

## YOUTH TO CONGRESS

# Read Between the Votes: The Power of the ‘New Politics’

by Michael Kirsch, LaRouche Youth Movement

Unfolding in the form of a landslide against the Republican incumbent of the 23rd Congressional District in Texas on Dec. 12, the quintessential predicate of the post-Nov. 7 transformation has put a magnifying glass to what Lyndon LaRouche illustrated on Nov. 26 as the “New Politics.” The impact of a small number of strategically deployed young adults of the LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) triggering the decisive margin of victory, was not a wild, political fluke deriving from the Nov. 7 midterm election, but a replicatable and knowable method of political organizing.

In the following seven articles, *EIR* presents a re-examination of the dynamic principles that unfolded on Nov. 7, so that the Congress may self-consciously move forward, wielding the unseen power, the method, which the present world economic, social, and cultural crisis so urgently demands.

For, just as Johannes Kepler discovered the causes of the motion of Mars and the organization of the Solar System—by hypothesizing the actual physics that projected the data perceived by the senses, relying thus on his mind’s uniquely human capability to discover causes, rather than following predetermined rules—so too, hypothesizing the “physics” of social phenomena is bounded by the same power.

As we demonstrate here, if voters are not viewed as objects to be muscled into formation for the purpose of an election, but instead, as minds potentially contributing to the development of the nation and the world, it were no longer necessary to appeal to the “least-common-demonimator” baseness of the population. Rather, were Congress to digest the critical lesson of political method illustrated in these pages, they would then realize that the organizing of a population is a process that can be approached with a knowable method.

If, in following in the footsteps of Kepler, the Congress

looked to the “physics” of the process of change in a population, then they would understand how, as was demonstrated on Nov. 7 nationally and on Dec. 12 in Texas, the LYM catalyzed the elementary reality that citizens respond in a human way, with a national pride to build a future, when they are presented with the sober reality of today’s crisis. Solving great problems, rather than petty issues of the kind associated with the approach of “Rumsfeldian incompetence,” makes it possible to uplift a population to demonstrate the power of their creativity. As post-election polling interviews showed, youth responded overwhelmingly to an environment of discussion of real issues and ideas. The youth of America need not be herded like cattle, but uplifted toward a great mission with optimism.

With the weighing-in of the 18- to 25-year-old generation on Nov. 7 and Dec. 12, the Congress must realize that all future decisions concerning political conflicts are now going to be made with this generation in mind. That being said, it should come as a refreshing realization to those patriots entering Washington, that to become self-conscious of the method of the “New Politics,” is at the same time, to recognize the method by which the required political forces can be garnered to introduce the urgently needed economic reforms into practice in the United States.

If the incoming Congress considers the implications of the following articles, and reflects on the fact that they are an expression of historic social phenomena within the population as a whole, they can, like the audience members watching a tragedy unfold on stage, cry out, “Enough!” and rise to act, as heroes from outside the tragedy, possessing the courage to challenge the axioms of economics standing in the way of securing a future for youth for the next 50 years.

# LaRouche's 'Mass Effect' Organizing Principle Confirmed

by Natalie Lovegren

*The Dec. 12, 2006 run-off election in Texas's new 23rd Congressional District provides an elucidating example of the method that sparked what Lyndon LaRouche has called the "New Politics." The campaign waged by the LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) was a physical experiment that catalyzed a landslide Democratic victory.*

*In the Nov. 7 Congressional elections, with a wide field of candidates, no one received a majority in the 23rd CD (which includes part of San Antonio, and emerged after the courts overthrew former Speaker of the House Tom DeLay [R-Tex.] gerrymandering of the state's Congressional Districts so as to increase the GOP's representation in Congress). A special run-off election was scheduled, which pitted Democrat Ciro Rodriguez (who had lost his former Congressional seat as a result of the redistricting) against seven-term Republican incumbent Rep. Henry Bonilla. Until the last days of the campaign, Bonilla was almost universally expected to win. But when Election Day came, Rodriguez gained 55% of the vote to Bonilla's 45%.*

*LYM leader Natalie Lovegren, who was a member of the seven-person LYM organizing team in the district, gave this report Dec. 15 to the EIR staff in Leesburg, Virginia. It has been slightly edited for publication.*

If you look at the map, you'll see that this district is larger than a lot of the states east of the Mississippi. When we went there, we said, "Okay, there are seven of us. We have this much area to cover!" We found out that there were three colleges that were in the district, with a significant student population. So, we ended up looking at how we were going to mobilize the student vote. Then the other thing we ran into is, that most of the students were then in finals, or there were pre-final "dead days," where no one was on campus, so we had to figure out how to deal with that.

We concentrated mainly on three universities or colleges in the district. You have the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), which is in the north; and this was where a professor from the law institute had put out a report saying that there were potentially 12,000 student votes at this campus, out of a student population of over 20,000—that there were potentially 12,000 voters that could vote for the Democrats.

But the likelihood of them voting—probably less than 300! So, that would have created the margin, even there, to be able to win the election.

That was the first school we went to. We started out by saturating the classrooms with literature early in the morning, before anyone was there, putting pamphlets and flyers all over the desks in large classrooms and auditoriums, or wherever we could. We did that at several schools. And then, also, the first campus where we were able to have discussions with the students, was at the University of Texas at San Antonio. At first, hardly anyone knew that there was an election. Some people said, "Oh yeah, I already voted. Nov. 7, right? Yeah. I voted Democrat, don't worry." So, we had to figure out how to raise awareness of the election, first of all, and then give the students a reason to vote.

But after a couple of hours we were asked to leave. They told us that we needed a student organization to sponsor us, so we went on a mission to figure out how to get permission to organize for the next couple of weeks on that campus, which was one of the biggest universities in the area that was in the district. We had a meeting with the president of the College Democrats, who was *very* enthusiastic, seemingly, initially very helpful.

She said, "I know people from campuses all over the city. I'm going to get you permission to be able to set up on all of the campuses." So, we briefed her on some of the work that we had done on the anti-DeLay campaign in Houston, and what the Franklin D. Roosevelt Legacy Club was doing in Los Angeles, and she was very excited, and began calling up people right there—people she knew from the campaigns last November and area Democrats, in order to set up a regional meeting for us to work together. She said she had to talk to her supervisor to get permission, but that she was willing to work with us. "You can use our table; we'll have it set up for you, just let me know when, and then we'll be done." So, initially, we had a very welcoming response.

## A Sudden Shift

That evening, there was an event at which I saw the College Democrats' president, and she was kind of reserved, and said, "I have some questions and some concerns. I talked



EIRNS/Stephanie Nelson

*The LYM organizing at a busy intersection in San Antonio. Two days before the election, the Rodriguez campaign picked up the idea, and began to hand out literature at the intersection too.*

to our vice president. There's a rule that we're not allowed to sponsor you. But I told them you were nice, and there was no problem, so I don't understand." The next day, she told me that there was a memo put out, by someone on the state level of the College Democrats, that throughout the state the College Democrats are not allowed to associate with the LaRouche Youth Movement, or they'll get their charter revoked, and won't be able to be College Democrats, ever again!

So, we had a situation where the students were largely unaware that this election of national importance was taking place, the campus political organizations were unwilling to publicize it, and we were being denied the capability to organize for it. Yet, it was perfectly permissible for an atheist group to set up a table on the campus, to baptize students, and engage in a program that they call "smut for smut," where they would accept any religious text in exchange for pornography: meaning, if you bring them the Bible, the Book of Mormon, the Quran, etc., they will politely check your ID, and give you a piece of pornography. There was no problem with the Board of Regents at the University of Texas allowing that type of activity on campus, but we weren't allowed on campus to organize for the election.

This was an ongoing battle, and we were trying to get around it, figure out if there was another student group that could sponsor us. Meanwhile, we were organizing at different campuses. We stopped organizing on what was technically UTSA campus property, but began to hold rallies at traffic

intersections just off the campus, to catch the student traffic. We infiltrated and saturated the student dormitories, housing, and off-campus apartments with material about the election. We left pamphlets about the David Horowitz-Lynne Cheney operations to stop political activity on campuses ["Is Joseph Goebbels on Your Campus?"], and with them, these leaflets about the election—they were pretty good:

"Thirty Five Bush Puppets Down, One to Go!"

"On Dec. 12, in U.S. Congressional District 23, continue the Democratic landslide and stop Cheney's perpetual war!"

"Representative Bonilla is George W. Bush's lapdog: on the war; on the destruction of our economy; on our future!"

"Get your Congressman off Bush's lap: Vote Bonilla out! Vote Democrat in the December 12 Special Election."

We blanketed all the housing with that leaflet. Every time we did anything

like that, I got a call from this student president, claiming that we "broke the rules. You can't do that, you're turning people against the candidate, we're going to lose the election because of you." She had told me the College Dems were not going to organize at all for the election, nor is any other student group. So, I told her that therefore, it seemed the seven of us were responsible for getting students out to vote. We didn't intend to break the law, but were having to come up with creative ways to stir up some discussion about it.

Another factor, is that UTSA is under the jurisdiction of the University of Texas at Austin, where Lynne Cheney's "Campus Gestapo" is at work, where you do have a couple of professors on David Horowitz's hit list.<sup>1</sup> We received a report from one of the students at the downtown campus who said that Horowitz had been there to give a presentation. The students couldn't take it after about half an hour of his speech, and they started interrupting him, saying he was full-of-it, racist, etc. Right before we put out the Goebbels pamphlet, Yaron Brook<sup>2</sup> had visited San Marcos, to spew his genocidal rhetoric; and then apparently in that same time period, Horowitz visited the UTSA downtown campus, and the student

1. David Horowitz, *The Professors: The 101 Most Dangerous Academics in America* (Washington, D.C.: Regnery Publishing, Inc., 2006). See *EIR*, Oct. 20, 2006.

2. Brook is the president and executive director of the Ayn Rand Institute. See "Lynne Cheney's Circles Call for Mass Murder," *EIR*, Oct. 27, 2006; "War Party Exposes Itself as the Campus Gestapo," *EIR*, Nov. 3, 2006.

that we spoke with was from the Progressive Students Organization. And she said that when they found out he was coming, they notified professors who had been under attack by Horowitz, and they organized an event on the same day to counteract what he was doing, and there was also a walkout from his speech. So this is some of the political environment we were dealing with on the campuses.

### **The Tejano Dems Join the Fight**

About a week before the election, the Tejano Democrats (Tejanos are Texans of Mexican descent) called a town meeting in the district, and invited Harley Schlanger, LaRouche's Western States spokesman, and LYM member Kesha Rogers, who had run for chairwoman of the Texas state Dems, to speak. This meeting was a reaction to how the party leadership had handled the campaigns for the Nov. 7 election, especially the lack of funding for statewide candidates; many lost by a very small margin just because they were completely underfunded. A lot of people were really unhappy with the direction of the Texas Democratic Party, and the discussion was generally about how to change the direction; what's the future of the Texas Democratic Party going to be? And a couple of the most important points were: We have to tell the truth about Republicans; that has to change, don't hold back on that. And we need to have outreach: It's not going to function just to focus on known voters.

The people there were generally pessimistic about how the Rodriguez campaign was working, because you had the DNC (Democratic National Committee) and the DCCC (Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee) come in on Nov. 18 and say, "Okay, yeah, we will give money, but most of it's going to go to robo-calls. So we're going to have massive robo-calls, and no debates. A discussion of ideas, debates, not allowed." They advised Rodriguez against debating Bonilla. And so a lot of people at this meeting were upset that you had this attempt to "professionalize" what they said—the DCCC had to come in to professionalize the Democratic campaign, because it was just being run by volunteers. Schlanger presented a panel on LaRouche's idea of the "New Politics," and Kesha Rogers spoke about the role of the Youth Movement, and the importance of the work on Classical music and science that we're doing to uplift the level of discussion politically. And people were very responsive to their speeches.

