

Reagan wins massive personal mandate

by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

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Nearly a week after President Ronald Reagan's "landslide" defeat of the Mondale-Ferraro ticket, the three most important facts of last Tuesday's election-results are clear. First, President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) won a devastating, "landslide" victory over the "Nuclear Freeze" posture of the Mondale-Ferraro ticket. Second, except for a few key races, the congressional slate of the Republican Party barely maintained its pre-election strength. Third, Mrs. Pamela Churchill Harriman's circles in the Democratic Party leadership led the Democratic Party to its most humiliating defeat since 1972.

The meaning of these three results is seen most clearly by examining the differences between the two League of Women Voters' "presidential debates." In the first, President Reagan was not truly himself, except in one or two interludes; in the second, he was the real Ronald Reagan. In the first, President Reagan was carrying out what had been, generally, the Republican Party's electoral tactic for the 1984 election; the result was nearly a disaster. In the second, Ronald Reagan as himself, was a clear triumph; Walter Mondale's campaign was turned into a rout, during the remaining two weeks.

In the aftermath of the "landslide" for President Reagan's personal candidacy, two features of the "second debate" stand out. First, President Reagan counterattacked in support of his strategic-defense doctrine; this was the only policy which the President featured strongly in that "debate." Second, on the other questions presented during that "debate," the President consistently took a position for "traditional American values"; the President pinned this down most memorably in his closing remarks.

The reaction to my own prime-time network broadcast of Oct. 23, two days after the "second debate," underscored the way in which President Reagan reached the minds of much of the population on the evening of Oct. 21. To various press and related sources, the Mondale campaign, at the national and local levels alike, confided that my broadcast would cost Mondale a significant number of votes. Following my broad-

cast, the Mondale campaign scrapped much of its featured advertising campaign against "Star Wars." By the latter part of that week, the Mondale rout was clearly under way.

This pattern is confirmed by vice-presidential candidate Billy M. Davis's reports on post-election reactions from contacts of the LaRouche-Davis campaign. Sample indications are, that most of the voters who were sympathetic to the outlook of my nationwide television broadcasts, voted against Mondale-Ferraro by voting for President Reagan. It is perhaps impossible to measure, at this point, how much our campaign contributed indirectly to President Reagan's margin of victory. The Mondale officials said the impact of the Oct. 23 broadcast would be "significant." What does "significant" mean in this case? One percent? Two percent? One-and-a-half percent? More? Who knows? The important point is that the President's remarks, on SDI and traditional American values, before a nationwide television audience on Oct. 21, were seen by many citizens as more or less identical to the positive policies featured in my broadcast of Oct. 23.

By contrast, the Republican Party's campaign was evasive on what Mondale and Democratic Chairman Charles Manatt defined as the principal issue of the 1984 campaign: "Star Wars." Most of the Republican campaigns we examined based themselves on the widespread perception that a skyrocketing economic recovery was in progress. Granted, the majority of the population appears to believe that an economic recovery is in progress, although the experience of a very large minority of the population is that no economic recovery has occurred. Since Mondale did not argue that the "economic recovery" was in any way an exaggeration, the Republican Party's electoral tactic could not have accomplished much more than enable the Republicans to hold their own, more or less, as it turned out they did by and large.

In the congressional races, three elections were clearly of national significance: the defeat of Governor Hunt's efforts to unseat Sen. Jesse Helms; the defeat of Sen. Charles Percy in Illinois; and, in the House of Representatives, the defeat of "Percy-like" Rep. Clarence Long (D-Md.) by Republican Helen Bentley. In all three cases, the principal issue was foreign policy, not domestic policy.

The leading issue of the campaign thus proved itself to be U.S. foreign policy: the desire of the citizens that President Reagan be supported on military and foreign policy, against the Percy-like policies of both the Democrats and the U.S. State Department. It is on this point that the President's election-night mandate is clear.

What will be the effect of the election on the second Reagan administration? What is certain is this: One of the toughest factional battles in modern history is already raging inside the administration and among congressional circles. Inside both the administration and the Congress, the issue will be Kissinger versus Reagan. The Kissinger Republicans, the Kissinger "clones" inside the State Department, National Security Council, and sections of the Defense Department,

and the Kissinger Democrats aligned with the Mondale campaign, will use every trick available to them to attempt to intimidate the President into capitulating to a Kissinger-like military and foreign policy. Who will win? Whichever faction is the tougher.

