

LaRouche Vote: Shape Of Things to Come?

by Nancy Spannaus

The Democratic Party's evident national leadership vacuum has left Democrats, and sane Republicans, no place to turn but to the economic recovery policies of Democratic Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, the leader of the "FDR" tradition internationally. His political influence within the United States has risen during 2002 as the candidate has deployed supporters "on the streets," to engage the population in a discussion of the alternative to depression and war. Beside his infrastructure-centered recovery program, the candidate's exposés of the "Chicken-hawk" faction pushing the war, and of the corruption of the Joe Lieberman-John McCain duo, have flooded Washington and other major urban centers.

LaRouche's Presidential campaign, though hated and blacked out by the Establishment media, also played a role in this year's mid-term election contests. Over the course of the primaries and the general election, more than 215,000 citizens voted for a handful of avowed LaRouche Democratic candidates—against the Democratic Party leadership's active opposition! LaRouche's proposals have been all over the airwaves in the Washington area as well. And he played a decisive role in bringing about the defeat of a pro-drug referendum in Nevada.

The Spannaus Campaign

This author launched the most prominent of the LaRouche Democratic candidacies, running for U.S. Senate in Virginia as an Independent, where the Party leadership refused to oppose incumbent Republican John Warner and refused to accept a LaRouche Democrat as a candidate. My campaign put LaRouche's policies before the Commonwealth through use of the Internet and the airwaves in the nation's capital—which happens also to be the largest media market for Virginia. For eight weeks, LaRouche's voice was on the most-listened-to radio station in Washington, spreading in the last weekend to the major Virginia cities of Norfolk and Richmond. In some ads, he chided the insanity of the Chicken-hawk warriors; in others, he spoke about the solution to the economic breakdown crisis. These one-minute spots created such a stir that both the Virginia Democratic Party, and the leading national rag of the Neo-Conservatives, the *Weekly Standard*, put out ridiculous diatribes against Spannaus and LaRouche.

During the pre-election weekend, my campaign purchased five 30-second TV spots on the NBC-TV station in Washington, as well as a number of others on a lesser station.

Tens of thousands of Virginians were treated to a video of an actual test run of a magnetically levitated train; then LaRouche and I urged the emergency transportation infrastructure program which citizens must demand that President Bush put into place.

Otherwise, there was very, very little media coverage of the Senate race, where Warner was also opposed by a Libertarian independent named Joseph Hornberger; the media did their best to "cancel" it, and the turnout was only 32% of the registered voters.

But using the ads, the Internet, leaflets, and old-fashioned stumping to put LaRouche's leadership before the citizenry, I garnered unofficially 145,719 votes, about 9.25% of the vote. With two other candidates plus a write-in, this was no simple protest vote against Warner, but a solid LaRouche Democratic vote. This is shown by the fact that my best votes, 15% and more, came in counties around Washington, where the ads and mass leafleting campaigns reached the population, and in the cities where the LaRouche movement has had a years-long presence.

Another singularity was the vote in Charlottesville, home of the University of Virginia, and a kind of political capital for the state. There, the Spannaus vote was over 20%; and a mock-election run by the University with the participation of 20,000 high school students, who have been assigned to learn about the electoral campaigns over the course of this semester, resulted in my getting over 20% of that "vote" as well.

This showing, against Democratic Party and media hostility, bodes well for LaRouche's 2004 Presidential bid.

The State Campaigns

The other LaRouche Democrats running won the Democratic nominations for State Representative, one in Connecticut, and the other in Michigan. Despite Party resources either withheld from them, or actively used against them, both got vote totals comparable to those of other Democrats in their areas.

Running in Connecticut's 141st District, in the Darien-Rowayton area, Laurie Dobson had won the Democratic Party nomination earlier this year, before she decided that she had to link up with the LaRouche political movement, and present herself as a LaRouche Democrat. This she did immediately after Labor Day, causing sparks to fly, and the Democratic Party to renounce her, denounce her, and demand that she drop out of the race.

Dobson stuck to her guns, taking up the cudgels against Connecticut Democratic Senator Joe Lieberman, a war-monger who was the former head of the Democratic Leadership Council. She ran on LaRouche's economic plans, including the emergency rail program that would transform conditions of transport in this suburban community. She put forward an "Athena Project" for upgraded transportation in her area, to show how it would link up with the urgently required national program. She went door to door, and held town meetings.



