

Interview with Kesha Rogers: ‘We Were Not Afraid To Go Out and Tell the Truth’

The LaRouche Show, a weekly Internet radio program, interviewed Democratic Party candidate for Congress Kesha Rogers on March 6 (www.larouchepub.com/radio/index/html). Harley Schlanger was the host, and Matthew Ogden and Leandra Bernstein of LaRouche PAC TV joined in. The following is an edited transcript.

Schlanger: It’s my very special honor to have with me today the Democratic Party nominee from the 22nd Congressional District of Texas, Kesha Rogers. Kesha is a LaRouche Youth Movement member who shocked the Democratic Party establishment in the United States, including especially in the White House, as well as the ruling elites of the British Empire, with her election victory last Tuesday.

LaRouche PAC launched three Congressional campaigns, with the intent that they would form a single unifying force across the continental United States to defeat the assault of the British Empire, centered around the Rothschild-controlled Inter-Alpha Group, and acting through their puppet, the narcissistic President of the United States, Barack Obama, which is threatening to destroy our nation. LaRouche has been writing about the poet Percy Shelley’s insights into how a population that gets demoralized, gets frustrated, gets angry, and under threat of annihilation, can be moved as if by the spirit of the age, to rise above their littleness and act for all time. This is what just happened in the 22nd District of Texas, as voters of the Houston-area Congressional District cast their ballots for Kesha Rogers, knowing full well that she was a LaRouche Democrat, and that she was campaigning for the impeachment of President Obama. And she won!

So let me welcome to the program today, the Democratic Party nominee for Congress from the 22nd District of Texas, Kesha Rogers.

And also joining us will be the dynamic duo from the special weekly campaign show on LPAC-TV “Down with the Traitors!” If you’re not watching this program

each week, you’re making a very serious mistake about how you’re spending time in your life. So let me welcome, with great happiness, Matthew Ogden and Leandra Bernstein.

Kesha, as you and I have been talking, this last period, we never really talked about *winning* the election. We talked about winning the war, and if we did what was right in the war, we knew that it would have an effect in the election. How do you see this war? How are you organizing in your fight for the election?

Rogers: Well, I think that that’s very important, that when we put forth this campaign, our intention was not to go out and win an election, but to organize a new generation of leadership in the population, to change the population, to use what we saw fermenting within the population, what we identified as the mass strike. To take that, and challenge and educate the population to take a real responsibility for their futures.

And with that, with us going out on the streets to the population, into the district, where we were organizing very intensely for the past several months around the campaign, which I put very firmly on the table: One, that we have to immediately go with the impeachment of President Obama; and secondly, that we had to have an economic recovery policy that was centered on what Mr. LaRouche laid out clearly as the LaRouche Plan. And I think that our organizing exemplified a quality of leadership throughout the population, to get them out of their state of just “I’m going to wait to see what’s going to happen,” or “I’m only a small figure in this process, and I cannot do anything to change what’s happening.” But what we saw is that, since the mass strike ferment that started to erupt last August, you have seen the population start to move in a way that they’ve never moved before.

Organizing the Mass Strike

Schlanger: Well, Kesha, let me cut you off there, and ask you a question, because there’s a lot of confu-



Press coverage of Kesha Rogers' campaign (clockwise from top left) from the London Economist, the Washington Times (center), and the Houston Chronicle.

sion about this question of the mass strike. Matt, who is on the line with us, did a video on this some time ago, on Rosa Luxemburg's ideas on it.¹ But, as you look at the district, the President, in a sense, gave us a big hand, by destroying NASA, because it proved that you were right that he has to be impeached.

But here we have a situation that's ironic. Five thousand jobs in your district, in the Houston area, threatened by the President's action. We talk about a mass strike, but we didn't see people coming into the street; we didn't see that anger, but we knew it was there. How did you reach out to those people?

Rogers: Our objective was going out and actually organizing the population to give them a real solution. One of the things that we would do is to go out very

visibly in the population with a firm solution. Go out with big banners. We had a banner that said, "Save NASA; Impeach Obama; Vote Kesha!" We made it very clear to people that if they wanted a real economic solution, or if they were serious about saving NASA, then they had to call for the impeachment of Obama, and this was something that no other candidate, or no one had the guts to stand up and say.

We were going throughout the district with our sound truck, with big banners on it saying, "Save NASA; Impeach Obama," or the banner we were using throughout the district that said, "Come and Take It!" with a big picture of a Space Shuttle. This was really moving and provoking people, because they saw that we were not afraid to go out and tell the truth.