So, we did get a buzz going on about the election. We found a very good traffic intersection—high visibility for our banners, where we could get out election flyers, and pamphlets on LaRouche's Economic Recovery Act (ERA). We probably hit a total of 10,000 cars or so, in terms of the cars that passed through there. We did some stats on the cars: You had 95 cars per light. It was very good, because it was right on the South side of town, right in the middle of the Democratic base, and there was constant traffic. So we went out there with a few big banners, and one that said, "Henry Bonilla

Is Nothing But Tom DeLay With a Tan." A teacher took a whole bunch of the ERA pamphlets to put in the teachers' lounge. We were discussing the potential of a real economic recovery after we get these crooks out of the Congress. People were taking extra copies. We had another large shower curtain banner about Bonilla being a puppet of Bush. And then there was a media report saying saying that Rodriguez was turning to trash-talking and negative campaigning, because he called his opponent a "Bush Puppet." I don't think he ever said that—that was us.

After we had so much visibility at this intersection—we had been doing it fairly consistently—after President Clinton came in (see below), the Rodriguez campaign came to do the intersection, two days before the election! They weren't just holding up signs: They had a LYM-style truck with a megaphone, signs all over it, people briefing the crowd on the campaign. They had the candidate come out in a van, waving to people and talking. They were having fun. Those were the anti-professionals that the DCCC wanted to get rid of.

### **San Antonio's German Classical Culture**

Then, Palo Alto College. There's this really interesting culture to San Antonio, because you have a huge German population and German Classical culture scene there. So, we were staying with a supporter, and next to his house, is the Beethoven Bar. They have a "Männerchor" (men's chorus) and a "Damenchor" (women's chorus), and they have several German choruses and German singing societies that practice there. And there's a beer garden, and then there's several rooms for practice, where each singing group will practice on a different night. One of the nights we went over there, we ended up having a good time, singing in the bar, and people came over and started singing some of the German canons with us. And we met a professor who sang in these choirs, and he taught at a college in the South, which Clinton ended up visiting. So, we ended up working with him, and he invited us to his class the next morning, and we had a lively political discussion with the class. Then he gave us tips on which other classes to go to, which other professors that would be interested. And he's someone who has been a civil rights activist his whole life—he's 68; he did some work with the Cesar Chavez movement, the Valley farmworkers strike, the labor movement down there. He got fired from teaching at a college for participating in that.

So, he helped us out, and a group of us stayed at his house for a bit. And we ended up at that campus, which was small, about 8,000 students; we briefed about a dozen classes. And when we first got there, I talked to some professors who hadn't even heard about the election; by the day before the election, many students were very excited about voting.

So, that was good. The students were kind of wide-eyed and optimistic about the briefings we were giving them, about the responsibility of our generation, that this is something that we have an opportunity to do. That it's not just up to the older

## How 'New Politics' Won in Texas

Democrat **Ciro Rodriguez** won a landslide victory 55-45% in the Texas 23rd Congressional District in the Dec. 12 runoff—a stunning upset of seven-term incumbent Republican **Henry Bonilla**, which experts in the “old politics” had pronounced impossible, based on Bonilla’s \$2 million war chest versus a nearly broke Rodriguez campaign, and the supposedly assured turnout of Bonilla’s informed, relatively better-off Republican voter base.

The 23rd district comprises 21,000 square miles, running from San Antonio west to El Paso, along the Mexican border. However, 65% of the newly drawn district’s vote occurred in the C-shaped rim comprising the north, west, and south portions of the city of San Antonio in Bexar County.

The LaRouche Youth Movement arrived on the scene on Nov. 28, and began a two-week organizing blitz at Palo Alto College, a commuter college of 800 students on the south side of town, in Precinct 1046, and the huge University of Texas at San Antonio on the north side of the city, in Precinct 3134.

The LYM organized at Palo Alto, and in the precinct directly north of the campus, 1047, at the South Park Mall, and its nearby intersection, Military Road at I-35, getting out thousands of pieces of literature. The LYM’s distribution of thousands of copies of the “Is Joseph Goebbels on Your Campus?” pamphlet, commissioned by Lyndon LaRouche, on the nationwide, university-based mind-control gestapo set up by Lynne Cheney (Campus Watch), along with “Organizing a Recovery from the Great Crash of 2007,” LaRouche’s Nov. 16, 2006 webcast, and brutal humor directed at Bush-Cheney, began to change the polit-

ical environment immediately. On Dec. 4, eight days before the election, an independent poll by SurveyUSA/WOAI-TV, showed Bonilla ahead 53-46. A few days later, private Democratic polls reportedly showed the race even, at 44-44, and then, Rodriguez pulled ahead by 47-44, according to reports. Around Dec. 8, President Bill Clinton made the decision to come to speak at Palo Alto College on Dec. 10, which event lifted the idea of youth taking action for a future over the top.

As the map shows, the precincts where the LYM organized, voted heavily for Rodriguez (the eight precincts on the south side), with a voter turnout ranging from 17-21% on Dec. 12.

On the north side, historically the Republican stronghold, the LYM organized around the University of Texas at San Antonio, with its 20,000 student commuters. Bonilla won the precincts in the north handily. By Dec. 12, ten of these precincts shown northwest of the city, had become “War Zones,” where the vote was now virtually 50-50.

And, in very hard-core Republican areas such as precincts 3030, 3044, and 3075 (see map), the vote remained overwhelmingly Republican on Dec. 12, but the turnout was cut in half from Nov. 7. For the first time ever, the Republicans lost the “early voting” phase of an election—an eight-day period, from Dec. 2-9, which Republicans had always won. As the *San Antonio Express* reported Dec. 12, “Defying every political truism of Bexar County politics, Bonilla started the night by becoming the rare well-known Republican to not only lose early voting, but to lose it badly.” Bonilla’s voters had become demoralized, in the environment of the LYM addressing the demise of the nation under Bush-Cheney, while the LaRouche youth mobilized what will become the dominant factor in future elections: youth, and a youth-inspired vote for a future.

—Anita Gallagher

generations to direct the future now, it’s up to us, and you should take part in it—it’s fun. There was a kind of excitement, but also a recognition of the severity of it, that this takes a lot of responsibility. And the professors responded pretty well, too. We essentially had an open invitation to speak at these classes. We weren’t turned down by professors.

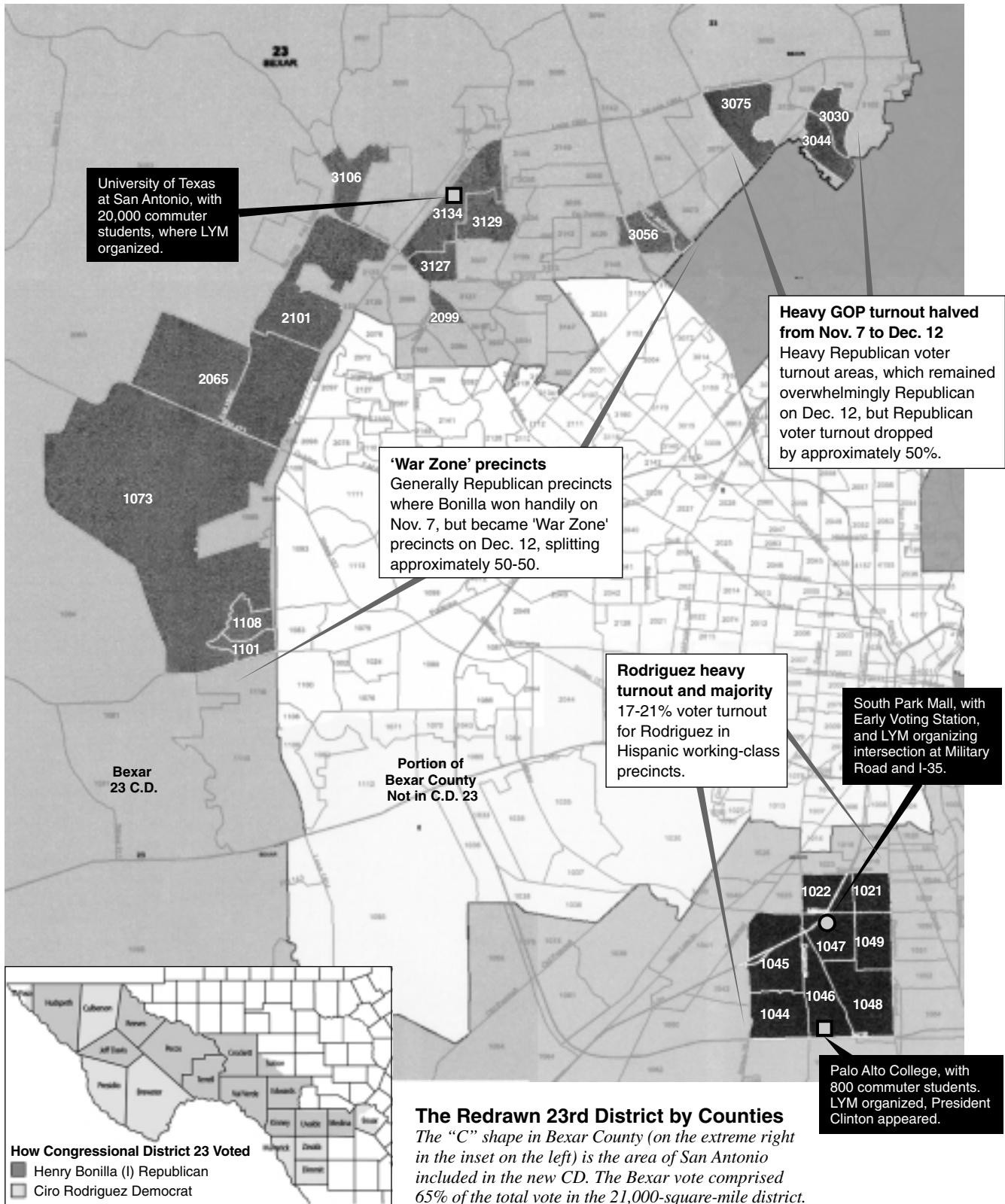
### Bill Clinton Joins the Fight

Palo Alto College was the only campus where we were able to set up a table whenever we wanted, so we did a lot of organizing there. And then, Saturday morning [Dec. 9], we found out that Bill Clinton was coming to the campus on Sunday at noon. So we called all the contacts we had made

there, called all the contacts we had made at other universities, and everyone I talked to was super-excited about Clinton. His name—I just haven’t seen a reaction like that, from our generation to a public figure. After his appearance, when we talked to students about the upcoming election, some would say: “Aw, whatever. It doesn’t make a difference if I vote. It’s just a stupid run-off election.” And we’d say, “Oh really, did you know Bill Clinton was here, that he thought this election was a pretty big deal, so he came out to your college?” Then they’d turn around: “WHAT!?! Clinton?! Here?! I can’t believe it! Why didn’t I know about this!”

And Clinton’s speech was very hard-hitting. I’m glad the College Democrats were there. His speech should have orga-

**Texas's 23rd Congressional District, Precincts in Bexar County Where the Election Was Decided**



Sources: Congressional District Plan 01438C; Bexar County Elections Department; EIR.

nized them. The president of the College Democrats had actually told me, “Well, we’re not going to organize for the election. I think that education comes first. So I’m not going to encourage the members of the club to organize for the election, because they already did so much in the November election and it just wouldn’t be fair to ask them to do this. Sorry! Education comes first!” So, I’m glad the students were there, that they were organized by Clinton: Because he was making it very clear; he went through the comparison between the current administration—“the man in the White House”—and what the Democrats had done, what his administration had done. He started off developing this irony: He said, “Ciro [Rodriguez]’s opponent said he was glad I was coming to town, because the voters of District 23 have nothing in common with me, and they wouldn’t really care. So, I got to thinking, what didn’t they like about what we did? What didn’t they like about Democratic policy?” And then he compared the difference in the country, the dramatic difference in peoples conditions of life, between his administration and the current Bush Administration, and made a really stark contrast.

