

LaRouche Redraws Lines Of Calif. Recall Battle

by Harley Schlanger

One of the major political stories of the California Recall fight, is the impact of Lyndon LaRouche's Presidential campaign and its intervention here to "repeal the Recall" of Gov. Gray Davis—an intervention LaRouche vows to continue, notwithstanding legal uncertainties such as those surrounding the date of the vote.

Even before his phenomenally successful visit to California on Sept. 11, LaRouche had been shaping the fight to defeat the efforts by Dick Cheney and his neo-conservative networks to oust Davis. LaRouche's appearance in Burbank before 450 people—nearly half of them youth—was the high point of four weeks of aggressive organizing to defeat what he calls "Cheney's dirty coup." The appearance recruited some of the growing number of youth who are swelling the ranks of the LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) on the West Coast.

A Three-Pronged Mobilization

The candidate's three-pronged campaign offensive—attacking the Recall fraud directly; calling for cooperative economic infrastructure projects between the Western U.S. states and Mexico; and mobilizing for energy re-regulation and rebuilding capacity and transmission—is working. It is crucial to his national strategy to force Vice President and Presidential Svengali Dick Cheney out of office, because Cheney's Energy Task Force "oversaw" the looting of California's economy and treasury by energy prices from 2000 onward. The lines of the crucial Recall battle in that war, were being rapidly redrawn by LaRouche's mobilization at the point, that the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals intervened on Sept. 15, with a decision "postponing" the Recall, as if to deny LaRouche a looming political victory of national importance.

The LYM has been circulating hundreds of thousands of copies of a LaRouche campaign pamphlet, "Who Robbed California? Vote 'No' on the Recall!" which explains how the "Cheney Gang" set up the state for ripoff through the deregulation of electricity—which opened the door for Enron, Williams Energy, and other energy pirates to loot California. This looting of tens of billions of dollars by the Cheney-Bush-linked energy pirates, combined with the collapse of the Silicon Valley "tech" sector—that cost the state an estimated capital gains tax revenue of \$10-\$15 billion—plunged the state into a deep deficit of more than \$38 billion, which was then blamed on Governor Davis.

It's that deficit which is being used to power the Recall effort against Davis now. Anger over the budgetary stalemate in 2003, and the eventual deep cuts and increased taxes passed by the legislature, fuelled populist anti-government sentiments, which were manipulated to get the petition signatures to force a Recall election. The "Who Robbed California?" pamphlet documents how the Recall drive has been backed by the very same figure who promoted energy deregulation—the actual trigger for the budget crisis in the first place.

A mass leaflet, "The Case of a Living Stage Fright" has also been distributed by the hundreds of thousands. The leaflet identifies the currently leading Republican candidate in the Recall election, Arnold Schwarzenegger, as a pathetically incompetent actor, a pliable puppet in the hands of his oligarchical controllers—such as neo-con George Shultz, and Pete Wilson, the former California Governor who pushed through deregulation and promoted the racist anti-immigrant Proposition 187 (which Schwarzenegger has admitted he supported).

LaRouche's Winning Strategy

In a recent discussion, LaRouche said that he knew, from the outset, that the success of the Recall depended on a series of politically eccentric circumstances, all of which seemed to be in place: first, a short campaign period, which would limit substantive discussion, allowing a joke candidate like Schwarzenegger to run for office with little scrutiny; second, a lengthy ballot, with more than 130 candidates including porno actresses, a porno king, and several second-rate actors and oddball comedians, which would further the idea that the campaign overall was a joke; third, a weakened, defensive, apologetic incumbent, unable to maintain party unity, whose Democratic Lieutenant Governor, Cruz Bustamante, jumped ship to run for Governor himself, thereby giving credibility to the Recall.

When the campaign began, these "eccentricities" had been lined up. Polls showed a significant majority in favor of Recall, with little time for the governor to improve his standing. The consensus among pundits was that the battle would be between Bustamante and Schwarzenegger to replace him.

To shift this seemingly inevitable outcome, LaRouche devised a strategy that attacked an ugly, exposed flank. No, not Arnie; but the real issue being obscured by vapid, contentless campaigning: who is responsible for the economic and financial collapse of the state—who robbed California? Davis has since helped his own cause with a spirited attack on the deregulation pirates—and on Cheney's protection of them during the peak of the energy crisis—in a speech at UCLA early in the campaign. His wife, Sharon Davis, has repeated this point since, though the governor has not.

But what has redrawn the battle lines in the state has been the production and distribution of the leaflets and pamphlets, followed by LaRouche's visit to the state. Polls now show the Recall down to a 50-50 proposition, and other national Democrats have belatedly followed LaRouche and former



If the Recall vote goes ahead and is defeated with LaRouche's mobilization drawing other national Democrats into the fight, the big loser will be Dick Cheney. LaRouche is not waiting, but escalating with a program to reregulate and rebuild the power grid beginning with California.

President Clinton into the state to fight it.

The LaRouche Youth Movement has been holding non-stop rallies in California's major cities and on its campuses, drawing thousands of students each day to debate their dismal future if the Recall passes. Many previously apathetic students are registering to vote; others are taking extra literature to join the campaign, while some are joining the LYM.

The LaRouche Youth intervened at the state Democratic convention—at which Bustamante was forced to join the chorus chanting “No Recall,” in order to get the party's endorsement. (True to his backstabbing self, however, the next day he dropped “No Recall” from his campaign again, and was out promoting himself to replace Davis!)

Following the Burbank meeting addressed by LaRouche, the LYM has escalated. A rally outside Schwarzenegger's new office in Santa Monica, during which the once-muscle-bound tough guy was taunted with chants of “Hey Arnie, you pussy, where were you when Enron was raping the state?” led to the early closing of the office. (In fact, when electricity prices skyrocketed and blackouts hit the state in early 2001, Arnie was meeting with Enron's chief pirate, Ken Lay, who was meeting with Cheney.)

Re-Regulation and Rebuild Grid

The Sept. 15 ruling by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, which would postpone the Recall until the March state primary election, is still being contested. But LaRouche responded by simply escalating his mobilization in the state, with the release of another program in pamphlet form, which would make California a national project for re-regulating

and rebuilding America's electrical capacity and transmission grid. Speaking in Burbank, the candidate demanded President Bush's requested \$87 billion Iraq fund—LaRouche called it “a Halliburton relief fund”—be stopped, and credit issued to rebuild the U.S. power grid instead.

The new pamphlet has relaunched the fight to overturn the state's disastrous deregulation legislation, dating to 1996. Its introduction says, “It's time to abandon deregulation, in favor of a serious approach to rebuilding our energy, and other infrastructure, with the kind of proven, workable methods which that great Democratic leader Franklin Delano Roosevelt put into effect, and which LaRouche alone proposes today. Let's return to sanity!”

This followed on the heels of the newly released pamphlet on LaRouche's policy for Ibero-America, “The Sovereign States of the Americas.” The policy is one of republican nation-states collaborating for hemispheric development centered on energy and water supply and management; it also takes on the demagogic use Schwarzenegger has made of the immigration issue, on behalf of his racist handlers.

In the last two weeks of September, LYM members are participating in a statewide tour against the Recall organized by Assemblyman, and former Lieutenant Governor, Mervyn Dymally. They will have held meetings in more than 20 cities beginning Sept. 17, to rally the “forgotten men and women” to play a role in the future of the state.

Dymally sent a message to the LaRouche event in Burbank, calling on the campaign to join him in the effort “to save our Democratic Party so we can save our nation from a descent into fascism.”