We would go and knock on the doors of the constituents, and find a lot of people who had been down and out, and demoralized, and we would tell them, this is not about an election, Democrat or Republican. This is about participating in a process to save the republic, and that you need to join our fight, because we are at war against the enemies of the United States, against the enemies of our republic, and that the President was not only shutting down NASA, or calling to continue the fascist drive toward the policies for health-care reform, but that these policies exemplified the fact that the President had turned his back on the American people, turned his back on his Constitutional oath of office, and said that he was going to act in the interests of Wall Street and London. And people started to move.

1. <http://www.larouchepac.com/lpactv?start=70&view=9>.

Schlanger: You were speaking for the forgotten men and women of the 22nd District.

Rogers: Absolutely.

Schlanger: But also for the whole country, because you never saw this as a local campaign.

Rogers: Right, and that was the key: that we were moving people, that this fight was going to actually provoke and inspire a movement within the population, not just within the 22nd District, but throughout the country, and for that matter, as we've seen in the after-effects, throughout the world.

Schlanger: Well, Kesha, I've done campaigns for a long time in Texas, I know the population here. I know you've got this particular kind of ornery character in Texas, who doesn't like to be told how to think. Sometimes they don't think too well, and other times, they surprise you. Now, one of the indications to me that you were reaching people on a deeper level, was the events that you and Alicia Cerretani did at senior citizens' homes. I'd like you to describe that first one you went to, to give people a sense of what it means when Lyndon LaRouche says there is a spirit of the age, but you have to provoke it; you have to inspire it; you have to *invoke* it in people, so that they act. How did you guys do that? What happened then?

Rogers: Well, I think the most profound example to express it was in the organizing, if you're getting people who have been completely devastated, down and out, or if you have been going to the nursing homes, or going to the retirement homes. You look at what the Obama Administration is doing to push a policy to basically kill off the elderly, or to say that he's not going to look at them as valuable in society. And for myself and Alicia and other organizers to go in, and say, "No. We're here, and my campaign is to fight on behalf of your interests." To say that "we're out there doing everything that we can to make sure that you have a voice."

This is what we expressed to them. And by doing that, we gave them a sense that in order to change the culture and the thinking of population, you have to bring a sense of beauty back into the culture, and back into the population. So they were very stunned; they were very moved and overwhelmed when Alicia and I started to sing canons. We would sing canons by Mozart such as *Alleluia*, or *Dona Nobis Pacem*, and we would see the room just light up.

I know one place that we walked into, there were a

couple of older people, an older couple that was playing the piano. They were probably in their nineties. And when we walked in, they were completely inspired, by not only the message that we had that we're not afraid to tell the truth; we're going after President Obama and his policies to destroy the United States, and that go against your interests—but we're also going to do it by challenging a new generation of leadership, and by bringing forth a real culture in our society. And the music just really moved people to points beyond words.

Waking the Sleeping Giant

Schlanger: I'd like to bring in our team from LaRouche PAC-TV, from the "Down With the Traitors" show, Matthew and Leandra.

You were closely following this; you were bringing to life the image from the 22nd District—and also that of Rachel Brown, who's running against "Bailout" Barney Frank up in the 4th District of Massachusetts, and I'm sure Barney has hired two or three new consultants, and is going for an image makeover after the results down here. Also, Summer Shields out in California, running against Nancy Pelosi. But, how did you see this from where you were sitting in Purcellville, [Va.], either of you? I know you were closely watching, I know you were in touch with Kesha and Alicia, and with me. How did this process evolve in your minds?

Bernstein: I think the point should be made, that what Kesha did, and what the other LaRouche Democrats are doing, is they put their political careers on the line in calling for Obama's impeachment. I mean, we had rumblings from inside the institutions, from the organizing that we've been doing, that's been done on the streets, that people hate Obama, especially on the question of the health-care mess. But to have a Congressional candidate really with the courage and the guts to put everything on the line, to make it happen, and to tell people on the streets, "I am going to do this; this is my promise to you." That's absolutely significant, and it's created an outstanding potential within the Democratic Party, within the rest of the races nationally, to force Obama out, before these candidates even come in.

