

The Most Corrupt Election in American History

by Edward Spannaus

“What we had was a bad election, which was the result of a corrupt and bankrupt election campaign,” was the way that former Democratic Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche characterized the proper way to look at the mess we are now in. In reality, this was probably the most corrupt election in U.S. history, if when one considers the two-year long campaign march of “inevitability” of the nomination of two and only two possible candidates, both far short of Presidential mettle, and both agreeing with each other — and with Wall Street — on every issue.

This special feature’s “recounting of corruption” is not conclusive: the crucial point, is that the impasse over the Florida vote, provides us with the opportunity to reflect upon what we were about to do to ourselves as a nation, as a result, not of a bad election, but because of a thoroughly corruption election *campaign*.

And, it gives us time to ponder what it was, that the Constitution intended with respect to the process of the selection of the chief executive, and what are the qualifications which the Constitution implies must be present in an individual who is competent to lead the nation.

And as we show, the Electoral College — upon which falls the responsibility to carry out the next step in this process, on December 18, after the courtroom brawls have probably subsided — was created, as a deliberative body, charged with exercising judgment, not as a rubber-stamp for the popular vote (even if we knew — which is probably impossible — what that vote allegedly was).

The Non-Campaign

This Presidential election was nothing more than a contest for power between two would-be dynastic leaders. They both stood for globalization, both for free trade, both for the death penalty, and in the face of the onrushing financial and economic collapse of the U.S. and world economies, they spent most of their time squabbling about what to do with the (non-existent) budget “surplus.” More fundamentally, both Bush and Gore advocate policies which are absolutely hostile



International observers of the March 11 Michigan Democratic Caucus release their findings of fraud against LaRouche's campaign. From left: Gabriele Liebig, editor, Neue Solidarität, Germany; Hunter Huang, president, National Association for China's Unification; Ernst Florian Winter, professor and former director of the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna; Debra Freeman, LaRouche campaign spokeswoman; and Bruce Director, Constitutional Defense Fund.

to the the Constitutional commitment to the promotion of the General Welfare of these United States.

In most elections, there is some semblance of a contest over ideas, and the voters tend to respond to what they perceive as “issues” which bear upon their own self-interest. In this year’s election there was no such contest, and voters marched to the polls (or, were marched to the polls) more to vote *against* the other guy, than to vote *for* a candidate whom voters saw as promoting their own self-interests.

Vote fraud and election rigging (as we pointed out in last week’s *EIR*) are endemic to elections in the United States. But in this case, with no significant difference between the two “leading” candidates, but unprecedented amounts of money and resources to be thrown around, election-rigging, fraud, and irregularities, became the dominant feature of the election-race. That is the source of the actual crisis we face—not the legal wrangling over recounts and the allocation of Electoral votes in Florida.

But the impasse in Florida, which now appears more and more likely to extend into January, when the new Congress convenes, does give the American people time to reflect upon what has happened, and what was the nature of the 2000 Presidential campaign. That is the purpose of the series of articles which follow, in which we will consider the following aspects of the presidential race:

- The rigging of the nominating process of the Democratic and Republican parties, and the suppression of any dissenting voices by both the party apparatus and the es-

tablishment news media;

- The thuggery directed against any serious challengers, particularly toward Lyndon LaRouche’s campaign for the Democratic nomination; Gore’s campaign repeatedly used every “legal” subterfuge to prevent LaRouche from appearing on primary ballots, being included in the party caucuses, having his hundreds of thousands of primary votes counted or his delegates seated;

- Nullification of the 1965 Voting Rights Act;

- The myriad complaints of harassment and disenfranchisement of African-American and other minority voters in Florida;

- The unprecedented amounts of money, “hard” and “soft,” spent on this year’s election campaigns;

- The new wave of “convenience” voting procedures adopted in recent years, such as mail-in voting, and wider use of absentee voting—procedures which open the door for increased manipulation and corruption; and,

- The use of the news media to rig the nomination process, by attempting to create a sense of inevitability around the Bush and Gore nominations, the exclusion of LaRouche from the Gore-Bradley debates, and the exclusion of Pat Buchanan and Ralph Nader from the three nationally-televised Bush-Gore debates.

This feature begins with the publication of a memorandum on the Electoral College and the constitutional provisions for selecting a President. It represents our best estimate *at this moment* of what are the essential steps and mechanisms