

Midwest primaries herald breakout for LaRouche

by Nora Hamerman

When the U.S. midterm elections come up next November, with all the seats in Congress and one-third of the Senate before the voters, a surprise may be in store for the East Coast establishment. The harbinger of a political upset came on May 3 when Democrats from the Lyndon LaRouche wing of the party, whom national and state Democratic Party officials have been trying for years to keep off the ballot and out of the media except for slanders, claimed over 40% of the vote in two of the Great Lakes states.

In Indiana, Evansville businessman John "Willie" Taylor won 45.6% of the vote—156,000 votes—in a two-way race for the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate, running against former Congressman Jim Jontz. Taylor won outright in 39 counties, as well as winning the 8th C.D., his home district where he's run for U.S. Congress three times in the past and is well known, and the 7th and 9th C.D.s. Taylor won many of the counties in the 8th C.D. by a 3-1 margin.

In Ohio, Miami University associate philosophy professor Peter Schuller won 41% of the vote—285,000 votes—in a two-way race for the Democratic nomination for governor, running against State Senator Rob Burch. Schuller, who has been an associate of LaRouche for 20 years, won 10 of Ohio's 88 counties, including Lorain, the site of major auto plants, Medina near Cleveland, and Holmes, where he won 54%, his highest vote. Schuller also won major votes in the counties which include the major cities of Canton (49%), Dayton (46%), Springfield (46%), and Cincinnati (43%); in the counties around Cleveland, he won 47-49%.

These high vote totals are certain to cause political shockwaves as they came in the immediate aftermath of LaRouche's six-day trip to Moscow and only one day after the Federal Election Commission officially informed the LaRouche in '92 presidential campaign that they had sent an order to the U.S. Treasury to pay that campaign nearly one-half million dollars which the FEC had unconstitutionally

and fraudulently withheld from LaRouche's last presidential primary bid.

The message from voters in the U.S. "rust belt" is that they are fed up with the spiraling rates of violent crime and the relentless drive to impose Nazi euthanasia instead of health care, and brainwashing instead of schooling, which otherwise dominate the social landscape in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin—the Great Lakes states which once enjoyed the world's highest industrial standard of living. Clearly, it is time to escalate the efforts for the full exoneration of LaRouche, released in January from prison after serving five years of a 15-year sentence for crimes he did not commit, and to bring his unique wisdom into the center of U.S. policymaking.

Meanwhile, in Virginia, LaRouche Democrat Nancy Spannaus scored a breakthrough in her third statewide campaign for office, when she participated in a candidates' forum among all the contenders for the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate. Although she ran for Senate in 1990, and won a respectable 18.3% of the statewide vote, and for governor in 1992, where her campaign was key to defeating former Attorney General Mary Sue Terry, in each case she was shut out of all debates with other major candidates. Now she has the chance to speak on the platform with all her opponents, including the incumbent, Sen. Charles Robb.

'Shouldn't have happened'

The primary showing of Taylor and Schuller evokes memories of the Illinois primary eight years ago, when two LaRouche-associated candidates won the Democratic nominations for lieutenant governor and secretary of state in March 1986. At the time, the party officials and media scrambled to "prove" that voters were ignorant of the candidates' actual political associations, and picked them only because they had more familiar-sounding names than those favored

by the party apparatus. Then-gubernatorial nominee Adlai Stevenson III bolted the party rather than run with the two LaRouche Democrats, and took the entire ticket down to defeat.

Party hacks' claims that voters were ignorant will be harder to sell now. Taylor and Schuller focused their campaigns on the economic recovery program developed by LaRouche to pull this nation out of post-industrial hell, as well as combatting such evils as outcome-based education (OBE), the depopulation policies of the United Nations, and the "Whitewatergate" assault against the institution of the American presidency. "I always said right up front who I was and what I stood for," Taylor told the *Evansville Courier*.

Indiana's major newspaper, the *Indianapolis Star*, reported that Taylor "noted that Jontz had advantages he didn't—such as the support of the Democratic organization and attention from reporters." The *Star* also published a string of quotes from dumbfounded Indiana Democratic Party leaders and political analysts. One such pundit quoted in the paper summed up the reactions: "That shouldn't happen, it shouldn't."

