

LaRouche to Fitzsimmons

The following are excerpts of a June 17 open letter from 1980 presidential candidate and U.S. Labor Party Chairman Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. to IBT General President Frank E. Fitzsimmons.

Dear President Fitzsimmons:

About now the national leadership of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters is coming under massive pressure from the White House, the Kennedy machine, and Governor John Connally. The fear among these forces is that the IBT will move in the direction of future endorsement of my candidacy. They, like the Christian Science Monitor, estimate that with Kennedy's early candidacy threatening to split the Democratic Party, a large section of organized labor, as well as former supporters of President Nixon's 1968 and 1972 candidacies, will begin to pull sections of the Democratic and Republican parties behind a LaRouche candidacy.

The issue is not just the November 1980 election. If I secure a strong position among constituencies representing 10 or 20 percent of the potential voters by September-October 1979, and go on to have potential support from among constituencies representing from 20 to 40 percent of the voters by February 1980, this pressure will lead to changes in the direction of our nation's policy even a year before the November 1980 election....

You and I, who have been in the organizing business for a long time in this country, know that most citizens have two sides. When they are disgusted with Washington, or with this or that trade-union leadership, most of our citizens tend to adopt an "every man for himself" outlook. Since they believe that they are not represented by the powerful, leading agencies, they turn their backs and minds on the big issues.

However ... let the typical American citizen know that he or she has some big agency which does represent him or her on the big issues, and these citizens are on the phone, giving instructions on national or world policy to their people in the state house and Washington, or they are very frisky in their advice to the union leadership on such matters as conducting negotiations or running a strike.

The "secret" of my campaigning is based on understanding those two sides of our fellow-citizens. My job is to talk directly to as many of them as possible. That is the meaning of a "labor party" as I understand it and practice it. A durable democratic republic, of the kind that ours was created to become, requires that political parties be more than a bunch of smart-alecks, wheeling and dealing tradeoffs for the votes of blocks of constituencies. We need to create the kinds of parties

in the United States in which the average working citizen, as well as the citizen who wishes he could find a decent job, is directly and efficiently involved in debating the policies of the federal executive and Congress. The core of my support must come from those trade unionists who wish to keep the United States a democratic republic and a place for opportunities to advance to skilled employment, and from those so-called minority groups which are ready to board what some of us used to call "the American dream."...

Now, permit me to get down to the hard dirt of the problem hitting the IBT at this moment—the matter of former Governor John Connally. On first meeting, Connally sometimes shows his attractive side. He is without question, the brightest and slickest of the presently-announced candidates of either the Republican or Democratic Party. Alas, that is not all there is to John Connally....

The man is admittedly bright, but a slippery chameleon. To know where he stands, you need only know to whom he is playing up at that moment, and who, in general, Connally views as controlling the house in any particular game. Right now, Connally is running as a stalking horse for General
dicted next President—at least the prepicked President in the opinion of Rita Hauser and the rest of the crew running Connally's campaign.

Connally, together with George Bush, is running to wreck the Reagan machine. Haig, who is even smaller than Connally in mind than he is in stature, is being groomed and projected as "the man on the white horse" to unify the scrambled Republican Party, and to win the election through aid of Kennedy's wrecking of the 1980 Democratic Party.

Let us push Connally and other such diversionary matters aside.

Let us also use that muscle to alter the course of national policy on key issues right now. Let us crush this "dereg" swindle, together with the oil swindle. Let us get back to producing nuclear energy and end the selling of drugs to our children. I am not proposing, of course, that we turn the executive branch over to the IBT. I am insisting that with a Connally, a Haig, or a Kennedy in the White House there wouldn't be an IBT much longer. The same choice confronts most other Americans. We don't have to have this oil swindle. We don't have to have an energy shortage. We don't have to have a depression. We can slow down and halt President Carter's double-digit inflation without turning the country more or less fascist under some "little general."

Like any other American citizens who discover the real issues and actual alternatives, IBT members ought to support my candidacy simply because they are Americans.

Fraternally,
Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.