
Democratic Party

New York drug lobby fears school race

by Franklin Bell

Eugenicist Averell Harriman did not attend. But his former aide, New York's senior senator of "benign neglect," was there. So was the only mayor in the United States to shut down 90 schools.

They and other national figures in the reform Democrats' school of planned shrinkage gathered at New York City Hall April 25 to denounce a slate of candidates for one of the city's 32 decentralized school board districts.

Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, who advocates "benign neglect for minorities," called the candidates "bigots." New York District 37 state workers' president Victor Gotbaum, whose wedding featured Lazard Frères banker Felix Rohatyn as best man, called them "slobs." Mayor Ed Koch, with his usual eloquence, said, "I can best sum it up by saying I have seen them before, and they are the pits." City Councilman Stanley Michels tried to smear the candidates as members of "a fascist cult." New York's other senator, Republican Alfonse D'Amato, did not attend, but issued a garbled statement attacking the candidates.

The cause of this remarkable intervention into a local school board race? The nine candidates on the "Classical Education" slate in the May 3 election belong to *EIR* founder Lyndon LaRouche's National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC).

Possibly recognizing the backfire-potential of the display, the *New York Times* blacked out the senatorial-mayoral press conference. The rest of the city media, taking their cues from earlier *Times* slanders, are using the lies they think will prevent what the Harriman wing fears.

'This will have a spiraling effect'

"The question in District 6 is not partisan politics, union politics, slate politics, nor any other kind of politics. The question is the future of all politics in this city," said Charles Hughes, president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 372. He declared that if the LaRouche candidates are "able to win in the community school board elections, they will be positioned to run for other elective offices. This will have a spiraling effect. We have put the strength of our union—telephones, printing, support services—into the battle against the LaRouche cultists. We intend to win no matter the financial cost."

Before the Harriman reformers began converting New York into Hong Kong, the New York City school system was the finest in the country. Now the system produces high school graduates who do not comprehend sixth grade math or English. Forty percent of those who enter high school do not stay long enough to get a diploma. Most of the classical music and foreign language programs have been eliminated. Class sizes have continually increased, while teachers have been laid off by the thousands, and teachers aides head many of the classes. Federally funded bilingual and special education programs track pupils into illiteracy, and brainwashing-by-computer programs and vocational make-work courses have been substituted for traditional education.

Bobby Wagner, deputy mayor, who is Koch's intimate friend, and a recent candidate for school chancellor (New York State declared him unqualified), issued a formal proposal three years ago to shut 200 of the city's schools as part of Koch's "Program to Eliminate the Gap." The gap causing their concern was not in education but in the budget—a gap caused by their planned shrinkage collaborator Felix Rohatyn and his Municipal Control Board bankers' financial dictatorship over the city. By Koch's accounting system, they will not have succeeded until they shut down another 110 schools.

The incumbent school board members are affronted when anyone suggests that this is not the direction in which public education should continue if the nation is to produce a citizenry able to run the economy and the government in the 21st century. But the NDPC candidates have done far more. The NDPC's program for a classical curriculum and a means of financing it have evoked cries of derision from the press.

"The candidates propose an education program based on teaching the largely Hispanic district, with the city's worst reading scores, classical Greek, piano and violin, and laser technology," wrote the *New York Post* derisively. Voters in the district have had a very different reaction. At a candidates' night April 27 at Adam Clayton Powell school in Harlem, the mainly black and Hispanic audience broke out in applause when the NDPC candidates spoke. Attempts to slander the NDPC'ers were met with choruses of boos.

The NDPC candidates have already gained commitments from scientists, music scholars, competing candidates, and other community leaders to join them in establishing an ad hoc committee to make proposals for changes in the curriculum based on the NDPC's demonstrations that "genius can be taught." Nereida Cordero-Thompson, one of the NDPC-backed candidates, has been endorsed by the Puerto Rican Educators Association for the number-two position on its ballot. Cordero-Thompson had managed the NDPC-endorsed congressional campaign of Fernando Oliver in the Bronx last year.

The hidden agenda

But the hidden agenda of the controllers of the slanderers has little to do with curriculum per se.

Since LaRouche slanderer State Sen. Franz Leichter led the fight to “decriminalize” marijuana in the state, drug sales of all kinds have become a frequent means for school personnel to supplement their meager incomes. Grade schools rival parks as prime drug distribution centers in the American capital of drug money laundering.

From the outset of their campaign, the NDPC candidates have pledged to do what is necessary to create drug-free zones around all the district’s schools. In 1979, as leaders of the National Anti-Drug Coalition, candidates Cordero-Thompson, Jeanne Bell, and Dianne Oliver led a successful campaign to stop Democrat Leichter’s bill licensing the sale of marijuana in liquor stores.