Schlanger: You know, you could see that in one of the films that you highlighted on the "Down with the Traitors" program, where Kesha is at a door, and there's a woman standing there, eyeing Kesha a little suspiciously. Then Kesha shows her a statement which says



Rachel Brown campaigns at a town hall meeting in Boston on Dec. 19, 2009. She is running in the Sept. 14 Democratic Primary against incumbent Rep. Barney "Bailout" Frank.

EIRNS/ Dennis Mason

"Impeach Obama"; she gets huge grin on her face, and starts pumping her fist. That actually was going on throughout the district. Matthew, what do you have to say on that?

Ogden: I remember when Kesha and Summer and Rachel gave their initial press conference at the National Press Club—that was on Jan. 12—and the idea at that point, with these campaigns, was that something had been released within the American population; something which had been lurking underneath the surface—what we called "waking the sleeping giant"—had occurred in August with these town hall meetings, and the initial salvo, when LaRouche came out with the Obama mustache, and we led the fight against the Obama health-care plan. We had identified that there was this mass strike in motion, in the United States.

The question was, where do we go now, for the American people; what do we do now? What's the next step? And the unifying idea was, "Look, we know that somebody has betrayed us, and we want our republic back"; but it wasn't clear how the American people were going to do that. So, the idea with these campaigns, expressed at that National Press Club event, was that we're going to come out as a new generation of leadership, and we're going to educate this mass strike. We're going to take something that is a fragmented and piecemeal process, and bring it into a single unified front, with a limited number of these Congressional

campaigns—these three campaigns, around a unified theme—and we're going to focus it towards bringing in a new generation of leadership, and changing the political terrain before the November elections even come around.

In that way, it was a question of leading the fight. And one of the things that has definitely caught people's attention around the world, in the days following Kesha's victory, is that Kesha openly said, "I'm leading a fight against the British Empire, and I don't care what the Democratic Party hacks have to say."

National and International Response

Schlanger: And the house organ of the British Empire, the *Economist* of London, reflected that in a story on their American politics blog, where they wrote about how it looks like America is going to go to war with Britain. It was written in a typical British tongue-in-cheek style, and of course you don't know which tongue and which cheek that is. But, as Lyndon LaRouche said, it really wasn't tongue-in-cheek; it was the British sending out a message that this is serious.

Now, Kesha, when you took off on this campaign with this idea that you're going to go for the impeachment of Obama, I guess you could say that this is counter-intuitive: a Democrat calling for the impeachment of a Democratic President. I assume that you had quite a bit of opposition, and also people who thought they

were helping you, telling you, “Kesha, don’t bring that up. Just stick with your positive ideas.”

Give us a little sense of what that back-and-forth was when you first went out with this campaign.

Rogers: Well, yes, I think the ironic thing is that once we started to go very forcefully with this campaign for impeachment, my opponent took it upon himself to use the fact that I was calling for impeachment, to use that as his campaign rally; to say that “I’m *not* the candidate that’s going out for impeachment, so vote for me.”

And the party hacks, and those within the party establishment, did their best to try to say, “No, you have to be practical. You have to say what’s in the party line. We’re not going for impeachment. If you want us to endorse you, if you want to actually get somewhere in the Democratic Party, then you have to stop this insanity about calling for the President’s impeachment.” And a lot of people came up to me, and said, “I don’t agree with everything LaRouche has to say, but your policies are good, you have some really good ideas, economic policies, but why do you have go out there and call for the President’s impeachment?”

And as we continued to go more and more into the campaign, and become more and more outspoken on this question of impeachment, people started to take us seriously in the population, and say, “OK, this goes on to something.” As the President’s policies started to come out, with the cuts on NASA, then more and more people started to join us.

But at the same time, it was sending a clear signal of the freak-out within the Democratic Party and the establishment. And I can rest assured that the party hacks are still, today, trying to pick themselves up off the floor, after this victory, trying to figure out how, after they went very strongly against my call for impeachment (especially with the nominal candidate of the Democratic Party saying, “I’m not like Kesha; I’m not going for impeachment,” receiving only 27% of the vote)—when I went out very strongly in the population, not pulling any punches on this, and received 53% of the vote: They’re still trying to figure out, how in the world did that happen?

