

## 'The day the sky actually fell': LaRouche victories in Illinois

by Stephen Pepper

In one of the most stunning political results in recent history, two candidates backed by the National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC), the political action committee which supports the policies of Lyndon LaRouche, won the Democratic nomination to statewide office in Illinois. Janice Hart won the nomination for secretary of state, defeating Aurelia Pucinski, the hand-picked candidate of gubernatorial nominee Adlai Stevenson III, by nearly 15,000 votes, and Mark Fairchild defeated State Senator George Sangmeister in the race for lieutenant-governor by a slightly larger margin.

Stevenson, in a fit of unreason, declared that he might withdraw from the race, and certainly from the slate.

The reason that these results have set off such a shock is the close connection between the NDPC-backed candidates and LaRouche. The Illinois election successes have the greatest importance for the 1988 presidential race, in which LaRouche is an announced candidate for the Democratic nomination. LaRouche declared at a January national gathering of NDPC-backed candidates that the 1988 outcome would be determined in 1986. "The fate of civilization on this planet, not only for today or tomorrow, but the fate of the attempt to build civilization in Europe for over 2,500 years, will rest, will fall or prevail, on the basis of what is done in 1986; and in the greatest degree, on what is done within this fading, collapsing, rotten superpower we call the United States" (see *EIR*, Jan. 10, 1986).

LaRouche has based his own candidacy on the fact that the electorate is fed up, and that this mood has passed from a passive griping to an active sense of alarm. In a statement issued immediately after the Illinois returns first became known, he called the result a "protest vote, as every vote is

in the United States today." AIDS, and the action of the Congress in passing Gramm-Rudman, are the immediate issues that have caused this shift in the population. "The voters are sending a message to Washington," LaRouche's statement continued. "They are fed up with the administration and Congress which resists addressing these problems."

In the face of the primary outcome, with such consequences for the party, the nation, and civilization, the Democratic leadership has responded with such pathetic confusion and impotence as to make Chicken Little a model of courage. Indeed, the *Chicago Tribune's* editorial of Friday, March 21, entitled, "The Day the Sky Actually Fell," summed it up very neatly, when it described Adlai Stevenson III, the party's nominee for governor, as having "proven himself to be the kind of character who can get almost 90 percent of the vote and still lose the election." No one in any position of leadership, nationally or in Illinois, has the slightest idea of what happened, nor are they even curious or interested enough to find out. They simply hysterically wish to deny it happened.

In fact, Hart and Fairchild achieved a smashing victory against the most powerful Democratic organization in the country. Hart defeated Pucinski, the daughter of former Congressman Roman Pucinski, now an alderman, which in Chicago is considered a promotion. In doing so, she actually carried Pucinski's Chicago ward. Fairchild ran almost 50-50 with Sangmeister in Chicago itself, absolutely unprecedented for an insurgent in the Democratic primary, and defeated him by a wide margin downstate, and in the second city of Illinois, Rockford.

A spokesman for the NDPC in Chicago said that the

coalition that actually produced the result was nearly the same as FDR's: "We ran very well in the black wards. For example, Fairchild carried the 9th by 3,600-1,200. He also carried Cook County party chairman Ed Vrdolyak's ward, the 10th, 2,800-1,057.

"Outside of Chicago, we carried Rockford, which is heavy manufacturing; we carried Peoria, which is International Harvester; Decatur; and East St. Louis, which are blue-collar cities; and we ran very well in farm regions."

Indicative of this strength were the returns for Sheila Jones, the NDPC-backed candidate for the senate nomination against incumbent Alan Dixon. Although unable to mount a sufficiently high-profile campaign to win, she received 17% of the vote, and in black Chicago wards, where she is well known, carried 40% of the vote.

### Under the spell of absurdities

These figures actually show the real Democratic Party of the era before 1972, the FDR alignment upon which these Democrats, in the tradition of the party since 1932, actually won.

