

Labor in Focus by Marianna Wertz

The NDPC labor candidates

Many trade unionists are among the nearly 1,000 candidates running on the slate of the LaRouche-linked action group.

Many leading candidates seeking election in Democratic primaries as part of the National Democratic Policy Committee slate this year are active officials or members of trade unions. Their campaigns are receiving plentiful media attention, partly because they are running in the face of staunch opposition from the "official" bureaucracy of the AFL-CIO, the United Auto Workers, and other unions, whose allegiance to the corrupt liberals who run the Democratic Party has driven working people out of the party in droves. Their campaigns are taking the economic and defense policies formulated by the leading traditional Democrat, Lyndon LaRouche, and the NDPC directly to the population, including trade unionists, despite the efforts of Lane Kirkland and his cronies to squelch any real solution to the depression.

Henry "Hank" Wilson, a 32-year veteran of the United Auto Workers, is running an aggressive campaign for governor of Michigan. Wilson, currently on medical leave, is a member of the UAW Local 600 General Council, and former president of the Dearborn Assembly Plant UAW Local. His years in auto work began in the 1950s heyday of Walter Reuther; Wilson was one of the union founder's earliest protégés.

Wilson has made himself a household word in Detroit, with numerous appearances in the media and on talk shows. He challenged Governor James Blanchard (D) to debate such crucial issues as the AIDS epidemic and the role of Detroit's auto industry in the

Strategic Defense Initiative. When Blanchard refused, Wilson announced that he's nicknaming the governor "Ducky," since he's always "ducking the issues." The Michigan primary is Aug. 5.

Juan Cortez is a candidate for the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate in Iowa, where the primary is June 3. A lifelong trade-union and black leader, Cortez was, until recently, president of the A. Philip Randolph Institute Cedar Rapids Chapter, and is an active member of the Cedar Rapids Human Rights Commission. Despite his years of work on behalf of the Democratic Party and trade-union causes, Cortez has had to battle for the right to bring his program to audiences in Iowa, facing what he has termed "tyrannical" opposition from the Iowa AFL-CIO. Cortez, also active in his church, was recently written up as a "model Catholic" in a feature article in the *National Catholic Register*.

In California, more than 120 candidates are running for state and federal office on the NDPC slate, in the June 3 primary. A leading candidate is **Jim Legare**, in the 6th District, encompassing Oakland and other industrial sections of the Bay Area. Legare, former financial secretary of Oilers and Firemen Local 486, San Francisco, is active as a rail worker and unionist. After the March 18 victory of two LaRouche Democrats in statewide races in Illinois, Legare's campaign for Congress is being taken "very seriously," according to his opponent, liberal Democratic incumbent Barbara Boxer, an advocate of the Nucle-

ar Freeze.

In Idaho, where a right-to-work bill is pending before the state legislature, **Marvin Sawyer** is running unopposed in the Democratic primary for state representative in the 13th District, Seat A, Nampa. The Idaho primary election is May 27. Sawyer is an active member of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, working as a beef boner for one of the larger meat processors in the west. Sawyer is opposing the main sponsor of the right-to-work legislation, Republican Mike Strasser. He is fighting, he says, to change Idaho's anti-progress economic policies. A big sign greets travelers in Boise, the state capital: "Welcome to Idaho. Set your clock back 16 years."

Kent Herschbach, a truck driver, is shop steward in the International Brotherhood of Teamsters local in St. Paul, Minnesota. His campaign for U.S. Congress in the Fourth District is part of a statewide "harmony of interest" slate, headed by farmer Andy Olsen for governor, which also includes two other farmers, a housewife, and a physician, among more than a dozen announced candidates for the Sept. 9 primary.

Herschbach has been particularly concerned with giving direction to the Hormel meatcutters strike of Local P-9 in Austin, which has gained national attention as a rallying point against austerity. Herschbach called on the strikers to join him in working for an "international movement against austerity," targeting the International Monetary Fund's policies, to avoid the pitfalls of localism and empty militancy into which the strike has fallen. Only that solution, Herschbach says, "can rally the 'forgotten majority' of Americans" to fight for their "harmony of interest" in expanding the world economy.