

Desperate efforts to protect Gov. Ridge are backfiring

by Mel Klenetsky and Nancy Spannaus

At the last minute, after Lyndon LaRouche's Presidential campaign had contracted for more than a dozen half-hour Pennsylvania television spots and advertised those spots in *TV Guide* and local radio stations throughout Pennsylvania, television stations in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Harrisburg, Scranton, Johnston, Erie, Reading, and Altoona informed the LaRouche campaign that they would not run the ads. Only a smaller station, Channel 61 in Philadelphia, decided to run the spot, despite the incredible pressure that stations had been put under not to run the ads. The television shows were to air in the first two weeks of August.

The clear beneficiary of what some political experts have described as one of the dirtiest political tricks of the 1996 Presidential campaigns, was Gov. Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania. The title of LaRouche's television show was "Impeach Governor Tom Ridge, for Nazi-Style Crimes Against Humanity." Pennsylvania LaRouche campaign coordinator Phil Valenti reports that dozens of callers into LaRouche's toll-free number, having read about the television spot in *TV Guide*, were outraged that the Presidential candidate's access to the media was denied.

Those calls are only the beginning of the backfire effect which can be expected from heavy-handed, illegal suppression of LaRouche's First Amendment rights. The successful effort to keep LaRouche off TV in Pennsylvania is also now part of a major federal suit against Democratic National Committee Chairman Donald Fowler, whose lying letter claiming that LaRouche is not a "bona fide Democrat," was used by the media to keep the anti-Ridge special off the air.

Fowler, like President Clinton's consultant Dick Morris, is a major player in the "Second Republican Party" within the Democratic Party, and he now stands exposed for helping a Republican governor, who has been considered as a possible vice-presidential candidate, and who is already notorious for

health cuts which can be shown, on an actuarial basis, to be leading to the deaths of more than 3,500 people.

LaRouche's suit against Fowler

LaRouche's lawsuit, filed against Fowler on Aug. 2, which we reported in our last issue, has not yet drawn any response, but a legal response is expected imminently. The Democratic National Committee, Fowler, and numerous party state chairmen have been served with the suit, which charges that they violated the Voting Rights Act. A request for a preliminary injunction against the seating of the delegates who replaced those legitimately pledged to LaRouche, has also been filed with the Washington, D.C. federal court. Action has not yet been taken by the court.

LaRouche spokeswoman Debra Hanania-Freeman gave a press conference at the National Press Club on Aug. 8, where she described the events leading up to the filing of the suit. She noted that Chairman Fowler's Jan. 5, 1996 letter, in which he cited Party Rule 11K as authority for declaring that LaRouche was not a Democrat, was not only based on lies about LaRouche, but also contradicted other party rules, and the civil rights of voters. She said that LaRouche had responded to Fowler, and had hoped that the matter would be settled.

When Fowler refused to retract, and then told local officials to deny the rights of LaRouche's elected delegates in Louisiana and Virginia, as well as Democrats who wished to vote for him in Washington, D.C., Texas, and Arizona, LaRouche had no choice but to sue, Mrs. Freeman said. Fowler's actions had not only violated LaRouche's rights, but the rights of voters across the country.

Mrs. Freeman focussed on the political problems caused by the Democratic Party's toleration of Fowler's policy against LaRouche. LaRouche brings a policy perspective to

the party which is vital to the Democrats winning a landslide in November, she said. His opponents were the ones Sen. Ted Kennedy (Mass.) attacked in January 1995, when he said the nation did not need "two Republican parties."

LaRouche, in an Aug. 7 radio interview with "EIR Talks," described his battle with Fowler and Dick Morris, a cousin of the late Roy Cohn, the notorious lawyer for Sen. Joe McCarthy and assorted mob figures. "So, these guys are the Republican side of the Democratic Party, or the second Republican Party, as Senator Kennedy referred to it. That crowd inside the DNC and around the Presidential campaign, are obviously very unhappy with what I'm doing. And, this crowd will cooperate with the Republicans, at least in a passive cooperative way, on this kind of operation."

Regarding his future efforts and concerns, LaRouche said, "So, I'm out to get their scalps, skins, hides, so forth; find a good fence on which to hang these pelts up, scalps up, and so forth, and try to get the Democratic Party not only to win the elections, which I'm determined must happen. . . . But also, to ensure that the Democratic Party is re-elected with an impetus for doing some of the things which it must do, which the Republican Party, behind Dole and so forth, could not possibly conceive of doing at this time."