“Now,” he said, “the reason I’m going through this, is because whether you understand this or not, is what’s going to determine the election. So, think about it, and go out and organize, and look people in the eye and tell them to get out there and vote. That this is about the future.” He said that we won 29 seats in Congress in November, but there were 10 more that were really close, that were within 1% of winning. So are we going to make this one one of the 29 or one of the ten? He then mocked the idea of the Bush administrations attack on “the reality-based world.” He said, “They think were lesser mortals, because we—I’m not joking—are stuck in the reality-based world. They think that state of denial is a compliment, because that just means that you’re strong enough to be able to ignore any facts that are inconvenient to your ideology.” It was very good.

Another key component, another key organizing force was LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens). They were the ones that filed the suit against the governor, against Perry, about the redistricting in the first place. The Supreme Court ruled that they needed to change the maps, because 100,000 Latinos were disenfranchised. And then they organized to allow for early voting, because the Republican Secretary of State was not going to allow it. The idea—this is something that I heard, I don’t know if it was actually the strategy—that they wanted the higher income people to vote,



EIRNS/Tauron Jones

*The LYM is known for its beautiful, choral singing, including in San Antonio (author Natalie Lovegren is on the right). They joined German choruses in a local “beer garden,” as well as singing in an acoustically excellent tunnel by the river.*

because they would vote Republican; and if you had early voting, you were going to give more of a capability to the lower-income people who would have to go out after work to vote, and you would give them more opportunity to vote. So, LULAC really fought to get the early voting. And then we even got an extra day, so we had all through Saturday, before the election on Tuesday to do early voting. In one instance, we made up a flyer that said, “Early Vote Today at This Location” and then put some fun political stuff in there, and then blanketed a mall where one of the early voting polling stations was. We stuck it on hundreds of cars in the parking lot, and then went inside and distributed these leaflets to a bunch of people in the mall.

So, we were just really figuring out how to get things moving. We did some singing that was fun. There’s a place called the River Walk that was built during the New Deal, along the river; it’s stone, and there’s some bridges, and the river is below the level of the downtown, so you have to go down these stairs, and there’s bridges and tunnels and restaurants all along the way. And so, we found a tunnel that had really good acoustics, and we were singing political canons and German songs, and we drew crowds. They were coming out and listening, and watching from across the river. We were passing out leaflets about the election while singing, so that created an interesting dynamic. There wasn’t really any downtime; we thought, “Well, let’s just keep going, and think of every creative thing we can to get people political. And create a buzz.”

# Tejano Dems Meet in San Antonio; The ‘New Politics’ Is Introduced

by Harley Schlanger

Three days before the Dec. 12 special run-off election for Texas’s 23rd Congressional District seat, between underdog Democrat *Ciro Rodriguez* and Republican incumbent U.S. Rep. *Henry Bonilla*, the Tejano Democrats in San Antonio sponsored a panel on the theme, “Which Direction for the Democratic Party?” The purpose of the event was to review the outcome of the Nov. 7 election in Texas, so that the Democrats might make the changes necessary to once again win statewide elective offices.

The panel consisted of influential figures who have provided leadership in shaping both tactical initiatives, and strategic direction, for the Texas Democratic Party. These included Dr. *Richard Gambitta*, director of the Institute for Law and Public Affairs, University of Texas at San Antonio; *Peck Young* of Austin, a long-time Texas Democratic Party consultant and pollster; Prof. *Rudy Rozales*; and *David Van Os*, an activist from the progressive wing of the party, who was the Democratic nominee for state Attorney General in 2006.

What made this panel different was the participation of a member of LaRouche PAC, *Harley Schlanger*, who is also the Western states spokesman for *Lyndon LaRouche*. His participation reflected the recognition by activists among the Tejano Democrats (*Tejano* is the Spanish word for “Texan” and refers to Texans of Mexican descent), and party leaders more broadly, of the profound significance of the special kind of organizing carried out by members of the LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM), both in Texas and nationally, which catalyzed a dramatic increase in involvement of young voters in the midterm elections.

Though the LYM in Houston had been at the forefront in the drive to defeat the corrupt U.S. Rep. *Tom DeLay* in 2004, and continued that campaign until he was forced to resign in disgrace in 2006, the LaRouche Youth became a statewide force with the candidacy of *Kesha Rogers* for state Democratic Party chair in 2006. *Rogers* joined with *Charlie Urbina Jones*, a long-time Democratic Party leader from San Antonio, who also ran for state chair, to rock the establishment with their candidacies.

Both insisted that the Party must recruit new voters, through aggressive outreach, with *Rogers* emphasizing going to youth on the campuses and in the neighborhoods, challeng-

ing them to take responsibility for the future. Her slogan, “Out of the Bushes and Into the Future,” caught the attention of many Texas Democrats, and her spirited speech at the state convention in early June gave her enough votes that, when combined with *Urbina Jones*, a run-off was required in the chairman’s race.

## The Failure of the ‘Old Politics’

More than 40 people attended the forum, including the current state chair of the Tejano Democrats, the past state chairman of Mexican-American Democrats, members of LU-LAC (League of United Latin American Citizens), and the Democratic nominee in 2006 for lieutenant governor of Texas. It was moderated by *Urbina Jones*, who said he wanted to bring together leading activists to address what must be done to win a Democratic majority in Texas, so that the damage which has resulted from six years of the Bush-Cheney Administration could be reversed.

The first four speakers presented interesting thoughts on the failure of the Texas Democratic Party—and the national party, under *Howard Dean*—to mobilize effectively, particularly in support of the statewide ticket. Many of their criticisms covered familiar ground: not enough money, either from the state or national party, and a bureaucratic structure that is out of touch with the voters, and doesn’t listen to activists in the field.

However, they also identified the flaws which come from applying the statistical-mechanical approach of the “Old Politics,” such as the lack of a serious, consistent grassroots organizing operation; and, too much emphasis on “focus groups,” to determine how to use television and robo-calls, to narrowly target previously identified voters. This standard approach was attacked by *Professor Gambitta*, who said that the Democrats continue to concentrate on “consistent” voters, instead of engaging in campaigns which expand the electorate. This is in part due, he said, to the failure to organize on the precinct level, the way the Democrats used to do in San Antonio.

*Peck Young*, who has been an “insider” for years, and was a leading backer of *Boyd Richie*, who ultimately defeated *Rogers* and *Urbina Jones* in the race for state chair, added two points. It is necessary, he said, to build a cadre of qualified

candidates. Further, these candidates and party officials must always “tell the truth about the Republicans.”

Van Os sharply attacked the national and state Democratic leadership for its timidity in recent years. He contrasted his campaign, during which he visited every county in Texas, including those which vote overwhelmingly Republican, with the failure even to field candidates in many races, ceding ground without a fight. The party has become too much like the Republican Party, he added, dependent on corporate funds and afraid to stir up a debate.

### ‘New Politics’ Presented

While these presentations offered useful contributions, a listener might gather from them that Nov. 7 had been a catastrophe for the Democrats. This was challenged by Harley Schlanger, who presented LaRouche’s conception of the “New Politics.” Each of the previous speakers, he said, spoke of their problems with “party insiders,” and the “traditional” methods of campaigning. “I am a spokesman for the one Democrat courageous enough to be a real outsider, Lyndon LaRouche, who, from his position as an ‘outsider,’ shaped the outcome of the midterm elections.”

Schlanger reviewed the significance of the increased turnout of young voters, and how LaRouche had unleashed the LYM with a strategy of mobilizing them to effect a marginal expansion of the electorate. “In some states, such as Missouri and Montana, it turned out that the youth vote was the decisive margin, which enabled the Democrats to win the U.S. Senate.”

This approach worked, not through applying traditional methods, but precisely because it rejected the accepted means of getting out the vote. The mass effect, combining the distribution of nearly 1 million pamphlets, with one-on-one discussions with young people who are hungry for new ideas, generated a ripple effect in the population, which produced the Nov. 7 tsunami. Making the campaign one for double impeachment of both Bush and Cheney—so that solutions to the strategic crisis in Southwest Asia and the global financial crisis may be introduced in the new, Democratic Congress, without obstruction from the Administration—inspired previously apathetic youth to go to the polls. The activation of the youth vote served, in turn, to provoke a positive response in older voters in the lower 80% of family income brackets.

The “New Politics,” he concluded, is the means by which LaRouche’s call for a return to the American System principles of Franklin D. Roosevelt can be realized, and the Democratic Party will serve, again, as the vehicle through which the “forgotten men and women” of America can participate as full citizens.



EIRNS/Michael Steger

*LYM organizer LaKesha Rogers, addressing the Texas Democratic State Convention last June. She told the Tejano Democrats: “We are not just youth walking precincts, but preparing to be leaders.”*

### Unique Role of LYM Presented

The response to Schlanger’s speech was enthusiastic, and was followed by an animated dialogue. The highlight was Kesha Rogers’ intervention, during which she elaborated on the unique nature of the LYM: “We are not just youth walking precincts,” she said, “but preparing to be leaders.” She described the task that she had taken on in her campaign for state chair. “There were too few young people who were delegates to the state convention. We are going to change that.” She spoke about the intellectual work undertaken by LYM members. By mastering the rigorous curriculum prescribed by LaRouche, in physical science and the arts, we are developing that new leadership. She emphasized the importance of singing and the focus on Bach’s motet, “Jesu, meine Freude,” as necessary to give this generation a sense of beauty, as well as a connection to history.

Her intervention was seconded by a former chair of the Mexican-American Democrats, who said, “I saw the LaRouche Youth in Boston [at the 2006 Democratic national convention], and at the state convention. It was the most exciting part. . . . Every time you turned around, there they were, singing and whooping it up.”

The meeting concluded with an announcement by an official with Rodriguez’s campaign that former President Bill Clinton would be in town the next day, to rally support for the Democrat, to defeat Bush puppet Bonilla.

Following the crushing defeat delivered three days later to Bonilla, a participant at this forum told a LaRouche organizer that he believes that the outcome of this election validated LaRouche’s idea of the “New Politics.”

# Rodriguez Victory Was Anti-Dean Landslide

*The LaRouche Political Action Committee published this press release after the Dec. 12 upset victory by Democrat Ciro Rodriguez in the runoff election in Texas.*

Dec. 13—The victory by Democrat Ciro Rodriguez in the runoff election for the 23rd Congressional District of Texas on Dec. 12 was accomplished despite the efforts of DNC Chairman Howard Dean to sabotage the race, said Lyndon LaRouche, after being briefed on the outcome. Dean did everything possible to lose this election, by adopting a mechanical-statistical “strategy” aimed at suppressing the vote, by appealing only to known voters, and acting to prevent Rodriguez from using campaign debates to clarify the crucial stakes in this special election.

In contrast, it was the mobilization by a team of organizers from the LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM), backed up by an effective last-minute intervention by former President Bill Clinton, which ensured the turnout which defeated Republican Rep. Henry Bonilla, who held the seat for 14 years and was known as an Hispanic “poster boy” for the GOP.

