by changing the composition of the Democratic National Committee.

In the March 27 ruling, the Supreme Court ignored an *amicus curiae* (friend of the court) brief filed by former Congressman James Mann on behalf of more than 60 prominent Democratic Party officials, who urged the court to back LaRouche's position.

The case was brought by Lyndon LaRouche and voters from Virginia, Louisiana, Texas, and Arizona, in 1996, after Donald Fowler, then DNC chairman, ordered the state Democratic parties to disregard votes cast for LaRouche in the Presidential primaries and caucuses in those states without first obtaining pre-clearance by the U.S. Department of Justice, as required by the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

To try to save the Voting Rights Act, the crowning achievement of the civil rights movement, from such a vile attack by the DNC, LaRouche and the voters sued in Federal court in Washington.

In August 1999, a three-judge court, led by U.S. Appeals Court Judge David Sentelle, heard the DNC's lawyer, John C. Keeney, Jr. argue that sooner than apply the Voting Rights Act to the DNC, it should be declared unconstitutional. Keeney based his argument on previous dissenting opinions by Supreme Court Justices Antonin Scalia, William Rehnquist, and Clarence Thomas, who have all urged nullification of the Voting Rights Act.

(Keeney is the son of Deputy Assistant Attorney General John C. Keeney, Sr., the notorious "Hooverite" in the DOJ and the architect of the racist "Operation Fruehmensch" program, under which Justice Department prosecutors targeted African-American elected officials for political frameups.)

Several months after the August 1999 arguments, Sentelle, an ally of North Carolina Sen. Jesse Helms (R), adopted Keeney's position, holding that the DNC was exempt from the Voting Rights Act, and could extend that exemption to state Democratic parties acting on DNC orders. Sentelle's ruling flew in the face of decades of civil rights cases that had routinely rejected arguments like Keeney's as nothing more than racist subterfuges.

Following this ruling, LaRouche et al. appealed to the Supreme Court.

'A private club'

It is not surprising that the DNC found on the Supreme Court a majority to agree with its position that the Democratic Party is a private club and as such, not subject to the provisions of the Voting Rights Act. After all, this was the argument raised in the past by the segregationist Democratic Party to justify the all-white "Jaybird" parties, and has been supported on the current Supreme Court by Rehnquist, Scalia, and Thomas.

Besides, this Supreme Court has signalled in many ways its intention to roll back laws which promote the General Welfare. For example: the High Court's Jan. 25 ruling saying, in effect, that the Justice Department must agree to pre-clear under the Voting Rights Act changes in voting procedures, even if the changed procedures have the intent to discriminate against minority voters, as long as the changes leave the present level of discrimination in place, rather than worsening it!

Another example: On the day that it ruled in the LaRouche case, the Supreme Court upheld one of the cruellest provisions of the Welfare Reform Act of 1996, ruling, against the city of Chicago, that there is no violation in throwing all *legal* immigrants off welfare after five years; that no constitutional obligation exists to provide any benefits to legal immigrants.

Meanwhile, the Democratic leadership is committing political suicide. The DNC's current chairman, Joe Andrew, insists on following in Fowler's racist footsteps. If the Democratic Party persists in this "New Democrat" racism, it is guaranteed to lose the White House, and is virtually assured that Democrats will become a dwindling minority in Congress as well.