

California Dems Must Shape National Agenda

by Harley Schlanger

The author is the Western States spokesman for Lyndon LaRouche.

The last time California Democrats held a state convention, in San Jose in 2004, it was more of a wake than a deliberative gathering. Dispirited delegates were given no reason for optimism, as party leaders moped through the proceedings, clearly unnerved by the apparent Arnold Schwarzenegger juggernaut, which had swept Gov. Gray Davis (D) out of office in a recall election the previous November. Many party officials expressed concern that Arnold's "charisma" and celebrity status might doom the Democrats to a marginal role for years to come.

There was a dramatically different mood April 15, when Democrats opened their 2005 State Convention in Los Angeles. For the first time, the cartoonish Schwarzenegger is in trouble, his aura of power diminished; the bullying prankster has been reduced to being the target of ridicule. He was forced to drop the key ballot initiative he was promoting for his controller, George Shultz, to privatize the state public employees' pension fund; two of the other three initiatives he is backing have lost momentum. His poll numbers are tumbling, and he is besieged from all sides.

It has gotten so bad that his wife, Maria Kennedy Shriver, went public on Oprah Winfrey's television show, to say that she wants her husband to come home, to get away from politics.

LaRouche Versus the Terminator

Arnie's plunge from the heights of Olympus has not surprised Lyndon LaRouche and his collaborators. From the day that he announced that he would run for Governor, the LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) has been the leading visible force mobilizing for his defeat. From the now-famous leaflet showing a photo of Schwarzenegger imitating Hitler in a Nazi salute, with his statements of admiration for Hitler and his desire to emulate him, to the production of the "Who Robbed California" pamphlet, to the present pamphlet, "Stop George Shultz's Drive Toward Fascism!" which exposes the thievery disguised as "pension privatization," LaRouche and the LYM have been on the front lines.

At each step, as the "Governator" marched toward tearing

down the protections offered by state government to the poor, the elderly, the disabled, in order to deposit greater profits into the pockets of the corporate oligarchs allied with Shultz, the LaRouche Democrats have been the rallying point for the opposition.

No Time for Gloating

While the new-found feistiness of the Democrats is promising, there is urgent work to be done, if California is to be rescued from its ongoing descent into economic and social chaos, which has accelerated under the misbegotten Governorship of Arnold.

The present crisis buffeting the state—which includes a substantial budget deficit, growing state debt, sharp cutbacks in the level of health care, human services and education the state government can provide, and a rapidly declining infrastructure—cannot be solved by “better management” and “cutting the fat,” as “Team Arnie” asserted during the campaign, and which some “centrist” Democrats say they can implement more efficiently than Schwarzenegger.

Nor can the problems be addressed simply by raising taxes, which the hard-core anti-tax Republicans claim is the Democratic Party strategy.

Overcoming the present crisis requires, first, an acknowledgement that it is global and systemic, and second, a policy approach which mobilizes the power of government to act for the general welfare, as Franklin Delano Roosevelt did to lift the U.S. out of the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Such measures were provided to Democrats at the State Convention by members of the LYM—a number of whom were present as elected members of the State Central Committee. The LYM spoke at various caucuses and circulated the “Emergency Action by the Senate” memo drafted by Lyndon LaRouche (see last week’s *EIR*), which offers an alternative to the fascist austerity policies being pushed by President Bush and Schwarzenegger.

LaRouche’s Solution

Though California would be the world’s fifth-largest economy if it were a separate nation, it is not, and therefore, there is no way to solve the state’s economic crisis without addressing the national crisis. This requires a shift in thinking of California Democrats, beyond mere survival, to national leadership.

The cause of the national crisis—as for the state—is the long-term effect of the transformation to a post-industrial society, initiated in 1971 by the same Shultz who selected Bush for President, and Arnie for Governor.

Post-industrial policy caused a shift in employment, due to free trade and deregulation, to low-wage, low-benefit jobs in the service sector, at the expense of manufacturing. Having lost a large percentage of its manufacturing base, the state survived during the 1990s due to revenue from the high-tech bubble. When that popped in March 2000, the revenue base

shifted to dependence on the real estate bubble and construction.

This bubble is set to pop.

The solution is in physical economy, modelled on the FDR precedent: infrastructure development; creating real jobs in transport, water, and power management; health care; public safety and education; and reindustrialization, as proposed by LaRouche in his memo to the Senate on saving General Motors’ machine-tool sector from the impending collapse of the corporation.

Defeating Shultz’s fascist stooge is not enough to improve the lives of Californians. It is time for Democrats to learn the lessons of the FDR recovery and join with LaRouche, to “Recreate Our Economy.”