The huge shadow of depression over California economy—typical of states across the country—which was ignored by both Democratic Gov. Gray Davis and his Republican opponent. Recovery measures mean backing Lyndon LaRouche, who proposes a “Super-TVA.”

Dobson won 24% of the vote, 1849 votes in all, against the incumbent Republican—more than the Democratic Party’s candidate got in 2000—and has become a prominent spokesperson for the the LaRouche perspective on national reconstruction. She immediately announced, on election night, that she would be leading a drive in Connecticut for LaRouche’s “Super-TVA” proposal.

In Livonia, Michigan, LaRouche Democrat Kerry Lowry won the Democratic primary on LaRouche’s platform, with over 60% of the vote, and faced the incumbent Republican in the general election. Despite Lowry’s decisive primary victory, and the fact that LaRouche’s program represents the only hope for post-industrial and bankrupt Michigan, the Michigan Democratic Party declared it would give him no support whatsoever. Lowry’s vigorous campaign answered: LaRouche is the only national leader to tell the truth on the economy and present a solution. In campaign events, televised debates, town meetings, and mass leafleting, he made sure every voter knew he was the “LaRouche Democrat.”

Kerry Lowry’s final vote was 12,209, more than 36%, in an established Republican district. He plans to take the lead in pushing LaRouche’s “Super-TVA” through the Michigan State Legislature.

Fighting Drugs

The LaRouche Presidential campaign factor came into prominent play in Nevada, where George Soros’ drug gang had put a marijuana-legalization referendum on the ballot. Following the circulation of LaRouche’s exposé of Soros, by Democratic gubernatorial candidate Joe Neal, the referendum—considered a winner earlier—was buried by a margin

of 61% to 39%. Passage would have been a breakout by Soros and the drug cartels, by mandating state *protection* of narcotics traffic. Any adult could buy up to three ounces of pot from dealers, licensed and taxed by the state, at the same rates as tobacco. The state would also guarantee “the distribution of marijuana at low cost” to anyone with a doctor’s prescription.

The Soros-funded Marijuana Policy Project (MPP) thought it could win; Nevada has legalized gambling and prostitution, and recently legalized “medical” marijuana and decriminalized possession of less than an ounce. The state’s small population meant it cost the Soros crowd only \$375,000 to get on the ballot, paying \$1-2 per signature, according to Billy Rogers, the MPP official sent in from Texas to run the operation. Only a few hundred of the \$2 million MPP spent was donated by their “grass-roots” in Nevada, according to official filings.

LaRouche broke up the game, starting with a Sept. 8 press release which denounced Soros as the primary source of funding for the entire drug legalization drive worldwide. “How can the United States expect to press Colombia and Peru to crack down on the drug cartels when the same cartels are now attempting to establish a major beachhead inside the United States?” he asked.

LaRouche’s unmasking of Soros was sent to all media in the state and used by a LaRouche Democrat on the state party central committee to block an otherwise expected endorsement of legalization. On Oct. 4, the Democratic nominee for Governor, State Sen. Joe Neal, used *EIR*’s exposé to persuade the state Board of Health to oppose the initiative. The *Las Vegas Review-Journal* made that its lead story on Oct. 5. Soros and company reacted with a strategic blunder. They launched a barrage of slanders against LaRouche, and demanded that Neal and Las Vegas prosecutor Gary Booker “apologize” for having linked the MPP to “the cartel.” Neal stood his ground and vouched for the high quality of *EIR*’s research. The *Review-Journal* and *Time* magazine hounded Booker. In the process, LaRouche’s and *EIR*’s responses were reported daily in the *Review-Journal*.

On Oct. 9-10, White House “drug czar” John P. Walters spent two days in Nevada, echoing LaRouche. At every stop, he nailed Soros and insisted he wanted to debate only him and the two other moneybags named in *EIR* on Sept. 20. “Any time, any place. I’m here; where are you?” Walters asked. Soros, of the “Open Society,” hid. After the Election Day victory, Reno-area District Attorney Dick Gammick told Soros’ lackeys, “Pack your baggies and go home. We don’t need this stuff in Nevada.”