

EIRSpecialReport

Anti-depression politics shakes up the 1982 elections

by Molly Kronberg

On May 18 in the Pennsylvania Democratic gubernatorial primary, the machine-endorsed candidate, an incumbent Congressman named Alan Ertel, got only 55 percent of the vote. Coming in second, with 20 percent of the vote statewide and 35 percent of the vote in Philadelphia was Steve Douglas, the candidate endorsed by the National Democratic Policy Committee. With a shoestring budget, and a fulltime campaign staff of only 11 people in one of the largest states in the country, Douglas won 147,000 votes statewide. He swept black, hispanic, and Italian-American wards in Philadelphia. Democratic party officials in various parts of the country, and in Washington, D.C., have correctly interpreted this phenomenon. Privately many remarked that if the National Democratic Policy Committee got fully involved in local-level caucuses, precinct work, and the like, it could take over the entire Democratic Party.

What is the National Democratic Policy Committee, and where did it come from?

In 1980 the internationally known economist Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. sought the Democratic Party presidential nomination on the basis that his candidacy was the only one qualified to reconstruct the kind of alliance—labor, farmer, minority, and small businessman—which has traditionally been the constituency of the Democratic Party. LaRouche insisted that it was his competence as an economist, at a time when the United States was already being forced into depression by the interest-rate policies of Jimmy Carter and his Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, which made LaRouche the only candidate who could re-establish the anti-depression base built by Franklin D. Roosevelt in the 1930s.

In August 1980, it became obvious that Jimmy Carter had locked up the Democratic convention to ensure his own renomination as the party's candidate—and, as LaRouche emphasized, Carter's nomination meant that the Democratic Party would be demolished at the polls.

In August-September 1980 LaRouche and his associates founded the



Philip Ulanovsky/NSIPS

Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. (c), Chairman of the NDPC's Advisory Committee, at a reception following a February address which drew some 200 committee activists to Washington, D.C. At left is a Virginia chapter chairman, Karen Nafziger.

National Democratic Policy Committee as a political action committee inside the Democratic Party in order to rebuild the party Carter was wrecking. The NDPC perspective was as straightforward as it was frightening to the Democratic National Committee and the Carter-Kennedy leadership of the party: Because American workers and minorities tend, in times of economic depression, to gravitate toward the Democratic Party, the NDPC was positioning itself to take over that traditional pro-prosperity machine.

Even as early as fall 1980, before Carter was humiliated by Reagan's landslide victory, it was obvious that the leadership of the Democratic Party had nothing to say to the American voter. Kennedy and Carter represented slightly different stripes of environmentalist and zero-growth policies, including commitment to the genocidal *Global 2000* document released by the Carter administration. California Governor Jerry Brown represented a radical form of zero-growth. The traditional old-line city machines, in Philadelphia, Chicago, and elsewhere, which had some orientation toward industrial expansion and skilled-job-creation, were being taken apart by the McGovern rule changes in the party and by a series of hoked-up scandals—such as “Abscam” and “Brilab”—aimed to destroy pro-growth elected officials. Democratic National Committee Chairman Charles Manatt, whom LaRouche has repeatedly characterized as Charles “Banker” Manatt, represented and still represents the interests of Venetian and British bankers whose program for the U.S. is crippling high interest

rates and depression of the productive economy in favor of the “post-industrial society.”

In the 18 months since formation of the NDPC the Volcker policies at the Fed have driven American unemployment rates to their highest point since 1941. Plant closings, farm bankruptcies, the erosion of social services, and the dramatic collapse of larger American corporations—like Braniff Airlines last month—have created the situation LaRouche predicted when the NDPC was launched. American voters have found that their traditional machine-politics has broken down. The Rizzo machine in Philadelphia was unable to carry its slate in the May 18 primaries there because it cannot “deliver” jobs and services to the local voters in the middle of an international depression. The remnants of the old Daley machine of Chicago cannot keep the steel industry from closing down in that area, and so on.

Meantime, the top of the party—organized in political action committees like Pamela Harriman's Democrats for the '80s, is a collection of think tanks producing anti-growth scenarios diametrically opposed to the interests of the voters of the party, and financing the campaigns of candidates intended to legislate them. Harriman, for one, is a very public eugenicist whose propaganda calls for world population reduction along the lines of *Global 2000*, and is premised on what LaRouche last month denounced at a Washington, D.C. seminar as “Anglo-Saxon racism and genocide.”