“This was a landslide defeat for Dean’s policy,” LaRouche said. “His so-called 50-state strategy went down the drain. The electorate has spoken.” LaRouche added that the LYM intervention—which focussed on mobilizing the youth vote at San Antonio-area campuses—may not have been sufficient in itself. However, with the visit by Clinton, the combined deployment ensured a level of mobilization which turned the election against Bonilla. This combination, of Clinton plus the LYM, is the most powerful force for the Democrats, LaRouche said. “The Democratic Party must learn this lesson, quickly.”

While Dean and the DCCC belatedly pumped money into the campaign, the advice they offered was a rejection of the lesson of the Nov. 7 transformation of U.S. politics, which LaRouche has described as the “New Politics.” The Dean/DCCC forces cancelled Rodriguez’s participation in a series of debates, and advocated instead spending on television and “robo-calls.”

Instead, the LYM continued to build on the momentum of Nov. 7, with a strategy of organizing college students to mobilize a vote against Bonilla, who they identified as one more “Bush-baby” who had to go. Clinton picked up on this in his appearance at Palo Alto College in San Antonio—



EIRNS/Stephanie Nelson

*Until the LYM arrived on the scene, many people didn’t even know there was a runoff election—a crucial race that ended up giving one more Democratic representative to the U.S. Congress.*

where the LYM had established a strong presence—by pointing to the failure of Dean and the DNC to get an even bigger landslide on Nov. 7. Clinton said that there were ten seats which the Republicans won by a “slim margin,” an unmistakable reference to winnable races in which Dean and his allies failed to provide adequate backing. Clinton told the enthusiastic crowd which greeted him, “You have to decide whether this House seat is going to be with the 29 [won by Democrats on Nov. 7], or the 10.”

As was the case on Nov. 7, the pundits and pollsters had underestimated the degree to which U.S. voters were looking for an opportunity to express their contempt for the Bush-Cheney policies. Though polls showed Bonilla with a 7% lead just days before the election, LYM organizers found a growing enthusiasm. The main problem was to get voters out to the polls. A former Democratic Party statewide candidate praised the work of the LYM, saying that what they had done during this campaign, “is what the state and national party should be doing,” while a leading activist offered his congratulations, adding that he believes that LaRouche is “100% on the mark” in identifying the “New Politics” as the path to future victories.

When asked why Dean is acting to sabotage the Democratic Party, LaRouche concluded that he thinks “Dean has not forgiven the Party for rejecting him, in favor of John Kerry, in 2004.”

# LYM in Ohio: Interpretation vs. Reality

by Joe Smalley, LaRouche Youth Movement

*Consider the maps and tables included on these pages, correlating them with the involvement of the LaRouche Youth Movement with the Nov. 7 midterm election results in the state of Ohio. Notice the substantial resultant differences in the highlighted locations, between 2002 and 2006, and consider the following series of questions:*

What created this observed, dramatic change? Many interpretations have surfaced since the elections on why the Democrats enjoyed a landslide victory, so, which interpretation ought you to believe? Should you be forced to choose one interpretation, a combination thereof, or even invent your own? Perhaps a different question should be asked: By what means could one come to know that such interpretations were,

like the astronomical models of Ptolemy, Copernicus, and Brahe, not altogether fruitful, neither for discovering the cause of the statistically measured effects, nor for improving the state of the economy?

Democratic National Committee chairman Howard Dean, in a post-election memo, stated that organizers “expanded the state [Ohio] party’s infrastructure,” with, “a DNC-funded field director, four field organizers, and a voter database manager [who] all helped run voter contact operations in parts of the state that hadn’t heard from the Democratic Party in years.”<sup>1</sup> Does Howard attribute the voter surge to these DNC activities? To four field organizers? And what ideas? If so, by what method does he reach his conclusion?

## ‘New Politics’ Surged Ohio’s Democratic Vote

The Midwest LaRouche Youth Movement had a regular presence in the northern tier of Ohio (Toledo, Akron, and Cleveland), and had organized down to Cincinnati, when massive shutdowns of auto plants, especially those belonging to Delphi, were announced in May 2006. Then, a few weeks before the Nov. 7, 2006 midterm election, the LYM targeted five universities for high-profile, idea-based interventions against Lynne Cheney’s campus gestapo, “Campus Watch,” through the distribution of thousands of pieces of literature, and hundreds of one-on-one conversations. Personal interaction was identified by the national Voter Strategies Group as the way the 25% national increase in the 18-29 year-old vote from 2002 to 2006 was generated. This vote came in at nearly two-thirds for Democrats.

The LYM intervened at universities in Athens, Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, and Portage counties. The Democratic vote not only increased—it massively increased. In both Hamilton County (Cincinnati) and Franklin County (Columbus), the Democratic Congressional candidates carried those counties, which had voted 3-1, and nearly 2-1 Republican in 2002 (**Table 1**). In Athens County, the

LYM campus organizing was key in increasing the voter turnout by 5.3%, and in transforming a narrow Democratic victory in 2002 into a 5-1 Democratic win in 2006 (**Table 2**). In Portage County, where the LYM organized at Kent State, the voter turnout increased nearly 10%, and the Republican victory in 2002 flipped to a 2-1 Democratic majority. In Cuyahoga County (Cleveland), a comfortable Democratic victory in 2002 surged to a 3-1 Democratic landslide in 2006 (Table 1).

In the five counties to which the LYM brought Lyndon LaRouche’s legislative plan to save the auto industry-machine tool capability, without a specific campus element, three of these counties flipped from Republican to Democratic: Lucas, Montgomery, and Richland. In Montgomery County, a Republican-leaning area, which was impacted by four announced Delphi plant closings, voter turnout surged by 8.3% in 2006, compared to 2002. In Lorain and Trumbull (Lordstown) counties, narrow Democratic victories in 2002—by margins of less than 2,000 votes—became 2-1, or, even in Trumbull, 3-1, Democratic landslides, with significantly increased turnout.

In Franklin (Columbus) and Hamilton (Cincinnati) counties, where the LYM organized on campuses as well as at auto plants, the Democratic Congressional candidates won where the Republicans had trounced Democratic opponents in 2002. If the Democratic leadership had embraced the “New Politics,” there would be two more Democratic members of Congress today.—*Anita Gallagher*

TABLE 1

## Democrats Could Have Won Two More Ohio Seats

Ohio Congressional District 2		
2002 Vote	2002—entire CD	Hamilton Co.
Sanders (D)	<b>48,785</b>	<b>20,198</b>
Portman (R)	139,218	63,037
<b>2006 Vote</b>		
Wulsin (D)	<b>117,595</b>	<b>50,210</b>
Schmidt (R)	120,112	44,447

*The Democratic vote improved from a near 3-1 trouncing in 2002, to a narrow loss of the seat by only 2,500 votes. The Democrat won the county where the LaRouche Youth Movement organized.*

Ohio Congressional District 15		
2002 Vote	2002—entire CD	Franklin Co.
Brown (D)	<b>54,286</b>	<b>48,742</b>
Pryce (R)	108,193	91,242
<b>2006 Vote</b>		
Kilroy (D)	<b>109,659</b>	<b>98,964</b>
Pryce (R)	110,714	91,411

*In CD 15, the Democratic vote surged from a 2-1 loss in 2002, to a narrow loss by only 1,055 votes in 2006—less than one-half of one percent. The Democrat won in the county where the LYM organized.*

Note: Democratic vote is in boldface.

Source: [www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/ElectionsVoter/results](http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/ElectionsVoter/results)

The subject of method is crucial to distinguish the statesman from the poster-boy. The method of organizing employed determines the type of effect that will be produced by that organizing. Fundamentally, two methods can be employed, one which focusses on mental-physical action as primary, the other which focuses on mechanical action as primary. In the former case, change in the quality of mind of the human individual is the subject of organizing; in the latter, appeal to traditional social forms of behavior. Lyndon LaRouche, in a recent paper titled, “Johannes Kepler and the Democratic Challenge: The New Politics,” describes the significance of the former:

*“The practical point at issue in the subject at hand is that not only is human creativity, when properly defined, expressed as an experimentally knowable sovereign form of behavior by individuals; it also supplies the qualitative energy, in the ontological sense of motive power, of all great, positive changes in direction of development within social processes as such.”<sup>2</sup>*

What actually *moved* people to partake in a seeming historical miracle? Recent studies have empirically demonstrated that person-to-person contact was the most significant

factor in getting out the vote, and, in fact, that robo-calls were the least significant.<sup>3</sup> *But, why is this?* People are not robots! Nor are they cows! What do you call a human being who treats others as if they were robots or cows? A Howard! Physical action requires an impetus; a human being must have courage to challenge himself, and others, to change. If the United States of America were to remain true to its historical mission, then Americans must develop a new vision. *We must become aware that it is our consciousness of the great problems facing us today that pushes citizens into the future; that the development of a nation, like ours, depends upon the advancement of all its citizens, mentally, materially, and morally.*

The discussion that informs citizens of their own significant role in resolving universal problems does not consist merely of their behavior on Election Day. If it were to be a motive power, informative discussion must hold vital the role of the individual in shaping society. Individuals must encounter ideas that change them, if they expect to change their surroundings.

So, then, what caused people to become aware of the calamities facing them and their posterity this election season? Rather than attempting to interpret the election results, let us return to the aforesaid question: By what means would one come to know that such interpretations were, like the models of Ptolemy, Copernicus, and Brahe, not altogether fruitful, neither for discovering the cause of the statistically measured effects, nor for improving the state of the economy? To begin to answer this question, we must travel through the most recent years and months of history, and we must distinguish the two, characteristically opposed methods of organizing within the context of the 2004-06 campaign.

## The Living Force

While the LYM were not the only organizers mobilizing people for a political fight, the method that we employed was strategically unique. Members of the Midwest LYM focussed their organizing on university and college campuses during the recent campaign season, concentrating most heavily in the state capital, Columbus. Reportedly, over 100 College Democrats also converged on Ohio for a two-day weekend in November.<sup>4</sup> *Their ideas were not reported.* The LYM’s discussion, however, with students on matters of impeachment and economic development intensified with a mass exposé of the Campus Gestapo.<sup>5</sup> Over 10,000 pamphlets, “Is Joseph Goebbels on Your Campus,” were aimed at Ohio State University (Franklin County) alone. Activities were also concentrated on Ohio University (Athens County), where about 5,000 pamphlets were delivered. A fair trade forum was held in Athens, where students and faculty gathered for the sake of giving more pennies to tropical coffee farmers. Here, several LYM members opened people to irony: Underdeveloped nations need transformative change, not spare change. Members of the audience gasped when we replied to a rebuttal claiming

TABLE 2

**Ohio's Massive Democratic Tide Where LYM Organized**

Comparison of Ohio Gubernatorial Vote in 2002 and 2006

County	2002	Turnout	2006	Turnout	Comment
Athens	<b>D 8,408</b> R 7,018	42.7%	<b>16,188</b> 3,303	48.0%	Narrow Dem victory in 2002 becomes 5-1 landslide
Cuyahoga	<b>225,582</b> 142,814	45.8	<b>335,306</b> 107,234	44.3	Dem easy hold expands to 3-1 margin
*Franklin	<b>108,778</b> 156,712	40.4	<b>241,596</b> 122,601	50.3	County turns Dem by 2-1
Hamilton	<b>73,843</b> 160,223	47.3	<b>139,451</b> 141,374	52.3	Dems nearly win GOP stronghold
*Portage	<b>19,708</b> 19,887	45.1	<b>36,553</b> 16,223	54.4	County turns Dem by 2-1
Lorain	<b>38,515</b> 37,423	49.9	<b>68,783</b> 28,342	54.5	Dem narrow hold expands to 2-1+
*Lucas	<b>49,648</b> 76,572	48.7	<b>95,118</b> 44,307	49.5	GOP 3-2 margin reverses to Dem 2-1 win
*Montgomery	<b>59,584</b> 95,891	50.0	<b>107,593</b> 76,189	58.3	Dems reverse GOP trouncing
*Richland	<b>13,520</b> 21,963	46.8	<b>24,398</b> 19,855	51.7	Dems reverse GOP trouncing
Trumbull	<b>35,364</b> 33,718	56.2	<b>60,161</b> 18,556	58.3	Dem narrow win becomes 3-1+

## Notes:

The first five counties contain university towns where the LYM organized for several weeks prior to Nov. 7, 2006. In some cases, they overlap with locations where the LYM organized at auto plants earlier for LaRouche's emergency legislation to save auto.

