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**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW**

# Rebuilding from the ground up

*The following interview was conducted with Steve Romm, top aide to Lyndon LaRouche's campaign manager, Kenneth Dalto, shortly after the close of the Democratic convention.*

**Q:** What impact did the LaRouche campaign organization have on delegates and others during the course of the convention? Where does LaRouche go from here?

**A:** Our impact on delegates and party officials at all levels was enormous—I do not believe that we or they yet realize the full extent of our influence on the way Democrats around the country are now thinking.

This was a convention in which all issues were kept out. It was a convention in which delegations were literally bludgeoned into renominating a man who represents a disaster for the nation and the party. It is only because LaRouche was there, at a convention that was a disaster from the standpoint of the democratic process and the issues facing the nation, that people came away with some hope that a political machine can be put together nationwide to rebuild the Democratic Party despite Carter's nomination and probable defeat by Ronald Reagan.

LaRouche personally addressed seven state delegation caucuses. In addition, senior policy people for the LaRouche campaign addressed another two dozen caucuses.

So, in all, nearly 30 state delegations heard from LaRouche and his aides directly. What they heard was substantive: how and why the economy must be reindustrialized, how and why nuclear energy must be pushed through, what must be done to ensure renewed development of American agriculture, why the "China card" must be dumped.

They heard nothing about this from any other candidate—and that in itself had an impact.

Moreover, people saw that LaRouche not only had good ideas, he had a machine. LaRouche literature and organizers were at every meeting, every caucus, every

reception; LaRouche organizers were in every hotel lobby; when delegates woke in the morning or came back at night, they saw LaRouche organizers. That means that when LaRouche said he means to rebuild the Democratic Party, they know he means it and he can do it.

The main thing we've done is given hope to conservative Democrats, to the traditional base of the party in organized and unorganized labor, entrepreneurs, the urban political machines, blacks, Hispanics and other minorities.

LaRouche is the part of the party that promises a future that includes them as productive citizens.

I think it is summed up by the words of one delegation's chairman who came to us to apologize. Because of the thuggery and threats of Carter representatives, he said, he was unable to have LaRouche address his caucus. He apologized for that, and then said he was very impressed with the job we had done, and very glad that the Democratic Party has in it an organization as dynamic and committed as the LaRouche organization. This is the same feedback we got from calls and talks during the convention with the majority of very important Democrats who stayed home, stayed away from Madison Square Garden.

**Q:** How did delegates react to the way LaRouche raised the issues?

**A:** I think that to every delegate or official who heard LaRouche in person at a caucus meeting, he was perceived as the only candidate with any answers. Of course, every issue that might have been raised on the convention floor itself was suppressed, since every issue would have produced an embarrassment for the Carter administration.

But in the caucuses, delegates hearing LaRouche suddenly found themselves being addressed as citizens, not merely as votes. LaRouche put to them the real, tough problems that are facing this nation—facing them personally.

For example, in the Florida caucus, LaRouche addressed over half of his presentation to the problems of the elderly and on the mistreatment of the elderly in the United States.

He didn't just express "concern" and serve up platitudes. He laid out a concrete program that could solve those problems rapidly.

The effect this had on the delegates could be seen on their faces. It just picked them up, restored their morale. Somebody had a program or knew how to get things done. Their minds began to work again. LaRouche took them seriously. They began to take themselves seriously again.

In that sense, LaRouche and his organization's work gave a lot of people the strength to survive the ordeal

they were put through by both the Carter and Kennedy campaigns.

That will have a lasting effect. Believe me, when people came away from caucus meetings saying that LaRouche was the best speaker they had ever heard, that means that when they go back to their local areas, and people ask them about the issues, LaRouche is the man who will be discussed, LaRouche and his program.

Our post-convention plan to rebuild the Democratic Party starts with that. Its first phase is going to be carried out in that way by the delegates themselves.

**Q:** How will Mr. LaRouche continue campaign between now and November? What is his goal?

**A:** Between now and November, we're going to campaign on the bottom half of the ticket. In other words, LaRouche is going to throw his organization to the aid of key Democrats in congressional, senate, mayoral and other races who are in trouble because of Carter on top of the ticket.

First, we're going to provide intelligence to local candidates and local campaigns, the kind of intelligence on national and international events that they are now denied. For example, the real facts of the Carter administration's responsibility for the genocide through famine and starvation now threatening 30 million people in Africa. The real facts of the Justice Department's cover-up for terrorists. What the local candidates need to have is intelligence of global political significance, and how it relates to local needs.

Second, we're going to provide them program: the need to expand the port of Mobile, Alabama; the need to build a nuclear plant; the need for water projects for the Western states. What must be done, and how it can be done, is the kind of information we will make available to local candidates so that they can turn to their constituencies and frame solutions to problems that are clear and correct.

In addition, the LaRouche machine itself will go into these local situations, campaign with people, contribute manpower and organizational support. Our goal is to see to it that the Democratic Party does not lose control of the House and Senate in a Reagan landslide. Key Democrats must be reelected, to form the backbone of a rebuilt party whose leaders are accountable to local constituency organizations and local political machines—not to the Trilateral Commission.

In this way, LaRouche is going to develop a network of local political machines that will put the Democratic Party back together as the representative of the majority of Americans—and that will be a very dramatic turnaround from the sort of Democratic Party that went into this convention: a wholly owned subsidiary of the Trilateral Commission.

## LaRouche talks to the caucuses

*Throughout the convention week, Lyndon LaRouche and his representatives addressed more than two dozen state delegations to the Democratic National Convention, including those from Missouri, Florida, Illinois and Texas. A leader of the open convention fight, LaRouche consistently urged the delegates to look past questions of procedure or personal political loyalties to the larger issue of their moral responsibility to the nation.*

*four delegations on August 10-13: the Pennsylvania delegation, Wisconsin delegation, North Dakota delegation, and Alabama delegation. In the first two, LaRouche spoke following a Carter administration spokesman, campaign manager Robert Strauss and Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland respectively. Included is an excerpt from LaRouche's reply to a question from a North Dakota delegate.*

### North Dakota

**Q:** Mr. LaRouche, I'm Ed Smith, past president of the North Dakota Farmers Union. You're a newcomer to me and I wonder how you expect somebody to really go out and support a candidate who is not known to the public. Too many times I've had to support dark horses. I'm not ready to support another one, this is my problem. I like your philosophy, I think you're talking about the things we need to be talking about. But the first I ever heard of you was two months ago.

**A:** The problem is not mine. The problem is a problem for this nation. We as a nation have become so glued to our television sets and the average length is about five hours a day, per person—we have become passive, entertainment-oriented. We don't go out and talk to our neighbors; we get lies in the news and we don't pay any attention.

Because of my position against the drug traffic, and my position in exposing the leading financial interests involved in the international drug traffic, as well as my monetary policy, which some of the forces in New York are opposed to, up to now the major press has blacked me out. If Carter is Trilateral Commission, Anderson is Trilateral Commission, Bush is Trilateral Commission, and Reagan is being run by Henry Kissinger who is Trilateral Commission, you have no choice from the major media except three Trilateral Commission candidates who all have the same policy.