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## Indiana

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# Georgia Irey emerges as the frontrunner

by Marla Minnicino

After the Texas primary on May 3, the battle between the LaRouche forces in the Democratic Party and those who want to "preserve" what was once the Party of Franklin D. Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy as if it were a private country club for liberals—shifts to Indiana and Pennsylvania. The May 6 Democratic primary in Indiana is shaping up as a test of strength between LaRouche Democrat Georgia Irey and a little-known Party-endorsed candidate named Jill Long. The two are vying for the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate and the right to challenge Republican Senator Danforth Quayle in November.

Party bureaucrats are silently praying that their strategy of ignoring Irey and relying on the media to "expose" her ties to Lyndon LaRouche will guarantee a victory for Long. A spokesman for "Coy Jill" Long—who could not be reached for comment herself, and seldom appears in public—said he was 95-100% sure that she would win the primary. But Democratic Party officials were less sanguine. Larry McKee, executive director of the Indiana state Democratic Party, told this news service, "We're not taking anything for granted. What happened in neighboring Illinois brought the 'La-Rouche problem' to our attention. This is the first time we've endorsed a candidate before the primary. Of course, our problem is that Long doesn't have a lot of recognition. We've got to get her better known. We're depending on the party to do this and we're banking that the media will expose Irey as a LaRoucheite."

State chairman John Livengood and Grant County Democratic Party leader David Maidenbergh share this view. Livengood told the press last month that Irey could win the right to head the Party's slate in November "unless her links to LaRouche are widely known before the primary." Maidenbergh noted recently: "Our only concern is making sure people know she is a LaRouche backer. . . . I think now that they do have people's attention, it's going to be more like cockroaches when you shed light on them. Nobody will pay them any attention."

However, the Party's strategy of letting the media do the work of "exposing" the LaRouche candidates in Indiana is backfiring, and Irey, a spunky 62-year-old veteran political activist, is enjoying every minute of it. She's dubbed herself

"La Cucaracha" and says she hopes the media will scrutinize her campaign even closer, especially on the issues.

Irey, who eschews political labels, says she laughs it off when the media calls her an "ultra-conservative," a "kook" or an "extremist." "What would you call George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Hamilton, or Lincoln if they were alive and walking the streets today?" she asks. "What kind of title would you give them? If you could figure that out, you can call me the same. If any of them came back today, they'd be outraged that we're still using the same British system of economics that they'd fought to overthrow. They'd start another revolution. That's what I'm doing and that's what the LaRouche candidates' movement is all about."

Irey's campaign has challenged the left-liberal and drug-linked interests in the state, notably the Eli Lilly Endowment, which finances organizations implicated in terrorism. Lilly Endowment stock was used to set up the Plumsock Fund in New York, which gave Mayor Ed Koch his political start.

### Bipartisan backing

Irey, who won 49% of the vote in a 1980 Democratic congressional primary bid in California, has widespread bipartisan support in this largely conservative state, especially from what she calls the "outraged voter"—farmers, small businessmen, blue-collar workers, and others who are fed up with the economic "recovery" that has ravaged Indiana's steel and agricultural industries. She has been endorsed by the Indiana Democrats for Life, and has received support from conservative political figures of both parties, including the former mayor of Marion and two state legislators.

Indiana, with its mix of urban centers like Bloomington and Indianapolis, its smaller manufacturing centers, and its farmland, is much like Illinois and other states of the Midwest where the traditional constituency of the Democratic Party sees steel and auto plants closing down and family farms going bankrupt.

The liberal wing of the Democratic Party has not addressed the economic collapse, except to talk about the post-industrial era, says Irey. By this they mean "de-industrialization"—fast-food chains, real-estate boondoggles, the stripping of our country's defense capability. Indiana Democrats don't want any more of this.

Irey, formerly a Republican herself, has offered to help breathe life back into the Democratic Party by reviving the "harmony of interests" among farmers, labor, and industrialists—the "FDR coalition."

Irey has called for an end to farm foreclosures, for reopening the steel plants by emergency infusions of low-interest credit, and for repealing the Gramm-Rudman budget-balancing legislation. She heads a slate which includes: Sandra Smith (C.D. 1); Jerry Bolinger (C.D. 3); Carolyn Williams (C.D. 4); Douglas Smith (C.D. 6); John W. Taylor (C.D. 8); Ronald Bettag (C.D. 9); and Benson Skelton in C.D. 10, plus four candidates for state legislature and several for party positions.