

Report from Paris by P. O. E.

Eyes of Auvergne on Lyndon LaRouche

A newspaper article in the "presidential" region of France reflects a high-level fight over his influence.

During the most recent of my meanderings through the French journals, I was shocked to discover, belatedly, an editorial in the Feb. 4 edition of *La Montagne*, the 350,000-circulation daily of the French Massif Central, the mountainous terrain 400 kilometers south of Paris.

The article made an impression: not only was it about the U.S. Democratic Party presidential race, but it focused an unusual degree of attention on the candidacy of *EIR* founder Lyndon H. LaRouche, who, despite his French-origin surname, has not enjoyed considerable coverage up to this point in the nation of de Gaulle.

I was motivated to read the formulations quite carefully: The main region of the Massif Central is Auvergne, a city famous for much but including the region of origin of many presidents of France, including Georges Pompidou, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and others.

The article was styled in a cynical form, but, as they say in Paris, *quoi faire?* I happen to disagree with the dictum of one of my American friends that cynicism, is among the larger-growing exports today from the nation de Gaulle led. I am by nature an optimist, and, so I thought, this article may have been a "signal" telling its readers to watch for the up-and-coming "dark horse" of the U.S. political scene.

My curiosity was reinforced when I was later informed that the *La Montagne* piece was a slight re-casting of a release put out by the French news

agency AFP in early February. I discovered that influentials like *Le Monde's* editor Jacques Amalric had been pondering the AFP release on LaRouche with intensity, deciding not to publish it in their respective publications, but passing hours in bewilderment about how LaRouche was so forcefully "breaking through" into the news.

"Several days ago," the signed *La Montagne* editorial says after a few preliminary paragraphs on the January 1984 goings-on in New Hampshire, "this singular personage [LaRouche] bought a half-hour of TV to 'explain' to his compatriots how the Kremlin was directing the politics of the United States and how the KGB was controlling the Democratic Party! From which this avowal: 'If I present myself today, it is not to enter into the White House, but to take control of the party whose leadership is supported and influenced by the Soviet Union.'"

Under the subtitle "Descendant of Plato," the editorial continues: "These ideas—and many others—LaRouche expresses with a great luxury of details in a weekly magazine that he himself edits, *Executive Intelligence Review*, and whose extracts in France are distributed even in the corridors of the Paris metro. LaRouche is also co-president of an international philosophical association claiming—beg your pardon—to be modeled on Plato, Leibniz, and Benjamin Franklin.

"In all his writings and also when he is on the airwaves, LaRouche affirms that his enemies, who range from

Yuri Andropov to the neo-Nazi movements, working through the international traffickers in drugs, have tried to assassinate him several times. Which does not facilitate his political 'labeling': In the 1960s, he was considered a man of the extreme left; today, rather, one would tend to consider him as a representative of the extreme right. To which LaRouche responds by a surprising comparison: 'In France, I would be considered a Gaullist; I have a great fraternity with de Gaulle.' Where in the devil's name is the remembrance of the general going to nest itself?

"The NBC television chain, building on all these elements, and taking as a pretext the climate of anti-Soviet crusade and of cold war which Lyndon LaRouche would like to enforce (he considers Reagan 'too soft') televised a hardly flattering portrait of the man during one of its broadcasts, accusing the candidate for the Democratic Party nomination of creating an unhealthy 'political cult' around himself.

"While on television (one asks oneself in any case how he can finance a campaign that is so costly), LaRouche said, in all simplicity: 'I asked myself what would be the Soviet response to my revelations. Now I know: It was the reportage of NBC!'

"And for good measure, he accuses the FBI of having contributed to mounting this attack . . . at the demand of the KGB.

"Well, it takes all kinds to make a democracy."

We are attempting to ascertain the ripple effects on the citizens of France. Certain of the elites won't be happy. The unbalanced General Gallois, a man whose military doctrine has been described as "systematic retreat," is informing all and sundry in the relevant salons that LaRouche must be "blacked out at all costs."