

## LaRouche Dem Wins Primary with Ad Hoc Platform Hearings

by Michele Steinberg and Harley Schlanger

On Aug. 22, LaRouche Democrat Mel Logan won the Democratic Party primary for U.S. Senate from Wyoming by a margin of nearly two to one, to become the challenger against Republican freshman incumbent Sen. Craig Thomas. Logan got more than 16,000 votes to his opponent, Sheldon Sumey's 8,816, despite Sumey's attempt to ally with the Al Gore/Democratic National Committee (DNC) thug machine in smearing Lyndon LaRouche and Logan.

Despite the anti-LaRouche propaganda, Logan's campaign achieved victory through the mass distribution of the Ad Hoc Platform Hearings of the Democratic Party, that had been facilitated by LaRouche's Presidential campaign, on June 22. The Ad Hoc Platform Hearings were called just as Gore and the DNC's Joe Andrew were locking down a police state process that stole convention delegates from LaRouche in Arkansas, and structured a convention that would allow *no* discussion, *no* debate, and *no* dissent. At the point when the Ad Hoc Platform Hearings convened, the Gore/DNC wing of the Democratic Party had refused to schedule any discussion of policies, steering the Democrats toward becoming a second Republican Party, mirroring the GOP's fascist Conservative Revolution.

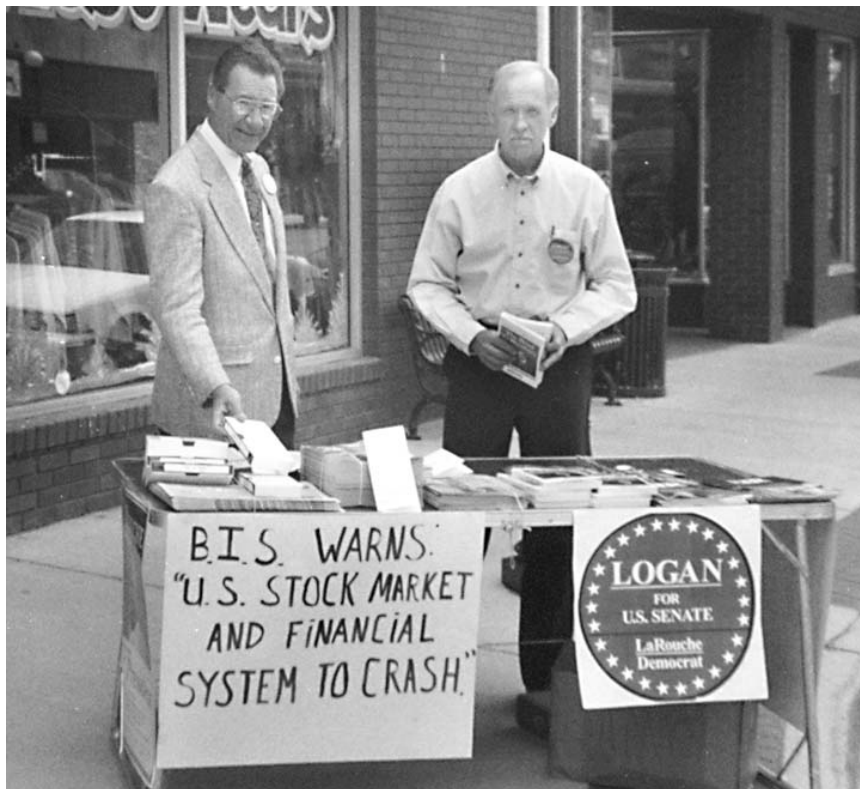
The Aug. 22 election of Logan, a union leader and member of the United Mine Workers, was confirmation of what LaRouche had said on Aug. 17, when he addressed U.S. and international reporters on an Internet press conference that was broadcast live. LaRouche spoke just hours before Gore's speech at the Democratic National Convention accepting the party's Presidential nomination—and described the Gore nomination as “a catastrophe; it's a national catastrophe.” But, LaRouche promised that he would “pick up the pieces” of

the real Democratic Party in the tradition of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, through the process he had encouraged with the Ad Hoc Platform Hearings.

Elaborating the danger represented by Gore, LaRouche said, “Not only are both of the leading candidates, at this time, totally unqualified for the office of President. . . . But worst of all, we are coming into a period of unusual crisis globally, as well as nationally, with such unsuitable candidates—the fact that the American voter has no apparent alternative to these guaranteed failures—is a catastrophe for the United States, and a potential source of catastrophe for the world.”

In reply to a question from Aurelya Mitchell of the *Mid-South Tribune* in Memphis, LaRouche said, “My job is to keep the Democratic Party alive, despite Al From [head of the Democratic Leadership Council, which Gore founded], and despite Al Gore, and be prepared to pick up the pieces, and save the party, after Al Gore and Al From experience the catastrophe they are bringing on themselves.”