Schlanger: I’d also like you to comment on a comment made by an aide to your opponent in November, Pete Olson, who’s the incumbent—and clearly they’re watching these results very closely. There’s an article in today’s *Houston Chronicle*—and I must say, having

fought the *Chronicle* for many years, and my wife Susan cut her teeth digging into *Chronicle* reporters over the years to try to get them to be honest—in today’s paper, there’s a relatively honest story. They quote your opponent’s aide, who said, “Perhaps you wonder whether the Democrats in this district have profoundly changed their views on the President, because she didn’t hide her position.” I think that’s what you found, isn’t it? The Democrats, once someone said the “unspeakable,” and said Obama has to go, you did get responses from people.

Rogers: Absolutely. That’s what people were looking for. Once there was somebody who had the guts to tell the truth, to go out there and say, “You don’t need to be afraid. Come out; come out of your hidey holes and fight with us,” that’s what people started to do. And, it was very clear that population broke from the practical standards that were put forth in the Democratic Party, and took our initiative, as we were going out and saying this is not a fight about Democrats vs. Republicans, but a fight of real patriots vs. the traitors to the nation. And people took that, and really started to run with it, as we saw from the election results. . . .

Awakening the FDR Tradition

Schlanger: There are some people, mostly a bunch of degenerate tweeners in Austin, who are trying to figure out a way how to do something to un-elect you. Their quarrel is not with you; it’s with the voters. And it’s clear that the White House has been afraid, thus far, to say anything. We saw Robert Gibbs dance around this the other day, when he was asked, what about Kesha Rogers in the 22nd District? He started babbling about bipartisanship; he might as well have been talking about unicorns and fairies.

So, the question comes up, who is a Democrat? Because, some of these people are saying, “Well, Kesha’s not really a Democrat.” But in today’s *Chronicle*, it also identified the Harris County Democratic Party chairman, who said that LaRouche’s ideas and Kesha’s ideas are those of Franklin Roosevelt. So, how important do you think it is that you’re putting forward the traditional views of the real Democrats before the tutti-frutti Democrats like Al Gore took over? How significant is that for your district?

Rogers: This is very important. One thing about the reaction from the White House right now, is that Obama made it clear that he was *not* going to re-inspire, or re-invigorate the ideas of the Franklin Roosevelt legacy, or



EIRNS

Summer Shields, who is running for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's seat in Congress, organizes at a student demonstration at the Civic Center in San Francisco on March 4.

interest of the enemies of the United States, and what our U.S. Constitution and our U.S. Preamble and republic represent. And so, I think it's clear right now, that what Mr. LaRouche has laid out, and what he's going to continue to emphasize in his upcoming webcast [March 13]—that the Ides of March is rapidly approaching the Obama Administration, and it's coming more quickly than you can imagine—is very appropriate, because Obama is on the way out. Many people know that. That's why his administration has held back from responding to what just happened in the 22nd District with my campaign nomination for the Democratic Party. . . .

the John F. Kennedy legacy in the Democratic Party. That that was old news and it should be thrown out the window. And we have seen from his policies, that he has taken to spitting on the grave and the legacy of President Roosevelt.

And this is what the Obama Administration is responding to in this victory: that they know that what LaRouche has been fighting for, and what my campaign and the campaigns of Rachel and Summer have continued to represent, is a re-invigorating of the spirit and the tradition of President Lincoln, who fought very strongly and powerfully, should I say, against the British Empire, against the forces of Wall Street and London—and especially Roosevelt. Roosevelt with his policy of Glass-Steagall, his policy of bankruptcy reorganization; going in the first 100 days and completely transforming the government by shutting down the banks, and saying that we are going to put the banks through bankruptcy reorganization, we are going to sort out the dirty Wall Street and London financial interests from that which is legitimate.

That's what we're fighting to bring back today, and this is what scares the hell out of not only the Obama Administration, but those who continue to act in the

Schlanger: Kesha, you wanted to bring something up in conclusion?

Rogers: Yes, very important: I think that it's important to tell the audience and the listeners and the voters, that the fight's not over. I know that people have the tendency, that once they go to the voting polls, they pull the lever, they vote for the candidates, and say, "I've done my job, so it's over." But, no, what we're trying to inspire in people is that we're building a movement, we're going out and educating the mass of the population that you have to understand your role in history, and participate in this fight to save the Republic.

So, as we continue in the next eight months here, with Rachel's campaign and Summer's campaign, people should understand that that's our objective, that they have to continue to back our campaigns, to contribute, to be a part of the process of educating a new generation of leadership within the population and of taking responsibility for our republic and for their futures. And so, anybody who thinks that they just went out and voted and that was said and done, is highly mistaken. And they have to start to think about what they're going to do now, to continue this fight with us.