

LaRouche Democrats win in Ohio, Indiana

by Marianna Wertz

LaRouche Democrats have just scored two victories in the Ohio and Indiana primaries, bringing to five the number of Democrats supporting the policies of presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche who have won important elections in key industrial states this primary season. In both cases, the candidates were running unopposed, because the party bureaucrats are too disorganized or demoralized to field candidates for every race.

In Ohio's May 3 primary, Mark P. Brown became the Democratic Party's nominee for Congress, running in Ohio's 12th Congressional District (Columbus). Brown polled 17,000 votes, compared to 24,000 cast in the GOP primary for the incumbent, Republican Rep. John Kasich.

Georgia Irey, a LaRouche Democrat who has consistently polled well in recent elections, won the Indiana primary in the 32nd State Assembly District. She will be the Democratic nominee against Republican incumbent Epsch in November.

The LaRouche Democratic slate's victories in this primary season started on March 8 when Claude Jones was elected Democratic Party chairman of the second largest county organization in the nation—Harris County, Texas, which includes the city of Houston. Then, in Pennsylvania, on April 26, LaRouche Democrats Donald Hadley and George Elder won the Democratic primary for Congress in the 5th and 21st CDs.

The party hierarchy has met these LaRouche victories with reactions ranging from hysteria to caution, attempting to deal with the reality of LaRouche's now well-established voter base within the Democratic Party. After her win, Irey was contacted by Mike Phillips, the minority leader in the Indiana State Legislature, who invited her to a strategy session for new candidates. When Irey made clear that she wanted no part of the meeting if it were to turn into a "LaRouche-bashing" session, Phillips said, "I'm sure there are areas in which we would agree," and encouraged her participation. Elder, too, received a congratulatory message from Pennsylvania's lieutenant governor, encouraging his participation in the party's electoral efforts statewide.

Hara-kiri, Adlai style

On the other hand, many Democratic officials appear to have learned nothing from the pitiful example of Adlai Stevenson III. In 1986, Stevenson made a laughingstock of the

Illinois Democratic Party, in his attempt to slander and stifle the LaRouche Democrats who won the primaries for lieutenant governor and secretary of state. The first big mistake of the season was made by the losers in the Harris County Democratic chairman's race, who tried to seize the chairman's power from Claude Jones's rightful control. That attempt failed miserably at the first meeting of the Harris County party on May 3. From the moment Jones picked up the gavel, announcing, "We can bring back to the party many former Democrats, if we offer them leadership to address the economic and financial crisis we face," he was in control, and his opponents had egg on their faces.

The same liberal faction in the party leadership is attempting to replace Donald "Tony" Hadley, the duly elected Democratic candidate in Pennsylvania's 5th District. The local party hacks, who first failed to find their own "independent" Democrat to put up in November against Hadley, endorsed a former member of the Republican Party Finance Committee to run as an independent against both Hadley and the Republican incumbent. Former Republican Michael Gelpi, their candidate, claims to see no problem with this: "I grew up as a Rockefeller Republican, progressive on social issues and moderate on fiscal matters," he told the press. "Is that a liberal Republican or a moderate Democrat?"

Meanwhile, local party officials suffered another embarrassment on May 11 when official vote tallies of the April 26 primary were released, and showed that Hadley won in Delaware County as well as the other two counties of the 5th CD. The original election-night tallies had shown his opponent, Robert Houchins winning in Delaware County, but when the real totals were tabulated, Hadley had overwhelmed Houchins in the county by 1,177 to 591.

LaRouche Democrats are also anticipating a victory in the upcoming California primary. The anti-AIDS Proposition 69, placed on the June ballot by LaRouche Democrats, is gaining steam. On May 8, one of LaRouche's main opponents in the primary, presidential candidate Jesse Jackson, denounced both the proposition and LaRouche, in an address to 5,000 "gay" and lesbian activists in Sacramento. Jackson, whose political base includes the large homosexual constituency which has taken a leading position in the Democratic Party against LaRouche, denounced the proposition as a "hate-based, LaRouche-backed" proposal. The rally had been expected to draw as many as 50,000, and included a "die-in" on the capitol steps.

The LaRouche Democrats are moving rapidly in every state to expand on the impact of their victories. In Texas, Claude Jones has begun a series of "Chairman's Forums," to begin discussion of key issues facing the constituents in his district. George Elder, a farmer, has been invited to address an international conference on the farm crisis in Nancy, France at the end of May, sponsored by the Schiller Institute. He then plans to travel to Scandinavia and West Germany, bringing the issues of his campaign to farmers there.