
Rainbow Coalition

Jesse vows to run against LaRouche

by Leo Scanlon

Jesse Jackson kicked off his 1988 bid for the Democratic presidential nomination on April 18, with a firm pledge to be the party establishment's candidate against Lyndon LaRouche. Speaking to an audience of 600 at the founding convention of the Rainbow Coalition, Jackson underlined his support for Muammar Qaddafi, endorsed and was endorsed by leading terrorist spokesmen, and obtained the blessings of radical leftists Vance Hartke, Charles Rangel, and Barry Commoner. The campaign program described in Jackson's speech, is his proposal to build a "structure within the party" to counter the influence of the growing movement of LaRouche Democrats.

Jackson indicated that he has been given the franchise by the Democratic National Committee to create an ersatz organization which will bear the label of "true Democrats" and will be able to bring "discipline and definition to the party . . . discipline so that we won't have situations like Cook County, where the Democrats waged an attack on Harold Washington. . . ."

Jackson's job in the Democratic Party is not, as Mondale's was, to sabotage any particular program, such as support for the Strategic Defense Initiative. According to an outline presented in his speech, Jackson will start a series of legal maneuvers to attempt to lock mainstream Democrats out of the party, proof that the current party leadership will commit political suicide rather than accommodate to the growing insurgency of Democrats gathering behind Lyndon LaRouche. Specifically, Jackson charged the delegates at the convention to undertake the following actions:

" . . . Go out and do what we didn't do before we came here, organize a structure within the party. . . ."

"Create local, district, and state committees. . . . The local committees will be represented on the district committees, the district committees will be represented on the state committees, and the state committees will be represented on the national committee. . . ."

"No local or district committee will deal with state or national candidates. . . . All issues of policy will be worked out during workshops of the convention of the Rainbow Coalition, local committees will concern themselves with issues relevant to the constituency in that area. . . ."

"Each committee will be proportionally representative of

the demographic makeup of its area . . . and will register with the secretary of state as a committee. . . .

This proposed structure fits the prescriptions of Daniel Moynihan, and other party bosses, who advocate closing the party off from its supporters, and imposing McCarthyite loyalty oaths and membership qualifications as conditions for participation in primary elections. The condition that these committees have demographically proportional representation is also an attempt to extend the McGovern reforms deeper into the electoral process:

The organizational support and money to back this scheme is coming from the Democratic National Committee, via a fund established to promote the development of black candidates. The fund, administered by close Jackson supporter Roland Burris of Chicago, was set up by Paul Kirk, to buy off the Jackson-led opponents of his nomination as DNC chair. As Jackson commented, "I expect to do some serious fundraising after tonight. . . ."

Merle Hansen, spokesman for a delegation of farmers at the convention, pointed out the reason for this elaborate maneuver. "Farmers are going somewhere, it's just a question of where. For a lot of them, if Jesse Jackson wasn't around, the alternative will be LaRouche." Jackson indicated his fear of LaRouche with a slander, equating LaRouche with the KKK, a tactic which will only further discredit him with the black voters of Chicago, who voted in overwhelming numbers for LaRouche candidates in March. It is evident that Jackson has no illusions about gaining popular support for his coalition—he is counting on the legal tricks and the thug apparatus at the disposal of the DNC to make his bid a success.

The Rainbow Coalition, such as it is, is a gathering of the extreme left fringe of the Democratic Party, featuring a collection of "movement" delegations—nuclear freeze, women's liberation, and so on—and representatives of the terrorist apparatus centered in the American Indian Movement and the support groups for the African National Congress.

Jackson himself left no doubt of the importance he places on the role of international terrorism to create the environment for his Rainbow Coalition. His speech was laced with references to the U.S. raid on Libya as "state terrorism." He threatened that the U.S. action in the Mediterranean would have its greatest effect in the nations targeted by Soviet-backed fundamentalists controlled by Qaddafi. Not surprisingly, his homiletics reached a zenith as he made an open pitch to the Soviet Union, equating the U.S. raid on Libya with Hitler's invasion of Russia, and demagogically calling for joint U.S.-Soviet economic ventures, as the only alternative to "fascism."

This reference is no surprise. Jackson recently met with a Soviet delegation led by Russian Orthodox Church leader Metropolitan Filaret—the very group which delivered marching orders to Walter Mondale at the start of his 1984 campaign.