In the face of this, Stevenson, whose appeal is more based on name recognition than on accomplishment, scandalized even the press by suggesting that the election result was a "colossal mistake." Appearing on television's MacNeil-Lehrer Report, Stevenson announced that he would withdraw from the ticket rather than accept the result of a free election. He was asked if this did not impugn the electoral process? "Not at all. It was simply a case of a colossal mistake."

It was publicly stated that in view of the inclement weather and the apparent non-contests, that only the most dedicated voters turned out for the primary, but here is a grown man asserting that over 350,000 people voted for each of these candidates in a sort of blind stupor. Not only he, but every other official. They add the fact that the two candidates had "simple Anglo-Saxon" names compared to the complicated ethnic names of their opponents. And this explanation is offered in Illinois, the home of Representatives Rostenkowski, Lapinski, and Russo, not to mention Pucinski. At one point the interviewer was forced to inject, "But, sir, you don't give the voters much credit."

Not every one fell under the spell of these absurdities. J. Michael McKeon, a Democratic Party pollster, was said to have reported as far back as June 1985 that the LaRouche candidates were "hot." He added, "LaRouche knows how to connect with the population. . . . They are not in Disneyland the way Washington, D.C. is." The *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* editorialized, "Democrats LaRouched in Illinois. . . . The LaRouche candidates undoubtedly waged vigorous campaigns, but it is doubtful if they could have won, if voters were not sending a message to the Party that they don't like its leftward drift. . . . Beware of chasing witches, the Party will need a little . . . magic to win. . . ."

But the same crowd that brought you Carter and Mondale

have already proven that they would rather die than win. It is clear that Stevenson wants to add his name to the list of dedicated losers.

### The returns

The table below, based on figures appearing in the *Chicago Tribune* of Thursday, March 20, shows that, statewide, the old FDR coalition emerged: blacks, blue collar, and farmers. These figures reflect 95% of the vote. The totals show Fairchild running even with his opponent in Chicago (Cook County). Fairchild then widened his lead throughout the night, winning nearly 54% downstate, with an overwhelming victory in the last 5% of the vote (downstate) counted, not reflected in the table. Hart meanwhile stayed relatively close to her much-better-known opponent in Chicago (the daughter of former Rep. Roman Pucinski), but won downstate by an overwhelming margin. This composition of votes can spell victory in November.

#### Lieutenant-Governor

	Chicago Vote/%	Downstate Vote/%	Total Vote/%*
Fairchild	148,176/50	110,982/51	306,169/50
Sangmeister	148,599/50	105,643/49	307,044/50

#### Secretary of State

	Chicago Vote/%	Downstate Vote/%	Total Vote/%*
Hart	152,672/44	160,858/65	359,744/51
Pucinski	192,420/56	87,138/35	345,426/49

\*Also includes Cook and Dupage counties

### The pundits

**J. Michael McKeon**, *Democratic Party public opinion pollster based in Joliet, Illinois*

The LaRouche vote in Illinois was "a protest against the liberalism of the Democratic Party. It's the disenfranchised lower middle income vote that can't identify with the Republican Party and feel the Democratic Party has left them behind." McKeon said his polling as early as June 1985 detected a "a big core vote" for LaRouche candidates. What's being reflected here is "the mood of the working class people in this country who are tired of having things rammed down their throats. . . . This has been sitting here for a long time waiting to happen."

The LaRouche candidates succeeded in "connecting with the voters by bringing the issues down to the street level." Especially in blue collar and rural communities, voters feel their concerns are not being addressed by the two major parties, especially on issues of "the home and family, such as crime and drugs."

**Philip Klutznick**, *Trilateral Commission member, former secretary of commerce (Carter administration), official of the Anti-Defamation League.*

"LaRouche caught us asleep at the switch. We can no longer underestimate him. . . . He has demonstrated you don't need the media if you do good leg work. . . . We can't ignore this now. Maybe people will react to ensure this doesn't happen again. The President can no longer ignore this. It is now proven that LaRouche's program can win."

