

Bush is getting battered, as other candidates founder

by H. Graham Lowry

With the results of the presidential primaries of March 3, reported the London *Times* on March 6, George Bush now has less support than Jimmy Carter did during the primaries of 1980. It looks like the highest reaches of the Anglo-American establishment are giving the “thumbs down” signal to the incumbent President—just as the American voters are.

Indeed, in election races of the past, incumbent Presidents with no more support than Bush has now—like Harry Truman and Lyndon Johnson—have pulled out of the race. Commentator Mark Shields said on Cable News Network television the night of the primaries, that if the current pattern continues, the GOP elders will advise Bush to get out.

Roughly one out of three voters rejected Bush in the Republican primaries in Georgia, Maryland, and Colorado. His sole opponent in those, Patrick Buchanan, campaigned actively only in Georgia, and won over 36% of the vote there—about the same showing that shocked Bush two weeks earlier in New Hampshire. According to exit polls, the major issue on the voters’ minds was the wretched state of the economy. Even in South Dakota, where Buchanan was kept off the ballot, the uncommitted vote was a staggering 31%.

Bush felt compelled to declare, “To those of you who have been with me in the past, but did not vote for me today, I hear your concerns and understand your frustration with Washington. I am committed to regaining your support.”

During one of his Maryland campaign stops, Bush, ever out of touch with reality, ranted: “They say our economy has fallen into an abyss. They say America is a weakened giant. I say, bunk!” Following the March 3 results, Bush noted that there are “tough times out there, and I think people are beginning to understand that what counts is who wins these primaries.”

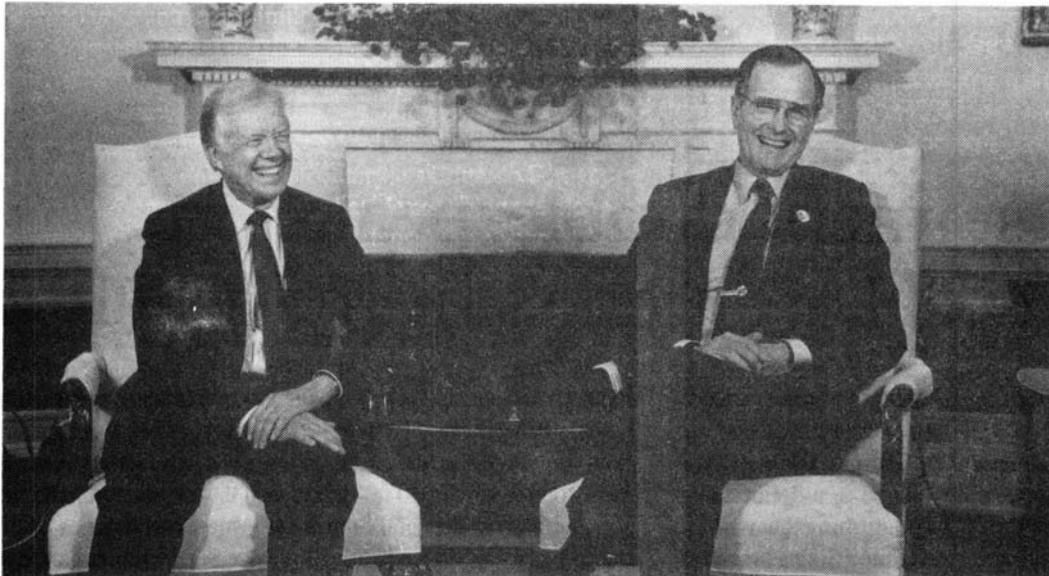
But the fact is that neither Bush nor any other of the so-

called front-running candidates is addressing the reality of the economic crisis, or has any idea of what to do about it. We are in a depression worse than the 1930s, and it was created by the financial policies of the Anglo-American elites. It will not be solved by “free trade,” or by tax increases, or by budget cuts. The only thing that can reverse the great mudslide is the program that Lyndon LaRouche, alone among the candidates, advocates: the creation of 6-8 million new jobs, cranking up infrastructure development and real production, and thereby generating three-quarters of a trillion dollars in new tax revenues, without raising taxes.