In Ohio, the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* revealed the Democratic Party's chagrin in its coverage: "It is no landslide when the party-labor-endorsed candidate, a man who has been campaigning for more than a year beat the follower of a convicted felon [i.e., Lyndon LaRouche] with only 59% of the vote."

The vote may also reflect the impact of a booklet being circulated by LaRouche's 1996 presidential exploratory committee throughout the states where hundreds of his supporters are running for offices ranging from local school board and Democratic Party committeeman to U.S. Congress and Senate. The booklet, entitled *Summary of Relevant Evidence on the Record Demonstrating the Innocence of Lyndon LaRouche and Co-Defendants*, shows that, "on the basis of government evidence now on the public record, the U.S. government knew at all relevant times, from 1979 to the present day, that Lyndon LaRouche and his co-defendants were innocent of the false charges for which they were convicted."

In both Midwest races, the major press and the Democratic Party went out of their way to denounce the LaRouche-associated candidates, sometimes in vile language. For instance, in Indiana, the State Democratic Party chairman, Ann M. DeLaney, issued a statewide press release on April 28, warning of "LaRouchites in Democrats' Clothing," in which she called Taylor "a follower of crackpot candidate Lyndon LaRouche . . . [who] supports LaRouche's outlandish economic and conspiracy theories." The *Cleveland Plain Dealer* newspaper printed an editorial April 10 calling Schuller the "disciple of the dangerous and despicable Lyndon LaRouche."

"I think this worked in our favor," said Taylor in an interview on May 4. "I think everybody's so suspicious of the media that they don't realize that they've worn that old saw way too thin. . . . I was well identified as a LaRouche

candidate in all the media, generally associated with 'political extremist' Lyndon LaRouche, so I think it shows that people are voting for the LaRouche platform, they're looking for an alternative."

Taylor was quoted in the *Evansville Press* on Monday, May 2, responding to DeLaney's slander. Taylor said that he and LaRouche "represent the views of the Democratic Party of former President John F. Kennedy. LaRouche calls for aggressive infrastructure spending and low-interest loans for select industries. In the last 30 years we've become a post-industrial society that no longer produces as much as we consume, and as a result we're going bankrupt. Now, whose policies are crackpot?"

Significant endorsements

The *Mantooth Report*, an anti-establishment newspaper circulated widely in the Midwest by former Democratic candidate for governor Don Mantooth, endorsed Taylor in its April/May edition, identifying Taylor with LaRouche and reviewing his platform. "Your editor met with Willie [Taylor] during his petition drive in southern Indiana. *There is no question as to whom I will trust my vote to May 3, and again in November should Willie survive the primary*" (emphasis in the original). Taylor was also backed by Indianapolis radio station WIBC commentator Stan Solomon, who called him an "intelligent" man running on a real economic program rather than skirting the issues.

Peter Schuller was endorsed by the Coalition of Concerned Black Citizens of Ohio, because of the Coalition's concern that incumbent Gov. George Voinovich (R) has done nothing to stop the Ku Klux Klan, whom Schuller fought with his well-publicized call for the removal of the Klan-supported statue of Albert Pike in Washington, D.C. The Coalition was also concerned at Voinovich's support for the racist policies of OBE, against which Schuller, as a teacher at the university level, campaigned heavily.

Spannaus dominates debate

LaRouche Democrat Nancy Spannaus, running for U.S. Senator from Virginia, defined the issues between her and her three opponents clearly in the first Democratic all-candidate forum in the state, held in Fairfax, Virginia on April 28. While opponents Sen. Chuck Robb, Virgil Goode, and Sylvia Clute all called for "sacrifice" and budget-balancing with "hard choices" on entitlements and other social programs, Spannaus laid out the reality of the financial meltdown and depression collapse, and put forward the American System/LaRouche solution.

The forum was sponsored by H. Ross Perot's group United We Stand America, and moderated by a professional media guru from Georgetown University, Dr. Robert Lichter. The room was packed with TV cameras and supporters of the candidates, as well as UWSA. Live coverage was broadcast on local cable television, and substantial segments later appeared on local network affiliates.