**Terry Michael**, *spokesman for the Democratic National Committee.*

"It's shocking that followers of Lyndon LaRouche have been able to deceive voters in the Illinois primary. The Democratic Party abhors their extremism and their outrageous activity. Obviously we must step up our efforts to educate voters to what has now become a significant threat to our electoral process. . . . We do not want to lose a U.S. senator or a governorship, and who knows how this thing can turn out in the end?"

**Dave Drucker**, *Democratic Party spokesman in Illinois.*

"It's a sad day in the Illinois Democratic Party. The shock still hasn't worn off."

**Ben Benjamin**, *spokesman for Democratic gubernatorial candidate Adlai Stevenson III.*

"We feel that Fairchild's unusually strong showing against Sangmeister is a distortion and possibly a predisposition to an Anglo-Saxon name."

**John B. Livengood**, *Indiana state Democratic chairman.*

"We wouldn't want what happened in Illinois to happen here."

**James Ruvolo**, *Ohio Democratic Party chairman.*

"I'm not losing sleep over it. I make our county people know they [the LaRouche candidates] are not Main Street Democrats. It's obviously too bad what happened in Illinois."

**Paul Kirk**, *chairman of the Democratic National Committee.*

"We will work closely to alert party officials in all states to closely monitor the names and views of those who file for Democratic nominations at all levels of government."

**Wade Nelson**, *executive assistant to Adlai Stevenson III.*

"This is the all-time fluke in the history of Illinois politics, brought about by a confusion of causes."

**Don Totten**, *Republican Party chairman in Cook County.*

"Stevenson should not discount Fairchild as a running

mate. . . . Maybe Stevenson can learn something from him."

**James Thompson**, *governor of Illinois (Republican).*

"It's going to be a very long year."

**National Public Radio**, *news broadcast March 20.*

"Obviously, some people were deliberately trying to get them elected." Many people heard their "free radio spots" (actualities) played in downstate Illinois and others "walking up to their displays" saw that their concerns were AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) and the Gramm-Rudman legislation, which they called a "stranglehold on the federal budget."

**Financial Times of London**, *March 21:*

"The ideology of Mr. LaRouche's National Democratic Policy Committee is notoriously hard to pin down. Mr. Fairchild's platform, however, includes a call for mandatory testing for AIDS and a quarantine on all those infected by the disease. It also includes severe punishment for banks caught laundering drug money, and an end to farm foreclosures. . . ."

**Houston Chronicle editorial**, *March 21.*

The victory for candidates affiliated with Lyndon LaRouche and the NDPC "was the choice of the voters, and so be it. . . . This claim [that voters made their choices based on Anglo-Saxon names] presumes a majority of those voting in two statewide races did not know the candidates, which is quite a large presumption of ignorance. Perhaps the results constitute a protest vote of some sort. . . . [In Houston], voters should take the time to learn as much as possible about those seeking their support. If the policies of that candidate represent their views, that's who they should vote for."

**Chicago Tribune editorial**, *"The Day the Sky Actually Fell," March 21.*

"Adlai Stevenson wasn't Chicken Little after all. On election day the sky fell, and he hadn't even seen it coming. . . . The whole Democratic leadership let itself in for the LaRouche surprise. But now it is primarily Mr. Stevenson's problem. The Dems walked right into the ambush and Mr. Stevenson was the point man. . . . Even if Mr. Stevenson pulls together a third-party ticket, the Tuesday debacle will haunt him. . . . Gov. Thompson might be the luckiest politician in the state. But Adlai Stevenson has proven himself the kind of character who can get almost 90% of the vote and still lose the election."

**Man on the street**, *a barber in Taylerville, Illinois, quoted in the March 22 Chicago Tribune.*

"I think it can shake things up. People are waiting for a change. The politicians are pussy-footing around."