

Vindicated on Economic Crash, LaRouche's Campaign Takes Off

by Debra Hanania-Freeman

As of mid-August, Lyndon LaRouche's 2004 Presidential campaign has taken off, with a series of webcast events in the United States, Europe, Russia, and Ibero-America, and steady recruitment of American youth to his campaign organization. LaRouche's leadership is far more widely discussed, internationally, than that of any prospective Democratic candidate, because of the vindication of his forecast of the current global financial collapse, and his strong initiatives in the Mideast war crisis.

Newspapers and websites worldwide are reporting the growing confirmation of LaRouche's economic forecasts, particularly the new evidence that "the party is over for the dollar," as one Danish paper headlined it. The discussion and adoption of LaRouche's policy alternatives is particularly widespread in Russia; and there, his proposals for action by Bush, in concert with Russia and Europe, to stop the Mideast war spiral, are bearing fruit.

In contrast, U.S. Democratic leaders are busy "positioning themselves" to swallow unpalatable Bush economic policies; their acceptance of the Bush-Cheney "energy plan," has infuriated leaders of core Democratic constituencies. Al Gore's recent re-emergence only posed the question for the Democratic leadership: Will the party repeat, already in 2001, the hideous blunders of the 2000 campaign — ignoring the terrible economic reality hitting the American population and allowing ersatz-Republican Gore to lead Democrats to self-destruction?

Running on His Record

In retrospect, the LaRouche-in-2004 campaign for the Democratic Presidential nomination, began on Nov. 7, 2000, when Al Gore failed to carry the state of Arkansas — where Gore had enraged Democratic voters by openly stealing 53,000 votes from LaRouche in the primary — and thus gave an Electoral College victory to Bush by default. LaRouche's

announcement of his 2004 campaign, came as his timely response to the U.S. Supreme Court majority's outrageous intervention to appoint Bush as President.

From the beginning, LaRouche emphasized the basis for his unique qualifications for leadership as, on the written record, the most successful, and consistently accurate economic forecaster of the past 35 years. During that time, all other leading candidates had been flatly wrong about the U.S. and world economy — painfully wrong, during the 2000 Presidential campaign.

In a recent discussion with organizers for his campaign for the 2004 Democratic Presidential nomination, LaRouche said, "We've now come to the point that the traditional beliefs, the habitual beliefs, of most of the population . . . show that they are on the edge of going down, on the edge of doom; that they reflect a society which, at some early point, will suddenly cease to exist. But we have the choice of changing those values, and surviving."

A few days later, on July 24, the Presidential pre-candidate delivered that message to an audience of about 250 in Washington, D.C. and at the United Nations in New York, in an address that was also broadcast live via the Internet. (The full transcript appears in *EIR*, Aug. 3.) LaRouche pronounced the global "floating-exchange-rate" or "post-Bretton Woods" financial system to be in an unsalvageable collapse.

In the face of this, LaRouche stressed that the American "elites" have absolutely nothing to offer a frightened citizenry, and a frightened world. But, he insisted that the primary problem was not Bush's incompetence, but the fact that the citizens of the United States chose him. LaRouche asked his audience, "Why can't we choose a person for President who's qualified for the job? . . . Why do we keep picking people who are dedicated to the wrong purpose, dedicated to a particular interest, not the nation as a whole, and people who aren't even competent to do an incompetent job?"



LaRouche campaign recruitment among students, such as these young Americans gathered for a weekend “school” in California, is occurring through wideranging seminars and workshops on the candidate’s scientific and economic ideas.

In a videoconference address to an association of Mexican accountants on Aug. 2, LaRouche made the point that leadership consists of giving people a sense of optimism about the possibility of changing the world (see *EIR*, Aug. 17). How else, he asked, can people find the courage to face the horrors they see exploding around them?

Gore Can Help No One

When a barely recognizable Al Gore, bearded and blimpy, emerged from vacation at the beginning of August, to announce that he was planning to set up a political action committee to “help” fellow Democrats in the 2002 election cycle—in return for which he obviously expects support for the revival of his own moribund political prospects—his announcement was not greeted joyfully.

And, forever the victim of bad timing, Fat Albert’s “offer” happened to come just as former President Bill Clinton, whose relationship to his former VP is at best very strained, decided to come out of political hibernation. At the same time that Clinton’s political reemergence drew enormous enthusiasm from party activists, many Democrats seeking reelection in 2002 politely declined Gore’s “offer” of help.

But, it still is not clear whether significant sections of the Democratic Party leadership, including Bill Clinton, are prepared to make a decisive break from the disastrous pseudo-Republican policies that characterized Gore’s Presidential campaign.

So far, although Congressional Democrats have talked a good game since the June defection of Vermont Sen. Jim Jeffords from the Republican Party, gave them a majority in the Senate, their leadership has failed.

The first, and perhaps the most dramatic failure, was the decision of the Democratic leadership in both the House and

Senate to reverse their previously stated position, and back off from the fight to save D.C. General Hospital—the capital city’s only public hospital. That capitulation to pressure from the Gore Democrats, not only resulted in the shutdown of the revered institution, but has, so far, resulted in the deaths of at least 29 people who would, in all likelihood, still be alive had the that top-quality hospital not been closed. This underlines the point that LaRouche Democrats have made repeatedly, that the policies of the “Third Way” Gore Democrats result in murder.

The capitulation on D.C. General has been paradigmatic of the utter failure of the Congressional Democrats to do anything effective to protect the general welfare of their constituents. Indeed, since June, there has been a virtual sweep in favor of Bush’s policies, with none of the hard-nosed opposition which Democrats across the nation

expected, particularly when their party attained the majority in the Senate.

Bush has succeeded in passing his energy bill, despite the fact that it represents an acceleration of the very deregulation and pro-cartel policies that have already brought California to the point of bankruptcy and devastated households across with country with soaring energy costs. And, his outrageously phony Patients’ Bill of Rights similarly looks to become law without any serious effort by the Democrats to stop it.

Part of the blame for the lunatic Democratic support of Bush’s energy bill, must be shouldered by organized labor. In exchange for a highly questionable promise of jobs, building power plants and such, the AFL-CIO abandoned the principle of the general welfare, whereby the Federal government is constitutionally and morally obligated to exercise its power in favor of the vast majority American people, and threw its weight behind the Bush policy.

The only way that Democrats, be they Congressional Democrats or local and state Democratic elected officials, will take on the catastrophic policies of the Bush Administration, is by facing the reality that the economic depression cannot be blamed on the pathetic performance of this Bush Administration during the last eight months. In fact, the great Greenspan Bubble and myth of the New Economy of the Clinton years was nothing but a chimera of prosperity for the few.

Increasingly, as the crisis intensifies, and as the grim reality facing the vast majority of the population becomes more and more impossible to avoid or deny, the simple truth is, that the Democratic Party, if it is going to provide the necessary leadership to beat this depression, is going to have to bring LaRouche in.