In answer to a reporter from the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*—where LaRouche won 22%, or more than 53,000 Democratic primary votes, only to have these votes stolen by Gore—LaRouche explained that “once the thug tactics [at the Democratic Convention] were going to prevent any discussion on the floor, what I did immediately, is, I said, I've got a responsibility, a moral one, and therefore, I asked some people to hold an Ad Hoc Platform Committee Hearing, in which former Sen. Eugene McCarthy participated as a coordinating figure, along with others. . . . That Ad Hoc Platform session performed its function very well, brilliantly, in fact, and provided a benchmark for which the American Democratic voters, particularly among the have-nots; those who are senior



*LaRouche Democrat Mel Logan (left), who won the primary for the U.S. Senate seat from Wyoming, organizing in Cheyenne with LaRouche associate Bill Hayes.*

citizens, who are among leading have-nots; those who are in the ethnic minorities, who are among the have-nots; or labor, which is, in general, among the have-nots; that these people who assembled as leading state-level Democrats . . . created a reference point.”

Less than a week after LaRouche spoke those words, Logan won the statewide primary in Wyoming.

### **Victory in Wyoming**

Beginning on June 25-27, Logan, whose hometown is the small mining town of Sheridan, took his campaign for Senate on the road. He addressed a town meeting in Cheyenne, a luncheon meeting in Laramie, and held press conferences in both cities. The tour put LaRouche’s economic forecasts at the center of an election fight, as a model for how Democrats can retake the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate in November.

In every appearance, Logan focussed on the key issue underlined by LaRouche: the global financial collapse. His campaign events called for breaking the U.S. press blackout of the June 5 annual report of the Bank for International Settlements, which warned of an impending collapse of the U.S. financial markets. Slamming the blackout of the BIS report by U.S. media outside of publications associated with LaRouche, Logan stated, “The silence on this topic from the office of my

opponent Sen. Craig Thomas is deafening. Is he complicit with the efforts of Wall Street and Alan Greenspan at the Federal Reserve, trying to pump up the U.S. markets artificially, which is heading us into the disaster of hyperinflation as the flip side of the crash threat?”

Logan’s literature prominently proclaimed that he is a “LaRouche Democrat” running on a platform of “a New Marshall Plan; the New Bretton Woods; the Repeal of HMOs (health maintenance organizations); Fair Trade—Not Free Trade; and the Real Economy.”

But the rallying point was the circulation of more than 3,000 copies of the pamphlet with the full transcript of the Ad Hoc Democratic Party Platform Hearings, which he introduced with an open letter addressed to “Fellow Democrats.” It read:

“My campaign for U.S. Senate is helping to circulate this pamphlet in Wyoming, as part of the effort to circulate 1 million pamphlets nationally leading into the Aug. 14 Democratic National Convention, and 6 million total by the November general election.

“The U.S. economic fundamentals are touted as strong by the Federal Reserve and other financial institutions, but you know our fundamentals are anything but strong. Greenspan warns of irrational exuberance, [Warren] Buffett says there is nothing of value in the market, and even [global speculator and drug legalization advocate George] Soros is putting his money into real investments.

“To repeat FDR’s famous words, ‘We have nothing to fear but fear itself!’ That is, providing we can rededicate the idea of promoting the general welfare that his ‘New Deal’ symbolized.

“While the Democratic Party is generally moving away from its traditional base toward the elite of Gore’s ‘new economy,’ the LaRouche campaign is uniting various traditional Democratic constituencies to build cooperation, and to salvage and revitalize the Franklin Roosevelt outlook within the party.

“This report is an excellent primer on the way things ought to be, by traditional FDR Democrats and their new recruits. Read it, and circulate extra copies yourself. Then, let us replicate this process of discussion and deliberation by farmers, labor, and concerned citizens, in townhall meetings throughout the state of Wyoming.”

The issue throughout the campaign was LaRouche and his economic ideas. The *Casper Star-Tribune* newspaper carried an article entitled “Sumey Blasts Foe’s Allegiance to

LaRouche,” and the *Cheyenne Tribune-Eagle* slandered LaRouche as someone denying the existence of the holocaust, and whined that “if Logan wins the Democratic nomination on Aug. 22, Wyoming will become the laughingstock of the United States.” The *Tribune-Eagle* ridiculed Logan’s warnings of a financial blowout.