In the five counties which follow, the LYM organized at auto plants.

\*Indicates county that switched to Democrat in 2006 from Republican in 2002 in the gubernatorial vote. Democratic vote totals are in boldface.

Source: [www.sos.state.oh.us/sos/ElectionsVoter/results](http://www.sos.state.oh.us/sos/ElectionsVoter/results)

that FDR had to save money to further manufacturing, with: "That's not even true. . . . We had the sovereignty to actually use credit to develop that capability." We interrupted some classes to brief students on our activities too. "Eek!" exclaimed a Democratic pedant, who believes firmly, "Education determines income! Keep your nose in your texts!" Some students, however, did organize a protest, albeit a scarily Baby-Boomer-style one, against the Iraq War, in which this author was welcomed to speak.<sup>6</sup>

The LYM activities in Ohio were part of a national organizing drive to open campuses to discussion of ideas.<sup>7</sup> Most students were well aware of the crumbling economic situation in Ohio and worldwide, with warnings of a monetary crash looming overhead. But what can one do in such ominous times? With only charity events and gripe sessions accessible, a student might become apathetic. "Quick! Gather your green and burn some grass," says the fool to his cowardly friend. If money had an intrinsic value, if man were a beast, then this might be a less-than-despicable plan; however, as Alexander Hamilton demonstrated the point, it is man who controls the

function of money.

We gave students the alternative: People need to be productive; the nation needs agriculture, manufacturing, science, and infrastructure. "But, we don't need to produce physical goods anymore, we've become a knowledge economy," says the "economics" student. However, when youth are given the chance to think—as we took part in creating such opportunities—they will respond. They begin to challenge their axioms. "How ya gonna pay for that?" one asks, while looking at a map of the Eurasian Land-Bridge. Countless discussions between the LYM and students, laborers, and public officials, on the subject of money, embody the distinction between our method and others.

**On the Money Problem**

While too many Democrats sat on the sidelines, during systemic shut-downs of the automobile and machine-tool industries, beginning early 2005, LYM members and contacts organized labor leaders throughout the Midwest, most heavily in Ohio and Michigan, to join our call to the Senate for Emergency Legislation—for the creation of a Federal authority to provide the capital for the maintenance and expansion of auto-related production facilities, to create new products, and to create mate-

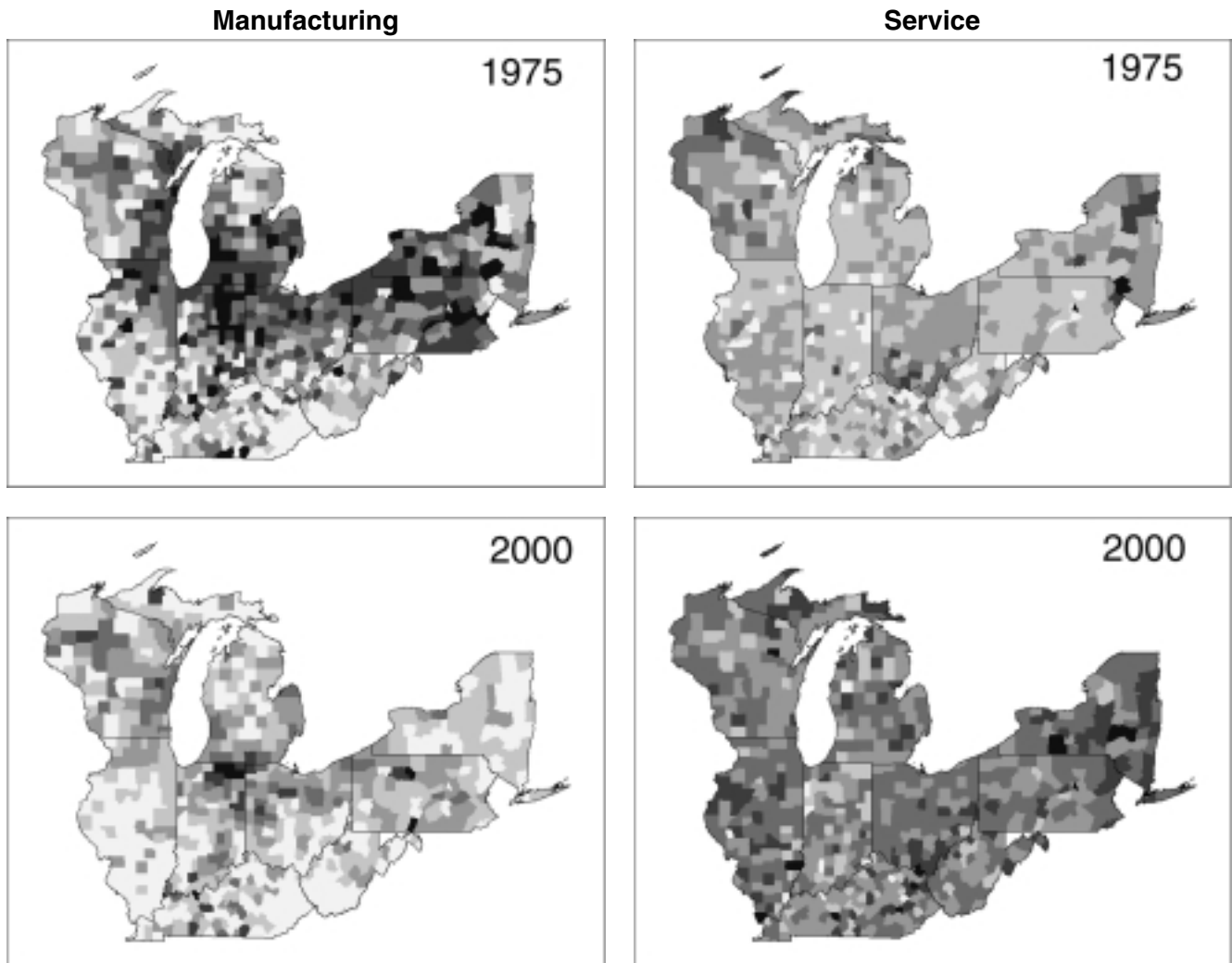
rial inputs for critical infrastructure projects.<sup>8</sup> Members of Congress, their staffers, Democratic Party pedants, and even some laborers grimaced, saying, "But the government cannot pay for the private market. Even so, look at how much debt we're in! Where would you ever get the money for that? You're crazy!"

Considering that a nation without the means of production must depend on other nations for its own defense, that the United States was built upon the foundation of a constitutionally permissible National Bank, and that technological leaps and associated mass-effects of productivity of the entire U.S. economy were by-products of the American System of Political Economy, we realized that American citizens are malnourished when it comes to their own history.<sup>9</sup> *You're crazy?* The Baby Boomer who decides to forget the future and live in a fantasized past *is crazy!* Under whose complicity has money, made by man, a tool for harnessing his work-product, become a god whose rules he was forced to obey?

As the LYM toured Ohio, speaking with soon-to-be retirees at plants marked for collapse (see map), workers were



## What's the Cause Behind the Numbers?



Consider this sequence of maps of the Great Lakes-Ohio River basin region, layered with county-level employment data. Notice the contrasting motions of the manufacturing and service employment, each expressed as ratios of the entire labor force. Darker tones mean higher percents. In period 1975-2000, manufacturing employment degenerated substantially, while service sector employment grew. In the more recent period 2000-06 (not shown), the respective motions accelerated—the rate of degeneration of manufacturing increased and the rate of growth of services increased.

But what is the cause? Each of 435 people could interpret this data in 435 different ways, each concocting their own model. However, they would all commit one sin—self-denial of the possibility of actually knowing what they believe. The LYM role in preventing such degeneracy takes focus in “Animating the Economy”—a process ongoing via the activation of the dynamic method of Johannes Kepler.

accepted, as an axiom, that the motion of heavenly bodies was circular. More significantly, they did not challenge whether they could know what they believed. The most commonly guiding axiom of traditional political campaigners today is that the future is determined by a set of rules: “Globalization is inevitable! History is beyond our comprehension!” When we brought with us officials from various UAW locals to meet representatives of the nation in Washington, D.C. (on numerous occasions), we were taken in circles. “The Republicans are in control. The budget’s in

the red. We can’t get it up.”

The recent period of history has proven the immorality of such beliefs. As the elections mandate, the People have jettisoned free trade idolatry. Democrats took both Houses, as an effect of a surge in the youth vote. Young Americans decided to think—they thought it worthwhile to vote—to give Democrats the power to impeach, the power to save the United States, and *the power to invest in the future*.

Interpretation aside, we know that revolutionary discussion must continue. Unrestricted, the new Congress has a

truly historical mission: Lead the country. Don't follow the Dean.

## Endnotes

1. [www.democrats.org/a/2006/11/how\\_did\\_this\\_ha.php](http://www.democrats.org/a/2006/11/how_did_this_ha.php)
2. *EIR*, Dec. 8, 2006, p. 6.
3. "Young Voter Mobilization Tactics," The George Washington University: Graduate School of Management. [Youngvoterstrategies.org](http://Youngvoterstrategies.org). [civicyouth.org/PopUps/Young\\_Voters\\_Guide.pdf](http://civicyouth.org/PopUps/Young_Voters_Guide.pdf)
4. [democrats.org/a/2006/11/college\\_democra\\_8.php](http://democrats.org/a/2006/11/college_democra_8.php)
5. [larouchepac.com/pdf\\_files/LP6376\\_Train.pdf](http://larouchepac.com/pdf_files/LP6376_Train.pdf)
6. The latter was reported in the county newspaper just days before the election: Andrew Tillotson, "Students, Townspeople Rally on College Green Against War," *The Athens News*, Nov. 6, 2006.
7. See Michael Kirsch, "What Horowitz's Defeat Implies: In Present Crisis, Politics Must Be an Action on the Future," *EIR*, Dec. 8, 2006.
8. See [larouchepac.com/pages/otherartic\\_files/2005/051227\\_save\\_machine-tool.htm](http://larouchepac.com/pages/otherartic_files/2005/051227_save_machine-tool.htm) for a full listing of LPAC publications documenting LaRouche's role in organizing for an economic recovery. Notable are the pamphlets, *Recreate the Economy*, April 2005, and *Economic Recovery Act of 2006*.
9. Immediately following the 2004 Presidential election, LaRouche and his Youth Movement began, in Ohio, a campaign against G.W. Bush's Social Security proposal. See [larouchepac.com/pages/social\\_security/social\\_security.htm](http://larouchepac.com/pages/social_security/social_security.htm) for relevant articles.

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## Election 2006

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# The Inside Story Of Dean's Sabotage

by Debra Hanania-Freeman

When Senate Democrat Tim Johnson was rushed into emergency surgery on Dec. 13 to alleviate intracranial bleeding caused by a congenital defect, Democrats across the nation held their breaths. Prior to that day, many Democrats outside of his home state of South Dakota had never even heard of the centrist Democrat. But, the realization that he might be unable to serve out the remaining two years of his term, highlighted the fragility of the Democrats' 51-49 lead in the Senate. The press wasted no time in speculating that, should Senator Johnson die, South Dakota's Republican Gov. Mike Rounds would likely name a Republican to succeed him; a move that would not only erase the Democrats' one-vote majority, but would also give Vice President Dick Cheney the decisive vote on critical issues.

