

'New Democrats' Attack FDR as Depression Grows

by Michele Steinberg

There is a war going on inside the Democratic Party between the leadership of Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., who represents the tradition of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and the so-called "New Democrats," who are escalating their campaign to bury FDR's commitment to the general welfare of the nation. The Democratic Leadership Council (DLC), representative of the "New Democrats," offers to turn the party into towel boys for George W. Bush's coalition for a new fascism.

Al From, the founder of the DLC, is telling Democrats that Al Gore lost the Presidential election because he did not embrace the DLC program. This is a big lie. Gore lost because he is a New Democrat—pushing every one of the copycat Republican policies, from welfare "reform," to "reinventing government" (to reduce government to its smallest in over 30 years), to fanatically backing free trade. In truth, the only chance for the Democratic Party to take back Congress, the White House, or state houses, is to purge it of the likes of From and his aping of the Gingrichite Bush agenda.

On Jan. 24, immediately after Bush's inauguration, From and a bevy of DLC leaders, including pollster Mark Penn and "New Economy" cheerleader Will Marshall, held a press conference to denounce FDR and the New Deal fight for the general welfare of the population.

Releasing the first 2001 edition of *Blueprint*, the New Democrat magazine, in an article entitled "Why Gore Lost . . . And How Democrats Can Come Back," From declared, "This is the bottom line: The New Economy is creating a new electorate that demands a new politics. . . . The New Deal political philosophy that defined our politics for most of the 20th Century has run its course; the political coalition it spawned has been split. Like Humpty Dumpty, the New Deal coalition cannot be put back together again. . . . In the Industrial Age, the working class dominated the electorate. The new electorate of the Information Age is increasingly dominated by middle- and upper-middle-class voters who live in the suburbs."

Demonstrating "chutzpah" (defined as the ability to enter a revolving door second, and come out first), From stressed that Gore's and the Democratic Party's humiliating defeat was entirely due to the fact that Gore had *abandoned* the DLC's advice to gear everything toward the white, affluent suburbs. In reality, Gore followed the DLC's policies, dragging himself, and the attempt to gain Democratic control of Congress, to defeat, just as LaRouche had warned.

The DLC's "coming out" on Jan. 24 had an even more specific purpose: to put labor and African-American Democrats "in their place," and to put a damper on the growing grassroots opposition to Bush's racist nominee for Attorney General, John Ashcroft. In fact, the DLC was one of the groups mobilized by Wall Street and Gore's allies in the Democratic National Committee, to discourage Democrats from using the filibuster weapon against Bush's effort to ram through a crisis-management war cabinet.

First, the DLC made it plain that the black vote should *not* be a priority: "Democrats should continue to win an overwhelming majority of African-American and Hispanic voters. But we cannot afford to get clobbered among white voters *for the simple reason that there are eight times as many white voters as there are black voters, and four times as many white voters as all minorities combined*" (emphasis added).

The DLC told Democrats to be the "loyal opposition," like slaves knocking at the back door of the plantation mansion for a handout. In the second 2001 edition of *Blueprint*, the DLC leadership declared that the party's "long-term interest will not be well served by tactical positioning designed . . . to stymie Republican initiatives or embarrass a Republican President." Instead, Democrats must offer the Republicans a program for "breaking partisan gridlock" that would be "the basis of bipartisan efforts." The DLC "bipartisan" program is wedded to globalization, the stock market bubble, disappearing high-tech jobs, and free trade.

Defending the Financial Bubble

The most dangerous of the DLC messages is its appeal to greed, its promise of a never-ending boom. The Democrats' biggest mistake in 2000, it said, was their failure to recognize the "staggering" pace of "demographic change in the electorate." Democrats should have pandered to the fact that "70% of voters in 2000 said they owned stock. . . . The electorate is rapidly becoming more affluent. The percentage of all voters with annual family incomes of more than \$50,000 grew from 32% in 1992, to 39% in 1996, to 53% in 2000." It said, "The percentage of voters with annual family incomes of less than \$30,000 dropped from 38% in 1992 . . . to 23% in 2000."

By contrast, Lyndon LaRouche is telling Democrats to take over the leadership of the country precisely *because* the "New Economy" bubble, which was pumped up by Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan-orchestrated hyperinflation, will go bust, with economic devastation not seen in centuries. As February came to a close, LaRouche's warnings were becoming reality, as hundreds of thousands lost their jobs, as the high-technology sector and consumer boom crumbled. The Nasdaq index plummeted during February by 22.4%, its third-worst monthly percentage decline ever, following a 55% market decline in one year.

Under such conditions, listening to the drivel of the Al From New Democrats will only ensure continuing defeat for the party.