But after the election, Wyoming newspapers, including the *Tribune-Eagle*, had a different tone, with headlines such as “LaRouche Dem, Cubin, Green Win Fed Races.” In an interview with Associated Press on Aug. 23, Logan emphasized the strategic crisis with Russia, an issue that LaRouche has identified as the most important event in the world today — and one being kept completely from the American population in an atmosphere of “wartime blackout” (see *Feature* in this issue).

And as LaRouche forecast, in a time of crisis, the population will respond to leadership which tells them the truth, and a Democrat cannot win the White House without the enthusiastic support of the key constituencies which make up that lower 80% of the income brackets of the U.S. population.

## Disgruntled Democrats

Not only was LaRouche finding an open ear from international journalists and voters in Wyoming, but in Los Angeles itself, a revolt against the policies of Gore was brewing. During the Los Angeles Democratic convention, which became a virtual coronation of Gore, it was clear to organizers from the LaRouche national campaign staff, that many of the delegates with whom they met, agree with LaRouche’s analysis that the Gore-Lieberman ticket will not generate the passion among key constituencies needed to hold the White House. And the attempts to use the tightly scripted convention, which had more in common with the Nuremberg rallies of Hitler’s propagandist Josef Goebbels than with the traditional raucous quadrennial gatherings of party leaders to generate a “consensus,” was an empty exercise. Many of the delegates who engaged in in-depth discussions with LaRouche campaign activists, did so because of the Ad Hoc Platform Hearings — the same hearings which helped elect Logan in Wyoming.

Delegates who had read the Ad Hoc Platform transcript or had seen the videotape of the proceedings, expressed concern that such a dialogue had not occurred at the “official” Party Platform hearing, or at the convention.

In contrast, even the pep rallies, which featured cheerleaders such as Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and the Rev. Jesse Jackson, had, at best, a short-term effect. The initial claims of delegates flooding out of these events that “we can win with Gore,” quickly gave way to doubt, with many admitting that the ticket will be a “hard sell to the folks back home.” Rumors flew that emergency meetings had to be held with minority Democratic leaders to assuage their opposition to Vice Presidential pick Joe Lieberman, because of his alliances with the Gingrichite fascists in the GOP on issues including diverting funds from public education to “school vouchers,”

ending affirmative action, and allowing HMOs to destroy health care.

Opposition to Gore was evident all over, from the “Shadow Convention,” a mixed bag of traditional FDR Democrats and special interests financed by Gore supporter Soros, to a dramatic pre-convention town meeting held by LaRouche’s Committee for a New Bretton Woods on Aug. 12, two days before the convention opened.

Speakers at one panel at the “Shadow Convention,” which featured leaders of the newly formed Progressive Caucus, conveyed their outrage at having debate over key issues suppressed. The attempts of this caucus to have “democratic platform hearings” in Cleveland, Ohio, had been shut down with an iron fist by Gore’s enforcers in the DNC. Any attempt to criticize the death penalty, or free trade, was smashed by Gore’s thugs.

Gloria Allread, a civil rights attorney in Los Angeles and a member of the Party’s Platform Committee, described how enormous pressure had been put on Platform Committee members to stifle debate. She said that she had been told that her insistence that there be open discussion, is “a death wish” for future involvement in the party.

Nevertheless, Allread said, there must be a debate. “We can’t be silenced, so they can present a united front.” Among the concerns raised by members of this caucus were the growing gap between rich and poor (the lower 80%) in the United States, and the commitment by both leading candidates to accelerate privatization and deregulation of electricity, prisons, health care, and education.

The most honest voices came out at only the LaRouche town meeting, where the disaffection for Gore was highly visible in the appearance by two Gore delegates from labor unions among the more than 130 activists.

Following speeches by a number of LaRouche Democrats, led by Western States LaRouche campaign spokesman Harley Schlanger, the Gore delegates spoke out against the free trade policies of the Gore campaign. One Gore delegate, a union official from the South, explained how the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) that Gore helped push through the U.S. Congress in 1993, means that his members, skilled machinists, will lose their jobs, as production moves offshore in search of slave labor.

Another Gore delegate, responding to Schlanger’s remarks, said that while he is not “100% convinced that LaRouche is right,” he sees that much of what LaRouche has said on the economy is true, and he wants to know more. He led the applause when Schlanger said that, under a LaRouche administration, U.S. participation in NAFTA and the World Trade Organization would be nullified.

Most of all, Democrats, and Independents, are welcoming LaRouche’s leadership in the fight for ideas. As LaRouche said in his webcast on Aug. 17, “I am staying with the people who’ve associated themselves with me, in the Democratic Party, who are committed to represent the lower 80% of the family-income brackets in the United States, their rights.”