Fortunately, Johnson is recovering well and there is no reason at all to believe that he will relinquish his seat. However, the close call reintroduced a discussion of the number of additional seats the Democrats *could* have won, were it

not for what Democratic strategist James Carville famously labelled "the Rumsfeldian incompetence" of Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean.

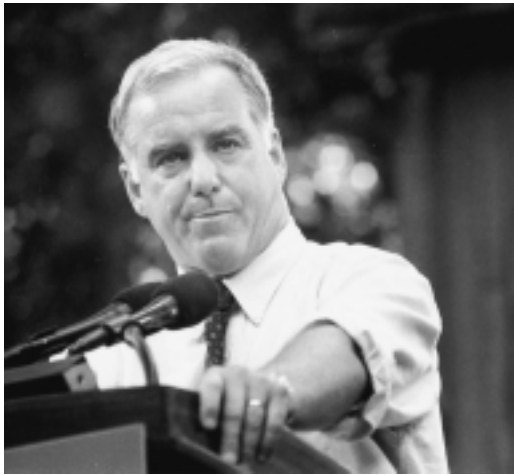
Indeed, as *EIR* has documented, the fight over the Democratic Party's midterm election strategy erupted no later than last Spring, when Charles Schumer and Rahm Emanuel, the respective heads of the Democratic Senate and House Campaign Committees, demanded an emergency meeting to discuss the fact that Dean's DNC was starving Democratic campaigns of funds, and instead funneling money into Dean's so-called "50-state strategy," a "strategy" that did little more than buy Dean loyalty from state Party officials whose treasuries swelled. Democratic strategists, among them Carville and Stan Greenberg, argued that with Bush's approval rating plummeting rapidly, Democrats could win far more than the 15 seats that they needed for a majority in the House of Representatives. In fact, in the months leading up to the November election, it became increasingly apparent that a clear and aggressive national strategy could give the Democrats a majority in the Senate and a *veto proof* majority in the House.

## Dean's 'Grassroots Strategy' for Defeat

Approximately 16 days before election day, more prominent Democratic strategists, including former DCCC (Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee) head Martin Frost of Texas and Howard Wolfson of New York, urged Dean to expand the Party's effort in second- and third-tier House races. Democratic candidates in districts that earlier had been considered long shots, surged in the polls, and pleaded with Emanuel's committee to send critical funds their way for the last weeks of the campaign. But, the campaign committees were already overextended. If additional funds were to be deployed, the money would have to come from DNC coffers.

Howard Dean continued to insist that such a move would take money away from the effort to build up the Party's "grassroots" organization and that that, ultimately, was of far greater long-term importance than the midterm election. Ironically, Dean's main allies in setting Democratic sights low did not come from the Party's left wing, but from the same Democratic Leadership Council crowd that presided over the disastrous 2000 national election that sent Bush to the White House in the first place. Another Democratic consultant with close ties to labor, Steve Rosenthal, argued strenuously against an aggressive strategy.

Rosenthal was prominently featured in a *New York Times* piece cautioning against Democratic "overconfidence," insisting that the best the Democrats could hope for, even in the House, was a majority of one, and that looking for more would result in a crushing defeat. "On the House side," he argued, "it makes sense to be focusing on 25 seats to win 14, *not* 50." He accused Schumer and Emanuel of being "overenthused" and argued that the Party did not have unlimited funds. "We



EIRNS/Stuart Lewis



EIRNS/Stuart Lewis

*Democratic strategist James Carville (right) scored DNC chair Howard Dean's failure to fund second- and third-tier Democratic campaigns, calling it "Rumsfeldian incompetence," but it smelled more like outright sabotage.*

have to be careful," he said.

In the days following the Democrats' stunning Nov. 7 victory, Dean rushed before the cameras and claimed credit for the win. But, when the dust settled, it was very clear that Dean's strategy had in truth sabotaged what could have been a Democratic landslide. Fourteen Democratic Congressional candidates lost by two percentage points or less. In Florida, another Democratic candidate, Christine Jennings, is now in court to overturn the GOPer Vern Buchanan's 376-vote lead in an election with 18,000 undervotes for Congress. Jennings has also filed a "Notice of Contest" with the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Was a lack of money a factor in these losses? In the last three weeks of the election, according to the Federal Election Commission, the National Republican Campaign Committee spent \$58,326.78 on robocalls against Christine Jennings, buying Buchanan approximately 1.17 million calls in a district where only 250,000 people voted. Voters in the Florida district reported being inundated with calls. According to the local press, voters were terribly confused. Since the calls began saying, "Hi, I'm calling with information about Christine Jennings," and did not identify the true source of the calls until the very end (by which time most people had already hung up), voters thought the intrusive calls were coming from the Jennings campaign. From the *Sarasota Herald Tribune*: "We're just glad the election is over," said Betty Beatty. "They bugged us with their phone calls something terrible," said Beatty, a Democrat who voted for Republican Buchanan because, "with all her calls, Jennings, Jennings, Jennings, I wouldn't have voted for that woman if she were the only one running."

Florida's 13th District wasn't the only one targeted. The National Republican Congressional Committee was respon-

sible for repetitive, often harassing robocalls in more than two dozen districts across the country in the immediate run-up to the election. In at least seven of those districts, the Democrat failed to unseat a Republican incumbent by only a couple of thousand votes. Election analysts are arguing that the NRCC calls may have been the difference in those races, particularly because the Democratic candidates didn't have the funds to mount an effective counter-offensive. Some of those races were extremely close.

- In New York's 25th District, Dan Maffei lost by fewer than 4,000 votes, out of a total of more than 200,000. According to a local radio station, voters got repeat calls (i.e., if they hung up, their number would be automatically redialed), leading many to think that they were being harassed by the Maffei campaign. Maffei's campaign office was inundated with complaints. Overall, the New York environment was one that was favorable for Democrats. Had Maffei had sufficient funds for one more week of ads against Rep. Jim Walsh, even Republican strategists agree that he could have brought him down.

- In Illinois' 6th District, Tammy Duckworth, a veteran of the Iraq War who recovered from severe injuries and went on to run for Congress, was not only the victim of the NRCC's robocall campaign. The Republican Party spent \$1.1 million in a single day to help Peter Roskam hold her off. Still, she lost by only approximately 4,000 votes.

- In Pennsylvania's 6th District, Lois Murphy lost by 3,000 votes. AP reported that her district was inundated by the calls. The FEC shows that the national GOP poured \$3.9 million into the district to save Jim Gerlach's seat.

And there's also Eric Massa, who narrowly lost in New York's 29th District (fewer than 6,000 votes); Diane Farrell in Connecticut (down slightly more than 6,000); and Phillip

Kellam in Virginia's 2nd District (down fewer than 5,000 votes)—all of whom were victims of the NRCC's robocall effort.

Other Democratic candidates, who weren't necessarily victims of robocalls, were just victims of a lack of funding. Gary Trauner suffered a narrow loss to Rep. Barbara Cubin (R-Wyo.). Larry Kissell lost by less than 1% (fewer than 400 votes) to Rep. Robin Hayes (R-N.C.). Neither Democrat received a single dollar from the national party. The list goes on and on.

On the Senate side, the Tennessee race stands out. Democratic Rep. Harold Ford, who is black, was in a contest with Chattanooga's former Republican Mayor Bob Corker for the Senate seat vacated by Bill Frist (the outgoing Republican Senate Majority Leader). Ford was called "an amazing candidate because of his charisma and powerful ads," and he led Corker in the polls throughout much of the race. Whether Ford could be legitimately called "an amazing candidate" is arguable, but Corker is unarguably a scandal-ridden idiot. But, in the last days of the campaign, Corker was bailed out by huge investments by the national Republican Party. His campaign ran a series of ads that were scandalous and overtly racist. Ford had received significant funds from the DSCC (Democratic Senate Campaign Committee) during the course of his campaign, but when the GOP attack ads hit, DSCC funds *and* Ford's were largely depleted. When the final votes were tallied, Ford had picked up 48% of the vote—five percentage points more than John Kerry had won during the 2004 Presidential campaign.

### Not in the 'Cult of the DNC'

A week after the election, at a *Christian Science Monitor* breakfast in Washington, D.C., James Carville unleashed a scorching assault on Howard Dean. Carville explained that the DNC had taken out a \$10 million line of credit for the campaign and used barely half of it. Carville said Dean left \$6 million on the table that Democratic candidates like Ford, and second- and third-tier Democratic candidates could have used to pick up more seats. Dean's argument that funding those candidates would take money away from his effort to build up the Party's grassroots organization was a totally fraudulent one.

Carville's public statements have charged Dean with incompetence. However, it is very hard to believe that even Howard Dean could be *that* incompetent. But, then, why would Dean wittingly sabotage candidates of his own party?

A close look at the Democrats who sought office, and many of those who actually won, reveal a group of individuals who, for the most part, are not acolytes of what Carville has referred to as the "Cult of the DNC." A large portion of them are not politicians in the traditional sense, but instead a product of the American people's deep and growing discontent with the policies of the Bush-Cheney Administration. When they entered their races, they didn't necessarily expect to win;

they just knew they had to fight. The national party gave them nothing, and they owe the national party nothing. In large part, they can be expected to respond to the people who elected them.

A study released by the Republican Luntz, Maslansky Strategic Research group provides some critical insights. According to the study's findings, one critical margin in the Democratic victory was Republican swing voters—Luntz, Maslansky calls them the "Republican Rejectors."

The study showed that the Republican Rejectors didn't necessarily like the Democrats. Then why did they vote for them? They were angry. When read the statement, "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore," 61% of Republican Rejectors agreed. They cited a lack of accountability as the number one sin of the Bush-Cheney Administration. Seventy-nine percent said they wanted whoever took control of the Congress to pursue "bold, meaningful change." The change they wanted most: an end to what they saw as preferential spending by the Bush Administration, as opposed to spending on things that were important to them. The 79% said they felt sad and disappointed about what Bush-Cheney had turned the Republican Party into.

But, above all, 74% of Republican Rejectors said they had lost hope and think that their children will inherit a *worse* America than what their parents left to them (compared to 57% of the general population). No hope = no votes.

It is precisely that sentiment, that mass effect, that the LaRouche Youth Movement catalyzed during the campaign. While the Republican Rejectors may have played some role in the Democrats' November victory, the far more significant margin came from the largest turnout of young voters—some 10 million or more—in more than 20 years. In Montana, where Democrat Jon Tester won by one percentage point, his margin among voters under 30 years old (who were 17% of the total electorate), was a full 12 points.

On Jan. 4, when the new Congress is sworn in, it will signal the end of business as usual in Washington. Far too many of them know exactly what it is that got them elected—their opposition to Bush and Cheney, their fight for economic justice and the principle of the general welfare, for decent health care—and they are likely to remain loyal to it. Still more, many of them Republicans, are acutely aware of the dissatisfaction with this Administration that voters expressed on Nov. 7. There is no doubt that under Lyndon LaRouche's leadership, the LYM played a key role in ushering in a New Politics. And there is little doubt that the Bush Administration is in for the fight of its life when Congress reconvenes. But, opposition to Bush and Cheney's war is not going to be enough. Just like those Republican Rejectors, the American people need hope. And that hope is only possible if we succeed in ushering in a New Economics on the heels of the New Politics; a new economics characterized by the policies that LaRouche has advocated for upwards of three decades.