The local party machines are very far away from the Democratic National Committee's control at this point,

as our report below on the party leadership's machinations to keep real issues off the floor of its late June "mini-convention" indicates. While Manatt and Harriman, Vance and Kennedy, formulate a program to demolish U.S. productive industry and the industrial base of the United States's allies, and to starve out the Third World, local party organizations are looking for a program to expand U.S. industry and re-employ the millions of skilled workers now out of jobs. The DNC's control over this base is attenuating rapidly.

A similar phenomenon is overtaking the labor movement. AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland is the chief promoter of the Moynihan-Kasten amendment, to declare the Polish debt in default (an eventuality which would have the effect of throwing millions more Americans out of work); United Auto Workers President Douglas Fraser is negotiating wage concessions and givebacks for the remaining employed auto workers. But trade-union locals are slipping away from these "leaders."

This is where the dramatic growth of the NDPC, which we elaborate below, becomes one of the most important developments on the U.S. political scene.

Lyndon LaRouche and his associates, including a number of NDPC-backed candidates in Democratic races around the country, are doing something that has not been done in the U.S. in this century. With a program of nuclear-power development, cheap long-term credit to industry, and an international program to reorder the world monetary system with a gold-backed standard for increased international trade, they are reasserting the "American System" approach to national economic policies.

As the only such political force in the country, the NDPC has as powerful an attraction for Republicans as for Democrats. In southern California, for example, where the NDPC is very strong (it has upwards of 7,000 members in the state), Republicans have joined the NDPC in numbers almost as great as Democrats. The involvement of these Republicans in backing Will Wertz's race against Jerry Brown in the Democratic senatorial primary bears out something LaRouche asserted during his 1980 New Hampshire presidential primary race: That he and his associates were the only tendency able to recruit Republicans into the Democratic Party, at a time when the Carter-Kennedy-Manatt leadership was otherwise driving voters away in droves.

It is that phenomenon that LaRouche has characterized as a "Whig alliance"—based on national-economic policies like those of Alexander Hamilton, which committed the United States to a role as an industrial republic. LaRouche contends that the United States is not "free to choose" (as Schachtian economist Milton Friedman would have it) between being an industrial republic

or being a "post-industrial" services- and entertainment-oriented counterculture. The United States's responsibility, according to the NDPC, is to continue to produce heavy industry, technology, and skills for the entire world. Any other course has the immediate effect of genocide against the entire developing sector.

The international factor

That polemic brings up another unique characteristic of the NDPC. LaRouche himself is increasingly emerging as the only American statesman who can represent the United States to the Third World; witness his meetings over the past month with India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Mexico's President José López Portillo.

The introduction of international policy to broad layers of American voters, and the NDPC's ability to mobilize auto workers in Flint, small businessmen in California, farmers in Texas, and minority voters in America's cities, around a policy of trade and technology transfer with the Third World is one of the things the Democratic Party leadership, with its commitment to "Anglo-Saxon racism" and the *Global 2000* document, finds most frightening.

The NDPC is by no means the largest political action committee in the country. The liberal-environmentalist Common Cause, for example, has far more on-paper "members." But the NDPC is the fastest-growing political action committee inside the Democratic Party, and its members are more active as individuals and constituency-leaders than those in any other organization.

We include in this Special Report rundowns on several foci of that activity at the moment, the NDPC-endorsed campaigns in Democratic primaries in a number of states: Will Wertz against Governor Jerry Brown for California's Senate seat; Melvin Klenetsky against Senator Moynihan in New York; Debra Hanania Freeman against Congresswoman Barbara Mikulski and Lawrence Freeman against Congressman Parren Mitchell in Baltimore; Anti-Drug Party candidate Sheila Jones against Congressman Sidney Yates in Chicago.

It has often been reported that DNC chairman Charles Manatt, a close political associate of Jerry Brown, would like to sue the NDPC in a harassment and financial-warfare effort to break its momentum. He has, thus far, been repeatedly dissuaded on the grounds that such a lawsuit would only help to clarify the fundamental fight inside the Democratic Party and extend the NDPC's impact farther and faster. How Manatt will react to the coming months' primaries and NDPC expansion, which interlock with LaRouche's increasingly recognized international importance, remains to be seen.