
Pennsylvania

LaRouche Dems take the state by storm

Political firestorms such as Pennsylvania has not seen in decades, have erupted in congressional districts across the state, as the May 20 primary election date approaches. LaRouche Democrats are contending for 18 of the 23 congressional seats up for election. An additional 120 candidates are vying for state assembly, and state and local Democratic Party posts. The slate is headed by gubernatorial candidate Steve Douglas, who polled 20% of the statewide vote in a four-way race for that office in 1982, and George Elder, candidate for U.S. Senate.

From virtually the moment it was known that LaRouche Democrats Janice Hart and Mark Fairchild won their Democratic primary races for secretary of state and lieutenant-governor in Illinois, hysteria has governed the actions of the state's Democratic Party Chairman Ed Mezvinsky and his friends in the media. In most of the C.D.'s, slanders of the LaRouche candidates have been run on almost a daily basis.

On April 24, Mezvinsky held a press conference in Harrisburg, the state capital, to call for a "frontal assault" on candidates associated with LaRouche, claiming that his aim is to bring the candidates "out of the closet." Steve Douglas, speaking for the LaRouche Democrats, said, "We will be happy to issue the entire list of LaRouche candidates in each congressional district at the conclusion of a series of three debates which would be held between the LaRouche Democrats and the Mezvinsky candidates." Douglas asserted that if Mezvinsky means "that he is concerned to bring the issues before the Democratic voters, then we are most delighted with this change of attitude."

The rage of the 'forgotten majority'

The LaRouche Democrats' campaigns for a Public Health Emergency Mobilization Against AIDS, a War on Drugs, a crash program for building beam weapons, an emergency agricultural recovery program, and gold-backed, low-interest credit for hundreds of billions of dollars worth of large-scale agricultural, industrial, and infrastructural projects have reverberated with great impact through the policy void created by Mezvinsky and his cohorts from the Democratic National Committee. Mezvinsky's leadership qualities and policies are so uninspired, that the party leadership did not

even field candidates in 46 state house and senate districts where there are Republican incumbents! That is, in over 20% of the state districts up for election, the Democrats are not fielding any candidates whatsoever.

Mr. Mezvinsky and his minions' hysteria is born of their recognition that Pennsylvania, the state where Lyndon LaRouche campaigned most heavily for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1984, closely resembles Illinois, politically, demographically, and economically. Central Pennsylvania, the state's agricultural heartland, and one of the nation's great dairy centers, is much like the farm belt in downstate Illinois. Pittsburgh and Philadelphia retain the shells of large ethnic and black political machines, much as Chicago does. And Pennsylvania has enormous steel and related manufacturing capacities that are vastly under-utilized, as in Illinois.

The blue-collar laborers that formerly worked the state's factories and farms, are seething with rage at the Democratic Party leadership which has forsaken them. LaRouche Democrats have been propelled by this wave of mass dissatisfaction into positions of prominence, virtually overnight. For example, LaRouche Democrat Jonathan Kulp, a 34-year-old engineer with no political experience, running for the 19th Congressional District seat in the York area, is now referred to as the "most feared politician in the district," by both the media and Democratic Party leaders in the area. Such is likewise the case with Mike Neal, the computer technician, political novice, and LaRouche Democrat running for Congress in the neighboring 16th District in Lancaster. Both the media and Democratic Party leaders who have been slandering him daily, acknowledge that he is the "front-runner," who "would win by a large margin, if the election were held today."

AIDS and drugs

Two issues which have assumed enormous political dimensions in the past few weeks are AIDS and drugs. Recent revelations from the U.S. Public Health Service on the full scope of the AIDS epidemic, and the conditions of economic squalor under which it is bred and spread, have registered their effect. Residents remember, all too vividly, the outbreaks of giardiasis (dysentery), which ravaged the depressed areas around McKeesport and Scranton in 1982. Sewage was present in their drinking water supplies, as a result of increasing budget cuts and shrinking tax bases, that combined to render their water purification systems dysfunctional. Horrified Democrats are flocking to the Public Health Emergency Mobilization program of the LaRouche candidates, having recognized that the inaction of the Democratic Party leadership on this issue could well prove to be the death of them.

The dope-money laundering issue, raised by Mr. LaRouche on April 9, is also hot in Pennsylvania. The *Philadelphia Inquirer*, the *Daily News*, and other newspapers prominently covered LaRouche's charges, while running exposés of money laundering on their own.