# Freshmen Dems Mean New Kind of Congress

by the LaRouche Youth Movement and EIR Staff

Since the surprising landslide victory of the Democratic Party in the Nov. 7 midterm elections, many Americans now want to know: “What will the incoming Democratic Congress do as the Majority?” “Will we get out of Iraq, and finally impeach those bums?!”

Judging from statements by the 30 newly elected Democrats, they intend to end free trade, auto and other manufacturing shutdowns, and the war in Iraq. Before November, they were machine-tool workers, sheriffs, teachers, social workers, farmers, and veterans who are part of the lower 80% of American income brackets. One freshman seemed to characterize the whole group, when he said, “I feel like I’m ‘Mr. Smith Goes to Washington.’”

A number of the newcomers were elected without financial support from the national Democratic establishment, such as David Loeb sack from Iowa, who won with a mere \$458,000 war chest. Loeb sack told CQ Politics.com that he is glad the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee took little interest his race, because that allowed him to run the kind of campaign he wanted. As CQ comments, owing little to the national Democratic leadership, Loeb sack can take a more independent posture.

Minnesota high school teacher Tim Walz defeated six-term Republican Gil Gutknecht in Minnesota’s 1st CD, a Republican-leaning area centered around Rochester. Walz got publicity on the blogosphere, CQ reports, “while he ran well under the radar of Democratic campaign operatives in Washington.” A retired sergeant-major in the Minnesota Army National Guard, Walz proposed a redeployment of troops out of Iraq, and universal health care.

The Congressional freshmen are eager to reverse free trade and save manufacturing. One freshman was a former machine-tool worker, and had heard about LaRouche’s Emergency Recovery Act of 2006. Another freshman from the Midwest raised the issue of the Delphi auto parts employees, whose wages fell from \$21/hour to \$9/hour. Another Midwest Democratic freshman called on the Party leadership to address the outsourcing of U.S. industrial jobs. At the Harvard Orientation session for the freshmen (see below), one Congressman-elect called for nuclear power, and another debunked ethanol as “putting more in than you get out.” Rep-elect Steve Kagen of Wisconsin told CQ, Wisconsin “cannot surrender manufacturing.”

The freshmen are also eager for oversight of the Bush-Cheney operations. Incoming Rep. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) told the Litchfield *County Times*, “There has been little or no oversight [in Iraq] in the last six years. . . . When it comes to the situation in Iraq, it is [CBS-TV show] ‘60 Minutes,’ and not Congress, that has been conducting the oversight on the President.” Murphy has been assigned to the House Government Operations Committee, to be chaired by the tough, veteran investigator, Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.).

At least one Congressman-elect, and the spouse of another, denounced Cheney’s lies, and agreed on the need to get him out. This is clearly a new Congress.

## Freshmen, Meet the LYM

Fully conscious of the severity of the crisis facing the nation, the LaRouche Youth Movement jumped on the first opportunity to take up the economic and impeachment issues with 36 freshmen at the New Members of Congress Conference (NMCC), an “orientation” hosted by Harvard University’s Institute of Politics Nov. 28-Dec. 1. Most sessions were closed to the public and press, and few Harvard students even knew the event was occurring on their campus.

The group of 20+ LYM organizers, after some successful sleuthing, walked over to the Kennedy School of Government, went inside the room, and formed what is known as the G-Chorus (Guerrilla Chorus) for its reputation for catching unsuspecting audiences off-guard with beautiful *bel canto* harmony. The LYM sang a Christmas Carol satire entitled, “We Wish Dick Would Leave the White House” to the tune of “We Wish You a Merry Christmas,” in four-part harmony, and other humorous “carols” directed at Bush-Cheney. These were received with joyous laughter from most in attendance.

The next day, four members of the LYM press team attended the NMCC forum on “Energy and National Security,” which all the Members-elect attended, along with a top aide to Speaker-elect Nancy Pelosi. The forum reflected the indecisive approach to the disintegration of the U.S. economy of the old 109th Congress, consisting of a wide array of views on energy policy, ranging from that of the moderator, a former Representative: “The price of petroleum is going up because of consumption: Thus our post-industrial economy necessitates we follow the market prices, and move on to alternative fuels including ethanol, wind, etc.,” to a former physicist and Representative-elect: “People are high on ethanol. It will never work; you get less out than you put in. Basic technical competence! Besides, using corn for fuel is immoral, with a starving world!” A former Senator chimed in: “The U.S. should stop fighting wars for oil. Our energy policy is immoral, with one-third of the military budget being used to secure oil.” Questions from the new Reps of the 110th Congress displayed a refreshing view, in contrast to the dangerous lack of confidence of the old:

Congressman-elect: “Ethanol will never work, aren’t we underutilizing nuclear power? Why not go nuclear to solve energy challenges?!” Current Congressman: “The market has

## Democratic Gains in The 110th Congress

### The Senate

Claire McCaskill, Mo., defeated 1-term incumbent Jim Talent, 49-47.  
Jon Tester, Mont., defeated 3-term incumbent Conrad Burns, 49-48.  
Sherrod Brown, Ohio, won a landslide over 2-term incumbent Mike DeWine, 56-44.  
Robert Casey, Jr., crushed 2-term incumbent Rick Santorum, 59-41.  
Sheldon Whitehouse, R.I., defeated 1-term incumbent Lincoln Chafee, 53-47.  
James Webb, Va., defeated incumbent George Allen by 9,000 votes.

### The House of Representatives

Harry Mitchell, Ariz., CD 5, defeated 6-term incumbent J.D. Hayworth, 50-46.  
Gabrielle Giffords, Ariz., CD 8, won open seat of retiring Republican Jim Kolbe, 54-42.  
Jerry McNearney, Calif., CD 11, defeated incumbent Richard Pombo, 53-47.  
Ed Perlmutter, Colo., CD 7, won open seat of retiring Republican Bob Beauprez, 55-42.  
Joe Courtney, Conn., CD 2, defeated 3-term incumbent Robert Simmons by a 91-vote margin.

Chris Murphy, Conn., CD 5, defeated 12-term incumbent Nancy Johnson, 56-44.  
Tim Mahoney, Fla., CD 16, won the seat of resigned GOP Rep. Mark Foley, 50-48.  
Ron Klein, Fla., CD 22, defeated 13-term incumbent Clay Shaw, 51-47  
Bruce Braley, Iowa, CD 1, won open seat of GOP 8-term Rep. Jim Nussle, who ran for Governor, and lost.  
Dave Loebsack, Iowa, CD 2, defeated 15-term moderate incumbent Jim Leach, 51-49.  
Joe Donnelly, Ind., CD 2, defeated 2-term incumbent Chris Chocola, 54-46.  
Brad Ellsworth, Ind., CD 8, won a landslide over 6-term incumbent John Hostettler, 61-39.  
Baron Hill, Ind., CD 9, won his seat back from 1-term Mike Sodrel, who had defeated him in 2004.  
Nancy Boyda, Kan., CD 2, defeated GOP incumbent 5-term Jim Ryan 51-47, in GOP stronghold state.  
John Yarmuth, Ky., CD 3, defeated 5-term incumbent Anne Northup, 51-48.  
Tim Walz, Minn., CD 1, defeated 6-term incumbent Gil Gutknecht, 53-47.  
Carol Shea-Porter, N.H., CD 1, defeated 2-term incumbent Jeb Bradley.  
Paul Hodes, N.H., CD 2, defeated 6-term incumbent Charles Bass, 53-46.  
John Hall, N.Y., CD 19, defeated 6-term incumbent Sue Kelly, 51-49.  
Kirsten Gillibrand, N.Y., CD 20, defeated

4-term incumbent John Sweeney, 53-47.  
Michael Acuri, N.Y., CD 24, won 54-45 in district of retiring GOP Rep. Sherwood Boehlert.  
Heath Shuler, N.C., CD 11, defeated 8-term incumbent Charles Taylor, 54-46.  
Zack Space, Ohio, CD 18, won open seat vacated by resigned Republican Rep. Bob Ney, by a 62-38 landslide.  
Jason Altmire, Pa., CD 4, defeated 3-term incumbent Melissa Hart, 52-48.  
Joe Sestak, Pa., CD 7, military veteran, defeated 10-term incumbent Curt Weldon, 56-44.  
Patrick Murphy, Pa., CD 8, Iraq War veteran, defeated 1-term incumbent Mike Fitzpatrick, by a 1,500 vote margin.  
Chris Carney, Pa., CD 10, military veteran, defeated 4-term incumbent Don Sherwood 53-47.  
Nick Lampson, Tex., CD 22, won open seat of indicted former House Speaker Tom DeLay 52-42.  
Ciro Rodriguez, Tex., CD 23, defeated 7-term incumbent Henry Bonilla 55-45.  
Steve Kagen, M.D., Wisc., CD 8, won open seat vacated by Mark Green, 51-49. Green ran for Governor and lost.  
(13th CD, Florida: Undecided at press time. Christine Jennings filed a Notice of Contest on Dec. 20, challenging Republican Vern Buchanan's lead of 369 votes, on the basis of an 18,000 undervote in Sarasota County, the only county in the district that Democrats won.)

the power and influence in these matters. You have to play around the edges!"

Congressman-elect: "The situation in energy must be seen as a national crisis. How can we view this as an Apollo-style crash program?" Current Congressman: "Good idea, we need nuclear power to get hydrogen, but the problem is, where to get the funding?"

The panel presentation on energy policy to the freshmen reflected the fact that Congress is not prepared for the world economic crisis, and needs an emergency approach like the one illustrated in Lyndon LaRouche's Nov. 16 webcast. Luckily, four LYM members had gotten into the event and engaged the new Reps in discussion around LaRouche's "Economic Recovery Act of 2006" (ERA) and that the economic crisis necessitated impeachment of, at least, Cheney.

One notable discussion took place after the event, with a newly elected Member, who had asked the question about adopting an "Apollo Program" approach to energy policy. She explained that she had won her election without any real support from the Democratic National Committee, nor much money, and that she owed her victory to the youth vote. On

the energy crisis, she called for a return to nuclear power, and rising skill levels in the workforce; she stated that change could not take place under the current economic system, but that the incoming Congress will work to win that fight.

More policy dialogue with the new Representatives occurred at a reception at the JFK School of Government. The working class character of many of the new Congressmen came through in discussions, which had a different quality than the meetings the LYM has with the 109th Congress in its Capitol Hill work. Many of the Reps acknowledged the role of the LYM in the elections, and commented that they had previously received LaRouche PAC literature, either from mass distributions, from friends, or from the United Auto Workers union.

On the subject of impeachment, some repeated the party line, that it would be a distraction from the policy initiatives they want to introduce, while others said that it was not "off the table," and agreed that it might be necessary to defend the Constitution. The entire evening's discussion was polarized around LaRouche's needed policies and the leadership emerging from the 18-35 age bracket.

# 109th Congress Comes To an Unlamented End

by Carl Osgood

The 109th Congress finally stumbled to a conclusion in the wee hours of Saturday, Dec. 9, bringing to an end 12 years of Republican rule on Capitol Hill. During those 12 years, Republican control of the Congress often looked more like a one-party dictatorship, particularly under the leadership of disgraced former Speaker of the House Rep. Tom DeLay (R-Tex.), than it ever did any honest attempt to conduct the Constitutional responsibilities of the legislative branch. The Republican leadership routinely rammed legislation through the House without hearings and with little committee action, and under restrictive rules that limited debate and amendments on the House floor. They would then hold conference committees with the Senate behind closed doors, locking the Democrats out of the process completely. On more than one occasion Democrats and Republicans alike were forced to vote on conference reports in the middle of the night, with little time to even read what they were voting on. While not every bill was passed under such circumstances, the more controversial and fractious a bill was likely to be, such as the 2003 Medicare Reform bill, the more likely the GOP leadership was to strong-arm its passage.

