

As LaRouche Forecast, The Race Is Now Down To Kerry and Him

by Nancy Spannaus

Speaking at a campaign event in Manchester, New Hampshire back on Jan. 25, Democratic Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche forecast that soon the Democratic field would dwindle down to only two significant candidates. He put it this way: "There are only two candidates for the Democratic side, who have any significance whatsoever, for the voters and citizens of the United States: I'm one of them; the other one is obviously Senator Kerry. You can forget the rest. They will not be around very long."

Now, following "Super Tuesday" on March 2, LaRouche's forecast has come true. With the withdrawal of John Edwards from the race on March 3, the stage is set for the next phase of the campaign, the one where Democratic voters begin to take the election seriously, and ensure a thorough debate on the fundamental economic policy issues, between now and the July Democratic Party convention.

In an interview with the National Public Radio station in Austin, Texas, on March 4, LaRouche said: "So, under these circumstances, we're now in a situation where we have to beat the Bush re-election campaign. The time to start that is right now. Bush has started his side. Therefore, what has to happen now, is that John and I have to compete for the Presidency in a very special way. Not for the purpose of dumping on each other, but for the purpose of helping to ensure that when the Democratic convention meets in Boston, that we will have the knowledge, we'll have the programmatic outlook, and will be on the offensive with whatever candidate is chosen to become President, and whoever becomes Vice President.

"That's the situation now. And my job is to take care of what John does not know too well, and that is economics.

Signs of Breakthrough

"There's a big fight in the Democratic Party right now, between two policies on how to deal with the crash. One group, which is generally associated with Bob Rubin, the former Treasury Secretary, is the sane group. I don't think they have the solution, but they have an understanding of the problem. On the other side, you have Felix Rohatyn and people like him, and Lazard Frères, for example. These guys are in the footsteps of [Nazi Economics Minister] Hjalmar Schacht, and they would do to the United States, with their

present policies, what some people are doing to Argentina right now.

"So, that's the key issue."

While the Democratic National Committee (DNC) remains determined to keep LaRouche out of the electoral process and debate, there are indications that their controls on his campaign, which represents the largest base of popular support among the lower income brackets in the country, as measured by the Federal Election Commission (see article, p. 28), are breaking apart.

One sign was the breaking of the taboo on inclusion of LaRouche in debates with other DNC-approved candidates, at a forum sponsored by the Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials in Augusta, Georgia on Feb. 28. LaRouche followed John Edwards and Al Sharpton in speaking to 250-300 legislators, and received a positive response.

Another was the emergence of the first significant vote for LaRouche to be *counted* this election season. Up until now, in the first primaries, LaRouche's vote has effectively not been counted, but on Super Tuesday, LaRouche emerged with votes of 14% and 12% in Bridgeport and Hartford, Connecticut respectively, both areas with a large proportion of African-American voters. LaRouche campaign spokesmen consider this a reasonable, or even low reflection of LaRouche's actual support among this constituency.

Interestingly, state officials report that Connecticut does not have computer voting. This contrasts with the prevalence of touch-screen voting in other Super Tuesday states such as Maryland and California.

Even more striking, however, was the victory of four LaRouche Youth Movement members, and one older LaRouche supporter to fill five of seven available positions for one district of the Los Angeles Democratic Central Committee. LYM leader Anna Shavin led the slate with the highest tally for the district—8,713 votes.

In the adjacent 44th District, there had been a nasty campaign to stop the "LaRouchies" from being elected to the Central Committee. This failed, when one LaRouche youth and veteran Committee member Maureen Calney won, while the chief LaRouche-hater on the ballot lost. In all, there will be 18 LaRouche representatives seated at the Los Angeles Democratic Party convention in June.

Nor was it just in Los Angeles that victories were won. In Alameda County, in the San Francisco Bay area, two LaRouche youth and one older member defeated a vicious, lying campaign in order to win election to the Central Committee.

Now that LaRouche and Kerry are the only ones with a national base who are seriously campaigning for President, LaRouche anticipates additional progress in the weeks ahead. There are at least 14 more states where LaRouche will be on the Democratic primary ballot, starting with Texas, Louisiana, and Missouri on March 9. If the voters begin to realize the real stakes in this election, who knows what might happen?