Already, the Kissinger faction has argued that the election gives the President "no clear mandate." The argument in support of this absurd opinion is the evidence that "the President failed to carry the Republican congressional slate on his own electoral coattails." In reality, had the Republican congressional candidates generally followed the President's policies on SDI and traditional values, rather than treating these issues as political liabilities, the President would have carried more Republican congressional candidates to victory. The failure was not the President's; the failure was the electoral tactic of the Republican Party. The President won a "landslide" victory, despite the warm-dishwater politics of the Republican Party generally.

If President Reagan uses his election-mandate effectively, the Kissingerians in his administration will lose much of the power they have exerted inside the administration for more than a year and a half. If not, the second Reagan administration will not be much different in results than a Mondale administration might have been.

A citizens' policy toward the administration

The defeat of Walter Mondale saved the United States from a catastrophe, and left us with a mere potential disaster. The election is ended, but the fight to determine the shape of policy over the next months, the next four years, has merely begun.

Don't sit back and ask for predictions of the result of the present factional affray inside the administration. Help make your wishes come true, by affirming your support for the SDI and "traditional values" which carried President Reagan to his reelection victory.

The things which ought to be uppermost in the citizen's mind are the following.

First, we must mobilize our efforts to keep the President alive and safe. The last President to threaten to dump the doctrine of Mutual and Assured Destruction, President John F. Kennedy, died very suddenly. The Soviet government is in a very ugly mood now, determined to crush everyone in the "West," from President Reagan on down, responsible for pushing through the Strategic Defense Initiative. This does not mean that the Soviet KGB will directly organize an attempted assassination against the President, but it will hint very strongly to its friends in high places in Europe and the United States that President Reagan must be removed quickly from office by any means necessary.

Second, we must mobilize to halt the Soviet strategic onslaught now being accelerated. The Soviets can be induced to stop this, on condition that they are convinced that we are strong in both material means and in will.

Third, be prepared for a general financial collapse, at some time during the months ahead. This financial collapse is not absolutely inevitable; however, it is inevitable as long as the government of the United States continues to tolerate the "Volcker policies" of the Federal Reserve System and the austerity policies of the International Monetary Fund. If "Volcker policies" and IMF policies are continued, the probability is that the financial collapse would hit during the first half of 1985; it could occur almost any time during that period, and could even occur before the end of 1984, although that does not seem very probable at the present moment.

When and if this crisis hits, President Reagan must take the kind of sudden emergency measures I have outlined during the 1984 campaign.

Fourth, unless IMF policies are reversed soon, expect most of the regions of the world to explode with coups d'état, civil wars, and local wars. Unless IMF policy is drastically changed, the effects of IMF and World Bank austerity will throw most of the countries of the world into crises of massive and worsening social upheavals.

President Reagan won the election by a "landslide." That victory prevented a catastrophe; that is good. The President was right on some of the important issues, but his administration is wrong on other issues, especially economic issues. Unless the President corrects certain errors of policy, especially errors in economic policy, there will be a disaster during the coming months and years. For that reason, the 1984 LaRouche campaign must continue on matters of policy. For us, the election has ended, but on the policy issues of the campaign, we have merely begun to fight.

The forces behind the *New Republic* magazine have recognized this fact; hence the lie-riddled cover-story attacking me in their Nov. 19 issue. Although the *New Republic's* article is saturated with deliberate falsehoods, that publication leaves no doubt that its great fear is the possible influence of the 1984 LaRouche campaign on the perceptions of available policy-options around a second Reagan administration. The thinking citizen's duty is to help to cause the *New Republic's* worst nightmare to come true.

President Reagan is now reported to be 73 years of age. During the Oct. 21 broadcast, he concluded his remarks by presenting to the citizens of this nation the problem of composing a letter to be placed inside a time-capsule, to be opened by our descendants, a hundred years from now. It is clear, that he was referring to what the second Reagan administration will accomplish, to leave behind it for generations yet to come. Therein lies the essential goodness of President Ronald Reagan, a goodness which exists whether the President is either right or badly mistaken in various of the particular policy-decisions he makes. Let us hope we have what is truly a new Ronald Reagan administration, and let us bend our efforts to make certain that the mistakes of that administration are as few as possible.