Fowler is not the only person on the hot-seat in this suit; also served were the state chairmen of the Arizona, Texas, and Washington, D.C. parties, who had interfered with LaRouche's right to participate in the election. The party chairmen of Louisiana and Virginia are also named, because they acted on Fowler's orders.

Nor is LaRouche acting alone. He is joined by at least two voters each from the five states, many of them African-Americans. Grace Littlejohn, a plaintiff from the District of Columbia who had tried to become a delegate for LaRouche, attended the Aug. 8 press conference.

The fight against Ridge

The LaRouche Presidential campaign is continuing its campaign to impeach Governor Ridge, right up to the time of the Aug. 26-29 Democratic National Convention. So far, hundreds of thousands of "Impeach Ridge" pamphlets documenting why the governor is guilty of Nazi-like crimes against humanity, are circulating in Pennsylvania. The governor himself has reportedly been dropped from the short list of presumptive Republican Presidential nominee Bob Dole's choices for vice-president. The reason given? He can't be assured of "taking his own state."

LaRouche's campaign had put the spotlight on Governor Ridge's welfare reform policies, which, according to spokesmen Valenti, would have thrown some 250,000 people off the medical rolls. LaRouche's supporters (he received over 57,000 votes in the April 23 Pennsylvania primary), at the time, joined a broad-based alliance of forces opposed to the bill, highlighting the bill's Nazi character, since medical-actuarial studies had proven that a designated section of the population would die as a result of such public policies.

On June 4, Governor Ridge re-introduced the bill and rammed it through the legislature. At that time, LaRouche and his supporters began calling for Ridge's impeachment, accusing the governor of Nuremberg Crimes, based on the argument that Ridge knew or should have known what the effect of his policies would be. LaRouche described Governor Ridge as the "lead duck," amongst a flock of Republican governors including Tommy Thompson of Wisconsin, and William Weld of Massachusetts, whose state policies paralleled the efforts of House Speaker Newt Gingrich (Ga.) and Rep. Dick Armey (Tex.).

LaRouche explained the events to "EIR Talks" on Aug. 7: "First of all, we discovered, after I said that Ridge had to be impeached for this crime against humanity, for Nazi-like crimes . . . that this fellow was pretty high up on the hit parade for Bob Dole's selection of a vice-presidential candidate, which caused quite a bit of fuss around Washington. . . . In any case, on the eve of the Republican Convention, people were digging their heels in trying to keep my operation off Ridge's back, and still try to get him to be the Vice-Presidential candidate. So, they pulled an operation, together with a couple of corrupt characters over at the FCC [Federal Communications Commission], to certify that I was not a candidate, which, of course, is contrary to law! Of course, a man who murders people or his friends, is not going to be too fussy about obeying the law. So, they arranged to have my programs, or the broadcasts of these programs cancelled—in the middle of a campaign! How do you like that for human rights and democracy, and all those wonderful words?"

In mid-July, WSEE television station in Ridge's hometown of Erie, informed LaRouche's campaign that it would not be running the ads, since, in the estimate of its attorneys, LaRouche was not a bona fide candidate. Richard Wykoff, the president of the Pennsylvania Broadcasters Association, produced a memorandum, which was sent out to all the electronic media in state. Wykoff said that LaRouche had run in Pennsylvania more than three months ago, and that DNC Chairman Fowler had ruled that LaRouche was not a candidate.

Thus, Fowler's letter was used by Wykoff to prevent LaRouche from airing a television spot that attacked the policies of GOP Governor Ridge. Where the Federal Election Commission fully recognized LaRouche's right to run in 26 primaries and awarded LaRouche his federal matching funds, the FCC, on July 30, passed a decision which said that the television stations did not have to air LaRouche shows unless the LaRouche campaign produces documents from Fowler indicating that LaRouche is a candidate. After the FCC passed this decision, Wykoff contacted all of the stations in the state and warned them that they could be open to libel suits if they ran LaRouche's program, since LaRouche was no longer considered to be a candidate. Once this occurred, all stations but one pulled out.

The LaRouche campaign is in the process of challenging the FCC decision.