Studying the Democratic entrails

As for the Democratic primaries, no clear pattern has emerged. The only thing clear about the Democratic contenders is that some nobody is ahead of somebody, somewhere. Sen. Paul Tsongas of Massachusetts, who won in his backyard of New Hampshire, was stomped by Bill “the Scandal Man” Clinton in Georgia, 57% to 24%, despite the endorsement of the *Atlanta Constitution* and its report that Tsongas was “closing fast” in the polls. Jerry “Moonbeam” Brown, nearly invisible in New Hampshire, lit up enough environmentalists to beat Tsongas in Colorado, after finishing in a dead heat with him in the Feb. 23 Maine caucuses. Tsongas beat Clinton in Maryland, 40% to 34%, leaving Brown and the rest of the field in single digits. In the Washington state caucuses, Tsongas took an early lead, with 32%, over the uncommitted slate (20%) and Jerry Brown (19%).

Sen. Tom Harkin, whose critics have likened him to a “snake-oil salesman” with a “rentevangelist” grin, squeaked by Tsongas in the minor Idaho primary, where Clinton trailed far behind even the 17% garnered by the uncommitted slate. Sen. Bob Kerrey, whose best campaign jokes were about his



Two big losers: Jimmy Carter and George Bush at the White House, March 1990.

lack of a following, dropped out of the race March 5. Both Harkin and Kerrey finished behind the uncommitted slate in Maryland.

Whatever election scenarios can be derived from these feeble signs, are worthless. The vacuous pronouncements from the woeful array of “leading” Democrats have done nothing to energize the electorate, as ever dwindling turnouts confirm. By initial reports, only 16% of eligible Democrats voted in Georgia’s Democratic primary, in part because of a crossover of Democratic voters to the Republican camp, so that they could vote for Buchanan—against Bush. Even where the voters do turn out, uncommitted slates committed to “none of the above” are running about as well as any of the “name” candidates. In Maryland, where there was a relatively high turnout of about 40%, exit polls showed that 60% of the voters did not like *any* of the candidates, and some 80% of the Republicans said they probably would vote for a Democrat in November.

The new ‘Jimmy Carter’

Even the U.S. establishment media is giving indications that it no longer finds Bush suitable for the job. The *Wall Street Journal* on March 5 printed a front-page story suggesting that Bush’s reelection campaign may suffer the same fate as Jimmy Carter’s. The headline was “Malaise ’92: As Bush Ratings Sink, Some Sense Parallels with Carter in 1980.” The lead began: “A year after an impressive foreign policy victory, the President looks like an ineffectual leader, saddled with a weak economy, dropping like a stone in public opinion polls and suffering from a debilitating ideological challenge within his own party. Jimmy Carter in 1980—or George Bush in 1992? The two are beginning to look alike.”

A poll commissioned by the *Wall Street Journal* and NBC News, conducted just before the March 3 primaries, showed Bush’s current approval rating down to virtually the

same level as Carter’s was at this stage of the campaign in 1980. Pat Buchanan, Bush’s “ideological challenge,” declared March 4 that “Mr. Bush is in danger of becoming the Jimmy Carter of the Republican Party.” Buchanan declared that “President Bush should begin giving serious consideration to standing down as a candidate for renomination for the Republican Party for President of the United States.” Should that happen, the Democratic nominee will be a shooin for the White House.

Yet Bush, without batting an eye, declared in his “victory” statement of March 3, “Barbara and I deeply appreciate the support we received today for our message of jobs, family, and peace.”

The LaRouche alternative

During such a unique moment of national crisis, the ordinary rules of the game clearly do not apply to the presidential elections. Yet it is still up to the majority of American citizens to seize the opportunity to change them in a positive direction. The only candidate with a viable program is LaRouche, who remains in jail, where George Bush put him, simply because too many Americans have allowed Bush to keep him there.

The Federal Elections Commission has illegally withheld the matching funds he qualified for, and state officials have denied him ballot access in a number of instances. Yet despite all of that, entering the March 10 Super Tuesday round of primaries, LaRouche remained on the ballot in 18 more states. And even though he was held to 1% of the vote in the primaries conducted before that, there was evidence that he could win the Democratic nomination, if the voters decide to make that happen. In the South Dakota primary, a small group of his supporters in a Mt. Vernon County precinct decided just that—and LaRouche won with 29% of the vote.