The level of hysteria displayed by heavyweights Moynihan and Koch and their operatives in the United Federation of Teachers has led to suspicions throughout the district, especially in Hispanic and black neighborhoods, that the officials are sitting on top of a drug and sex mill operating under the cover of a public school system.

The same day the *New York Post* ran its insinuation that Hispanics are too stupid for a classical education, it also carried a story about a New York City dean of girl students who boasted that she and her administrative allies are conducting “subversive activities” to promote homosexual and lesbian literature in the schools.

Further questions about the drug-and-sex agenda the LaRouche opponents have for the schools are raised by would-be chancellor Wagner’s connection to the North American Man/Boy Love Association. NAMBLA is conducting a campaign to lower the official “age of consent” for sexual activity to age four—while Mayor Koch continues to plea before the city council for “homosexual rights.”

Stages of the smear campaign

The slander campaign against the LaRouche school board candidates has not been a last minute effort. As soon as the nine candidates and their associates in other districts handed in double and triple the number of petition signatures required to get on the ballot, Moynihan lent out one of his stable of lawyers to challenge the petitions in an attempt to keep the NDPC candidates off the ballot.

The tactic failed, and the news articles lamenting the failure conceded as the campaign began that the NDPC slate would win at least one or two positions on the nine-person District Six board. Thirty-five candidates qualified for the ballot after the press published an appeal by Koch for “concerned citizens” to run. Koch issued his appeal well after the petition period started, when it had become clear that the NDPC was on its way to meeting the petition requirements.

The next tactic was to “quote” anonymous “Jewish community leaders” professing fear of the slate. The press found proof of this in a leaflet entitled “STOP the New Fascist Cult” that was drawn up by a specially created organization, the Committee to Save Our Schools. The organization, endorsed

by Leichter, Michels, and U.S. Congressman Ted Weiss, quoted LaRouche out of context to make it sound as though he endorsed Nazism! In actuality, the statement the extract was taken from was a 1978 description by LaRouche of the Green environmentalist movement in West Germany as fascist (a description borne out by later revelations). “It is not necessary to wear brown shirts to be a fascist. It is not necessary to wear a black shirt to be a fascist. It is not necessary to wear a swastika to be a fascist. It is not necessary to wear the fasces to be a fascist. It is not necessary to call oneself a fascist to be a fascist. *It is simply necessary to be one!*”

Next, United Federation of Teachers President Albert Shanker got into the act by devoting his regular paid column in the Sunday *New York Times* on April 24 to slandering the NDPC campaign.

Not satisfied that the printed slanders were doing the job, the Anti-Defamation League arranged for a podium for a professional LaRouche slanderer at a Jewish community center in the district. Dennis King, a stringer for the Dope Lobby publication *HighTimes*, tried to use the same Goebbels tactic in front of a live audience. Quoting material out of context again, King refused demands from the audience to read the full body of the material which he claimed proves the LaRouche organization to be fascist. During the 1968 citywide teachers’ strike, King, then a Progressive Labor Party spokesman, attacked the heavily Jewish teachers’ union members as “racist.”

None of these tactics has seemed to work outside the slanderers’ own networks. Teachers, parents, Jewish leaders, other voters in the district, and even opposing candidates have taken up the NDPC program. Candidate Norman Pearl stated at a recent candidates’ night meeting, “What we are seeing here is more than an historical irony. Some of the most brutal of the Nazi stormtroopers came out of the back-to-the-earth counterculture groupings of the Weimar period. They were open proponents of drugs and pederasty. Now I hear some of my fellow Jews who came to this country to escape fascism calling us ‘fascist’ for fighting these same evils.”

Melvin Klenetsky, an NDPC leader who opposed Moynihan in the 1982 Democratic senatorial primary, explained at a press conference held before Moynihan’s April 25: “Nationally, LaRouche and his allies are viewed as a threat to the racist wing of the Democratic Party, put in place by Averell Harriman, whose own family . . . made itself conspicuous in the 1920s and 1930s by promoting the identical race ‘science’ of eugenics that Adolf Hitler adopted.” Klenetsky, who won up to 65 percent of the official vote in black districts in his race against Moynihan, said, “These elected officials . . . are the in-government protectors of cocaine and marijuana sales on the Upper West Side and in a proven 95 percent of Manhattan’s school yards.” Klenetsky was widely covered on radio and in newspapers as stating: “What Moynihan has said about the LaRouche group is slander that goes back to 1978, when LaRouche began a major war on drugs.”