The 110th Congress will be of a very different character, with the Democrats set to take control of both the House and the Senate on Jan. 4. The Democrats have wasted no time, since the election, establishing what they think that character will be. Incoming House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) has already announced that the House will run on five-day weeks throughout much of 2007, with votes possible every day, and recesses, with the exception of the August break, will be much more limited. If maintained, such a schedule will be in stark contrast to 2006, in which the Congress worked fewer legislative days than even the Congress of 1947-1948, famously labelled by Harry Truman as the "Do-Nothing Congress." While Pelosi has laid out a "100-hour agenda" for the Democrats in January, high on the list of priorities will be finishing the unfinished work left by the Republicans, including, most emphatically, the fiscal 2007 appropriations process.

Whatever Pelosi's plans for a new agenda in Congress, there are two other factors that are sure to have a powerful impact on the 110th Congress: the onrushing collapse of the global financial system, and the "New Politics" of mass-effect organized by Lyndon LaRouche and his Youth Movement, which was instrumental in the Nov. 7 Democratic election victories.

## 'The Most Useless Congress in Modern History'

The unfinished budget process is indicative of what Rep. David Obey (D-Wisc.) labelled "the most useless Congress in modern history"; on Dec. 8. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) added that the Republicans ended the 109th Congress "governing in the same way in which they carried on for two years: incompetently, without respect for democratic procedures, and with a willingness to inflict harm on the most vulnerable members of our society." Frank's remarks could arguably be extended to the entire 12 years of Republican rule. They came to power in 1995 viewing the process as a vehicle for their neo-conservative, tear-down-the-government agenda (the "Contract on America"), which led to the government shut-downs of late 1995 to early 1996, when they tried to force it on President Clinton.

In fact, only once in the last six years did the Republican-controlled Congress finish all of the annual spending bills without an omnibus appropriations bill, and even in that one year, 2002, it took until Dec. 20, more than two-and-a-half months after the beginning of the fiscal year, to finish them. In two of those years, 2004 and 2006, the process was left for the next Congress to deal with.

Obey, who will take over the chairmanship of the House Appropriations Committee, and Sen. Robert Byrd (D-W.V.), Obey's counterpart in the Senate, decided they would be facing a nightmare if they were to try to pass the remaining nine of this year's spending bills in the first weeks of the new Congress. Not only would they be forced to deal with them during Pelosi's 100 hours agenda, but the White House will be sending up the Fiscal 2008 budget and a very large Fiscal 2007 supplemental appropriations request for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan during the first week of February. Obey and Byrd announced on Dec. 11 that, in order to be ready to manage the tidal wave coming in early February, they would finish off the Fiscal 2007 budget process with a long-term continuing resolution.

The two Democrats stated: "The outgoing Republican leadership's failure to govern has denied the new Congress the opportunity to start with a fresh slate. . . . There is no good way out of the fiscal chaos left behind by the outgoing Congress. . . . After discussions with our colleagues, we have decided to dispose of the Republican budget leftovers by passing a year-long joint resolution. We will do our best to make whatever limited adjustments are possible within the confines of the Republican budget to address the nation's most important policy concerns."

Overall, GOP control of the Congress was characterized by an all-out war on the principle of the general welfare, on behalf of the wealthiest few percent of the population. As a result, that top tier of income groups received hundreds of billions of dollars in tax cuts, while the bottom 80% of income earners was left to fend for themselves. The Republicans pushed budget cuts, in parallel with the tax cuts, that targeted

the social welfare of large numbers of Americans, from veterans, to Medicare and Social Security recipients, to the poor who depend on Medicaid and other low-income programs to everyone in between, all in the name of “fiscal responsibility.”

Try as they might, however, they could not keep their own corruption from hanging out for everyone to see, as four significant members of the House GOP caucus were forced out of the 109th Congress, two of them to go straight to prison on corruption charges: Rep. Randy “Duke” Cunningham (R-Calif.) for bribery, and Rep. Bob Ney (R-Ohio) for his involvement in the Jack Abramoff scandal; House Majority Leader DeLay, indicted for campaign finance violations in Texas, and Rep. Mark Foley (R-Fla.), forced to resign just before Election Day when salacious e-mails he had sent to underage House pages became public.

### Democrats Promise Oversight

With all of the committee chairmanships changing hands, the Democrats will be in a position to do what they complained the Republicans rarely, if ever, did: oversight of the Executive branch. A number of the key incoming chairmen have already begun to move aggressively on that agenda: Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.), who will take over the House Government Reform Committee, has issued findings and/or inquiries on half a dozen different matters since the election, including on Iraq contracting, Food and Drug Administration regulation, the pharmaceutical industry and others. Waxman was quoted, last month, telling an audience in Los Angeles that his biggest problem will be deciding how to “pick and choose” among the large number of issues requiring oversight. Incoming House Armed Services Committee Rep. Ike Skelton (D-Mo.) announced that he would be re-establishing the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee within the Armed Services Committee, which will likely be chaired by Rep. Marty Meehan (D-Mass.). One of the issues that Skelton’s committee is likely to scrutinize is the outsourcing of what used to be considered strictly military functions. Rep. John Murtha (D-Pa.) plans to use his chairmanship of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee to investigate the Iraq War, with “two hearings a day for the first three or four months . . . to find out exactly what happened and who’s been responsible for these mistakes.”

Similarly, on the Senate side, Democratic Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) is promising to take a close look at the Iraq War. For the last several years, the Democratic Policy Committee, under the chairmanship of Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.), has done a credible job of exposing much of the mismanagement of the war, in spite of not having the authority of the standing committees of jurisdiction. Now that the Democrats will be in control, that work must be built upon within the relevant committees.

Sen. Jay Rockefeller (D-W.V.), who will become chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, announced shortly after Election Day that two of his top priorit-



EIRNS/Stuart Lewis

*The 109th has been described as “the most useless Congress in modern history.” Incoming Democratic leaders Harry Reid and Nancy Pelosi, shown here at a recent press conference, are promising change in the 110th; but they have still not acknowledged the number-one issue facing them: the onrushing collapse of the global financial system.*

ies would be investigating the use of pre-war intelligence on Iraq and the National Security Agency’s domestic wire-tapping program. In a Nov. 15 statement, listing a number of foci for the committee, he said: “We must insist on full access to the NSA warrantless surveillance program and the CIA detention and interrogation program. Only then, can we conduct thorough oversight. . . .” On the Iraq War he stated, “as part of our core oversight responsibilities, [we] must complete the long-overdue, unfinished business, related to the use and misuse of intelligence leading up to the war in Iraq.” He noted that the committee had already put out three reports related to pre-war intelligence, and that now, “we will complete the three remaining sections of Phase II.”

A few days earlier, Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.), who will chair the Senate Armed Services Committee, announced his intention to probe the CIA’s renditions and secret prisons program. “I’m not comfortable with the system,” he said on Nov. 12. “I think that there’s been some significant abuses which have not made us more secure but have made us less secure, and have also, perhaps, cost us some real allies, as well as not producing particularly useful information. So I think the system needs a thorough review and, as the military would say, a thorough scrubbing.”

Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) announced a similar agenda for the Judiciary Committee. In Dec. 13 remarks at the Georgetown University law School, Leahy promised “to repair real damage done to our system of government over the past few years.” Leahy continued, “The White House has behaved as if the Constitution begins with Article II,” (referring to the section on the Executive branch, and leaving out Article I, on the Legislative branch). “And they’ve taken their extreme ideology of a ‘unitary executive’ to strip both Congress and our independent Federal judiciary of their rightful roles. For this country to succeed, the constitutional balance has to be restored.”

Leahy said that his new agenda for the Judiciary Committee is “an agenda of restoration, repair, and renewal: restoration of constitutional values as well as the rights of ordinary Americans; repair of a broken oversight process and the return of accountability; and also, and just as important, a renewal of the public’s right to know—the right of every American to know what their government is doing.” Leahy’s agenda items included war profiteering, warrantless wiretapping in violation of the law, and restoring habeas corpus and other fundamental rights stripped away by the Military Commissions Act.

Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) will head up the Environment and Public Works Committee. While she has demonstrated a weakness for some of the hobbyhorse environmental issues, such as biofuels and wind energy, she also expressed a commitment to investing in the nation’s economic infrastructure, when she announced her committee priorities on Dec. 5, particularly in drinking water infrastructure and the Water Resources Development Act. The WRDA, she said, “will be a priority in the next Congress.” The bill passed the Senate, last July, with broad bipartisan support and was taken to conference with the House, but it never emerged from the conference committee. A WRDA was generally passed every two years from the mid-1980s through the end of the 1990s, but not once in the last six years of the Bush-Cheney Administration. The bill would authorize billions of dollars in long overdue work on American waterways.

Boxer also reported that the committee will take up the request of the two Louisiana Senators, Mary Landrieu (D) and David Vitter (R), to hold hearings on the post-Katrina debacle, “as soon as we get all our ducks in a row and get ready to go and help them through that rebuilding process and make sure we don’t face this again.” In doing so, it is likely that the committee will also learn a great deal more about how the Bush Administration, through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, has been dragging its feet on the recovery process.

## How To Deal with Financial Meltdown

Though the Democrats are still loath to admit the reality of the financial meltdown, the economic issues they plan to address will bring them face to face with it. Both the incoming

chairman of the Senate Banking Committee Chris Dodd (D-Conn.) and Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.), of the House Education and the Workforce Committee, plan hearings on the collapse of manufacturing. Dodd noted to reporters on Dec. 12 that the manufacturing sector is “hemorrhaging, plain and simple,” and has lost over 3 million jobs in the last six years. Miller, during a Dec. 12 press conference, said in response to a question from *EIR* that more than hearings were needed to reverse deindustrialization, and spoke at length about “reinventing the auto industry at the same time it is downsizing”; “reinventing American manufacturing” and unleashing innovation; but within the Democratic bounds of producing new types of vehicles and fuels.

One of the factors behind the “hemorrhaging” that Dodd spoke about is hedge funds. Both Dodd and Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), Dodd’s counterpart in the House, have indicated that hedge funds will also come under scrutiny but perhaps not to the degree that they should. Dodd, while he said he plans to examine the role that hedge funds play in the economy, also said that, “I’m not hostile to them at all.” Similarly, Frank is not anticipating any legislation, but told the Dec. 10 *San Francisco Chronicle* “What we need to do is have hearings on hedge funds.”

Another factor making the character of the new Congress different will be the incoming freshmen. Pelosi has already moved to strengthen the positions of many of the freshmen who won in close races, or were running in districts where the GOP incumbent was mired in controversy. A number of these freshmen have been given plum committee assignments that have already garnered favorable news coverage in their districts. Eight freshmen have been put on the House Armed Services Committee, ten on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and six on the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Two freshmen, Paul Hodes (N.H.) and Chris Murphy (Conn.), have been assigned to the Government Reform Committee. These committee assignments are likely to raise the profiles of the freshmen members as they participate in oversight investigations. According to news reports, several have even been told that given a choice between voting the party line and casting a vote that will help them in their districts, they should feel free to decide on their own.

If the Democrats do the kind of oversight that they are promising, in a nonpartisan way, the evidence of the malfeasance of the Bush Administration that will emerge as a result will, itself, put the issue of the impeachment of both President Bush and Vice President Cheney on the table. Bush made the 109th Congress irrelevant by his signing statements and, by taking away Congress’s ability to legislate: it could not do anything, not that the Administration’s allies in control of the Congress were much inclined to do anything, anyway. However, the vote on Nov. 7 actually saved the Republic. Now, the Congress must assert its constitutional authority as the legislative branch and move to stop a dictatorship.