

LaRouche slate takes on Ohio dope mob

by Marla Minnicino

A bipartisan slate of LaRouche candidates in Ohio has opened fire on the "dope mafia," which controls both political parties in the state. Although Ohio's liberal Democratic Party leadership is among the most corrupt in the nation—after years on the payroll of indicted drug banker Marvin Warner—the Republican Party has also shown its colors by publicly "disowning" those LaRouche candidates who are running as Republicans.

That might seem surprising, since those candidates' program is based on support for President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative, an expanded space program, low-interest loans for farmers, and an all-out war on drugs. Perhaps it is the last point that especially disturbs them.

Ohio Republican Party spokesman Dave Garick has stated that the LaRouche candidates present a problem only for the Democratic Party. LaRouche candidates may be "running as Republicans, [but] they are uninvolved in the mainstream of the Republican Party. We don't pay him or them much attention."

Said James Cary, political director for the Ohio Democratic Party: "They are not part of our party. They don't subscribe to our beliefs." He said Ohio Democratic leaders would be notified of LaRouche candidates in their areas and would be urged "not to support them."

What has them so worried?

On Feb. 20, twenty-one LaRouche supporters filed petitions in Columbus to qualify for the May 6 primary ballot as candidates for Congress, and were endorsed by the National Democratic Policy Committee, the political action committee which reflects the ideas of LaRouche. NDPC-backed candidates also filed for U.S. Senate, governor, lieutenant-governor, state attorney-general, and Republican and Democratic Party positions at the state and county level.

Immediately, a major effort was mounted to keep LaRouche candidates off the ballot. The petitions of U.S. Senate candidate Edgar Bradley, a well-known Republican political activist, were challenged on technicalities, as were those of gubernatorial candidate Dave Muhlenkamp—the only announced opponent of Gov. Richard Celeste in the Democratic primary—and Tracy Prudhoe, candidate for lieutenant-governor. Election officials also refused to certify the petitions of five NDPC-backed congressional candidates, citing "irregularities." Bradley, Muhlenkamp, Prudhoe, and the other candidates will now run as independents in the November general election.

The petitions of Ron Bradley, the Senate candidate's son

and NDPC-backed Republican candidate for attorney-general, were also challenged. Bradley is a prominent lawyer who last year filed suit to prevent a drug mafia takeover of Cincinnati's Home State Savings and Loan. In the course of his campaign, he had promised to make public further revelations on the workings of the dope mob and its financial networks in Ohio.

A spokesman for the NDPC slate described the challenges as "nit-picking political harassment." Such efforts, he said, were the "only recourse the dope mafia's flunkies have left in Ohio" and only served to "intensify the commitment of the LaRouche candidates to unseating the incumbents of both parties in November."

The Ohio slate, comprised of farmers, businessmen, and veteran political activists, is led by Don Scott, a former congressional candidate who is challenging incumbent Sen. John Glenn in the Democratic primary. Scott won the 7th C.D. primary in 1984 despite the Democratic Party's refusal to endorse him, and polled 24% in the general election. He charged that the "drug mafia has almost completely taken over the U.S. banking system" and is "bleeding industry, labor, and farmers dry."

There is plenty of dirt for the LaRouche candidates to clean up. For example, Home State's owner, Marvin Warner, helped Jimmy Carter buy the 1976 election in Ohio, and was instrumental in financing the campaigns of Governor Celeste, Senator Glenn, and others. Warner was recently indicted by a state grand jury in connection with the March 1985 collapse of Home State Bank, which pulled the plug on savings and loan institutions throughout Ohio.

Ohio plays a crucial role in shaping industrial and agricultural policy nationally. When the editors of *Newsweek* were looking for a typical American community to profile, they chose Springfield, Ohio—the district won by Don Scott in 1984. The region is now among the states hardest hit by the "economic recovery," with unemployment at record levels, factories and farms abandoned, and only bankers flourishing.

The NDPC candidates have made defense of the nation's productive sector their key campaign plank. "The industrial and agricultural production base of the U.S. economy is in a shambles and getting worse every day," says Scott, "We must produce ourselves out of this mess" by establishing a new world monetary system "with equity in trade among all nations throughout the world." Scott recently joined political leaders from the United States and Ibero-America at a conference of food-producers in Sonora, Mexico, discussing ways to increase agricultural production.

A campaign press release labels the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings law, which 16 out of Ohio's 21 congressmen backed, "overtly treasonous," and a threat to the nation's industrial infrastructure and defense. It also states that the population is threatened with AIDS and other pandemics, while Congress, state and local governments, even public health agencies, defend the "civil rights of AIDS carriers."