# ‘Why Shouldn’t It Happen in the State of Wyoming?’

*The following are excerpts of a dialogue between Democratic Party Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche and Wyoming coal miner and labor leader Mel Logan, during a web-cast with labor leaders held by LaRouche in December 1999. On Aug. 22, 2000, Logan won the Democratic Primary for U.S. Senate in a statewide election in Wyoming.*

**Logan:** . . . The majority of our workers [in Wyoming] are minimum-wage workers. And they’re all conservative, and vote Republican. They tend to believe that investment in education, or social security, or infrastructure, as an expense, is too much for us to pay for, rather than a security for the United States’ future. What can we do to educate those people who don’t want to be educated?

**LaRouche:** Well, you know the history of Wyoming. Maybe many of the people on the call don’t. But Wyoming was one of the areas which, under the conditions of the 1870s, 1880s, was targeted by the British, through Canada, for checkerboarding. Originally this involved mining rights, involved agricultural systems. So, they had a system of checkerboarding the state, in order to ensure that these British investors, sometimes by way of Canada, would control that area. As a result of that, some of these people who maintain that tradition, from that time, have tried to keep the citizens of Wyoming, which is physically a beautiful state, with many advantages, natural advantages, to keep it as a place where you keep the ordinary people pretty much down, low to the ground, or close to the curbstone, if there is a curbstone.

Now, how do you deal with a situation like that? We’ve had situations like that in the world, parts of the United States, parts of the deep South, for a long time. And under certain conditions, we were able to break that, break that chain, a chain of self-imposed submission to those kinds of conditions. And the way you do it, is generally, it happens only in a time of great crisis.

Now, we’re on the verge of the greatest financial crisis in history. Don’t let anybody kid you, it’s coming. The question is—we can deal with crisis, we handle it. But if we don’t handle it, this is the worst financial crisis in all modern history, and the effects will be felt accordingly.

The shock of this crisis hitting, which will happen on Clinton’s watch—it may happen before the year’s out, it may happen early next year—but this crisis is going to hit, as I’ve said many times, like the Pearl Harbor bombing. In those times, these people who think that they have to submit, like dutiful serfs, to their masters who run the territory, they’re going to change their attitude, as many people changed their

attitude when they realized that World War II was actually on, at the time the Pearl Harbor bomb was dropped.

And that’s the situation. So, my view of this, from a historical standpoint, as well as personal experience, is: Don’t give up the fight. As long as the message is out there, and kept out there, when people are faced with a crisis, a great shock, suddenly the same people who seemed obdurate in refusing to see the immorality of their situation, suddenly change their mind. And if the ideas have been presented to them, if the leadership is presented to them, they’ll rally to it. That’s the way every great movement in history occurred. It was a sudden rallying of a mass of people, who got up out of the ditch, because they were hit by a crisis, they were hit by what they recognized as an opportunity, and they had some leadership to show them the way, and they would go that way.

And every good thing, for changes for the better in history, in modern history, in particular, has happened that way. Why shouldn’t it happen in the state of Wyoming?

*The Aug. 23 Eagle-Tribune of Cheyenne, Wyoming covered U.S. Senate candidate Mel Logan’s primary victory in an article entitled “LaRouche Dem, Cubin, Green Win Fed Races.” Here are excerpts:*

By nearly a 2-to-1 margin, a LaRouche Democrat has won the right to take on U.S. Senator Craig Thomas, R-Wyo., for Thomas’s Senate seat.

Mel Logan, 50, beat retired florist Sheldon Sumey, 56, in the Senate race, sparking a spat within the Democratic Party over whether Logan should be supported.

With 95% of the precincts reporting, Logan collected 16,071 votes, or 65%, to Sumey’s 8,816, or 35% . . .

[Following] the Democratic Senate primary, Sumey endorsed Logan, and Wyoming Democratic Party Chairman Steve Freudenthal said he would call on Democrats to support the LaRouche follower.

But locally, Wyoming [sic, actually County] Democratic Party Chairman Chris Christenson said he would not throw in for Logan, a coal mine worker who ran on a pro-union platform and predicted economic doom for America.

Lyndon LaRouche spent five years in prison for mail fraud and conspiracy and is seen as a radical within the party.

Sumey said a LaRouche-ite is still better than Thomas.

“I will back Mel,” he said. “I’ll swallow LaRouche. I don’t like LaRouche but I’d rather have someone like that in than what we’ve got.”

Freudenthal said he hoped Logan would put up a fight against Thomas. . . . Even though the national Democratic Party has rejected LaRouche, Freudenthal said he wasn’t sure that would hurt Logan’s fundraising ability. . . .

Thomas, who enjoyed no primary opposition in seeking a second six-year term, enters the general election against Logan with name recognition and a superior campaign war chest. The Wyoming Democratic Party is “not at its peak by any means,” Thomas said. But he added he is not taking anything for granted.