Mervyn Dymally

‘Schwarzenegger Wants To Become a Dictator’

California State Assemblyman Mervyn Dymally addressed a LaRouche PAC town meeting in Los Angeles on April 16, 2005, which was held on the occasion of the state Democratic Party Convention. Assemblyman Dymally is also a former Lieutenant Governor of California and former U.S. Representative. He was introduced by Harley Schlanger, Western States spokesman for Lyndon LaRouche.

Harley Schlanger: This is a young man, who was once the Lieutenant Governor of the State of California. And they didn’t like that, and they did everything they could to run him out. And so, he went to the Congress, and he helped the Black Caucus in Congress discover Africa, as the head of the Black Caucus. And they didn’t like that. And they did everything they could to run him out,

And he’s still fighting. He’s one of the leaders in the fight against Schwarzenegger. He’s one of the few people, that I know in Sacramento, who is not taking his eye off the ball. He’s not going to let Arnie succeed. And so, I’m totally privileged to introduce to you, for however long he wants to speak, my good friend Mervyn Dymally.

Mervyn Dymally: Thank you Harley. What we have—permit me to do a bit of psycho-political analysis: Most of us who come from foreign countries bring a little bit of that culture with us. Arnold brought a great deal of a political culture that was autocratic, dictatorial, fascist, and Nazi. And one has to understand that. And so, the most modern approach

to their democracy, in Austria, is the parliamentary system. And under the parliamentary system, the prime minister can wage war, without the people, as Blair did in Iraq.

And so, he has this notion that he can run the legislature without any discussion. He can dictate to the people of California. He can make a promise and break it, because of his popularity.

Now, the last two years in the Democratic Caucus, there were two people who cautioned us about this man, as being dangerous, and that was Jackie Goldberg and Hannah-Beth Jackson. Hannah-Beth Jackson has since left us. Most of us were silent. Most of us were intimidated by his popularity. But, what I did, I went on the road, and we organized in just about every city that we had an opportunity to visit.

And so, what we are faced with, is a man who wants to be the dictator in California. And one of the problems with Arnold: He has no sense of California political history. He does not understand the Master Plan for Higher Education. He doesn't understand the relationship between the governor and the legislature. He doesn't understand the balance. Actually, he's a duplicate of George Bush.

And what he's doing, he's going after the three most popular groups in California: teachers, nurses, and firefighters. And he is destroying the safety net, that made it possible for minority groups to get into the middle class.

When you talk about nurses—and I'm speaking in this portion of my discourse as a black man—when you talk about nurses, you're talking about the black middle class. When you talk about teachers, you're talking about the black middle class. Because, after slavery, that is the channel by which they achieved a measure of freedom and a measure of middle class: by organizing schools and hospitals, medical universities, and colleges across the South. And so, when you destroy these professions, you destroy the safety net. And I suspect the same applies for Latinos.

And so, he's going after the teachers. He's going after the nurses. He has broken his promise: He stole \$2 billion from the children, and he has refused to pay them back. And so, this is a man who has no integrity at all. A man who has no word of honor. A man whom you cannot trust.

And the challenge we face in California, this year and next year, first, is to see to it that a \$70 million special election is avoided, by not signing those signatures. And second, it is not too early to prepare for 2006, because, if he fails in this special election, he's coming after us.

So, we have to organize. Not just meet and talk, but we've got to do the walk. We organize on a precinct level, and across the state. We proved in California that we could stop him. Of the 48 Democratic districts he went after, he did not pick up one. We beat the shit out of him!

So, we proved, with limited resources, we can do it. And with your help, we can do it. And so, I am looking forward to working with you. On May 23, we're going to hold a rally,



State Assemblyman and former U.S. Congressman Mervyn Dymally (right), with Harley Schlanger at the LaRouche PAC meeting on April 16. Dymally stressed that it's not enough to talk about how Governor Schwarzenegger is a dictator: "We've got to do the walk. We organize on a precinct level, and across the state."

because one of the most silent groups in California, about Schwarzenegger, are blacks. And today, we organize a coalition of about 100 groups at the airport. Face to face with him, on May 23, black voices are going to be raised and say, "Back off, Schwarzenegger! Back off!"

Thank you very much.

Schlanger: This man would have made a good governor. I'm still trying to convince him to run in 2006, because I don't think we have a good enough candidate yet. How many want to see Mervyn run in 2006?

I think Frankie's going to be the chairman of the Draft Dymally campaign.

Dymally: I will run, if Harley pays for my divorce.

Schlanger: Well, I may have to join you in divorce if I have to pay for it, Mervyn.

But, I just want to make a point here, Mervyn. You missed most of our discussion, but this is precisely what we were talking about: That we have the potential in this state, and I look at it this way—if we beat Schwarzenegger in 2005, Maria may take him home before 2006. The Kennedys don't like to lose.

So, our job is, right now, to go out and *teach the people of this state of the importance of the vote*. But, to vote, they also need to *know* something. . . .