

LaRouche takes presidential campaign to Fayette, Missouri

by Webster G. Tarpley

On Oct. 12-13, Lyndon LaRouche took his Democratic presidential campaign to Fayette, Missouri within the framework of CityVote, the national urban presidential primary. LaRouche was interviewed by the media of central Missouri, and addressed 125 persons on the campus of Central Methodist College. He met with Fayette Mayor Kenneth O'Brian, Central Methodist Dean Berre Robinson, Howard County Clerk Mark Hill, and Fayette City Council member Mike Hirsch, who is also associate professor at Central Methodist. He had breakfast with Nicki Scott, the president of the Central Methodist student government. He talked to farmers, CityVote activists, and dozens of supporters who had come hundreds of miles to hear him.

Fayette is a town of about 3,000 located where the flat prairie coming down from Iowa meets the first foothills of the Ozarks, a few miles north of I-70 in a coil of the Missouri River, and about midway between St. Louis and Kansas City. The local economy is based on farming, which is depressed here, as it is everywhere in America. Fayette is the county seat for Howard County, which styles itself the "mother of counties," because it was from here that dozens of other counties were organized from the time of the Missouri Compromise of 1820 down to the Civil War. Central Methodist is a small, four-year liberal arts college established in 1854, with about 850 students and an active music program. The big issue on campus is financial aid to stay in school at a time when Pell grants, student loans, and other assistance are under attack in Congress. Fayette is thus about as typical a sample as could be found of the real middle America and its concerns on the eve of the 1996 elections.

The heart of the dialogue

At the heart of LaRouche's dialogue with the citizens of Fayette was the disintegration of the world financial system over the short term. "We are on the verge of the greatest financial collapse in world history," LaRouche told a reporter for TV Channel 8 of nearby Columbia, Missouri, and we must prepare to use the powers of government to establish a new monetary and credit system. The floating-rate monetary system which has dominated the world since Aug. 15, 1971 is about to come down, perhaps during 1995, but more likely during 1996. "This crash will be unprecedented in the memory of you or of your parents," LaRouche warned, citing the German hyperinflation of 1922-23 as "the only parallel" to

what lies ahead. The candidate called for the U.S. government to declare the Federal Reserve bankrupt and put it into receivership, since "the government which charters a bank is responsible for dealing with the bankruptcy of that bank." Washington must act because it is "still the most powerful force on the planet." "Without this government, the condition of the world would be unthinkable," LaRouche added.

The key cause of U.S. economic decline, as LaRouche told KISM radio in southeast Missouri, "is that when I came back from World War II, 60% of the workforce was in production, while today it is 20%." The agricultural sector is especially hard-hit: "We have a national emergency all across the U.S. farm belt."

"The whole blasted system . . . the whole shebang" is now bankrupt, LaRouche stressed, as is shown by a comparison of the growth of debt with the ability to pay debt. If the Wall Street-Fed system "were the East Podunk state bank, they would put it into receivership." When asked when might Clinton act, LaRouche suggested that decisive action would be unlikely until "people are screaming to be saved from the collapse."

By contrast, what is going on in Washington is "Belshazzar's feast as performed by Saturday Night Live." LaRouche proposed to send Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich "back to the Okefenokee Swamp, where his natural propensities will be at home." LaRouche warned that Newt's program is to begin cuts in Social Security in 1997, should the Republicans succeed in winning the coming elections. LaRouche sketched Newt's gutting of Medicare and Medicaid: "By Nuremberg standards, Newt Gingrich is a mass murderer." LaRouche also mocked Sen. Phil Gramm (R-Tex.), "the man with a one-gramm brain" who resembles nothing so much as "a goose in heat."

As for Newt's "Contract on America," LaRouche told Channel 8 that "it's time to junk it." He described the GOP's tax policy as "designed to provide a tax bonanza for Wall Street parasites. . . . That is immoral, and I mean immoral like Hitler."

"The best option is Clinton's re-election," LaRouche stated, noting that he and Clinton were the only two Democratic candidates. LaRouche made clear that he expects to support Clinton for re-election. "My primary task as candidate is to enhance appreciation of the nature of the crisis and what must be done about it," LaRouche told KISM radio. Or, as he put

it to Channel 8, "When we look at Clinton attempting to operate in the tradition of Franklin D. Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy—I agree. But I also have some ideas the White House ought to listen to."

LaRouche described the U.S. population as "totally decoupled" from its elected representatives, who lose sight of their constituencies while they follow the advice of corrupt media consultants to raise \$10,000 per day during their terms in office to buy campaign media time and votes. The population lives in the "virtual reality of the entertainment media." Referring to the O.J. Simpson trial, LaRouche castigated those "who are disappointed because they did not get the blood they were waiting for." "They were clamoring for the Christian to be thrown to the lions—but the Christian lived. The same thing happens if a death row prisoner escapes execution—people feel cheated, they wanted that victim to die."

The second great issue

The second great issue for 1996, LaRouche noted, is the entrenched abuses of the Department of Justice (DOJ). He illustrated this problem by summing up the Demjanjuk case, in which a Special Master of the Sixth Federal Circuit Court of Appeals found that the retired Cleveland autoworker, who was accused of Nazi war crimes, had been railroaded by the DOJ despite his known innocence; the federal authorities had acted with reckless disregard for the truth in perpetrating a deliberate fraud on the courts. Faced with this, the Reno Justice Department, "despite the fact that they had been caught red-handed," attempted to defend this malfeasance with an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, which was rejected. LaRouche located the center of these abuses "in the permanent civil service." He cited Deputy Assistant Attorney General Jack Keeney, "who has been there since 1951," and his colleague Mark Richard, as two officials responsible for the Weaver case, the Waco case, in short, "for a death squad operating in the Department of Justice."

LaRouche traced some of the history of this permanent civil service bureaucracy, which was introduced under Grover Cleveland and vastly expanded under Theodore Roosevelt, who created the FBI with the help of Charles Bonaparte, a descendant of the Emperor Napoleon I of France. Bonaparte wanted a secret political police along the lines of Napoleon's First French Empire. LaRouche portrayed this apparatus as "so powerful that attorneys general are afraid of it." LaRouche charged that these DOJ cliques are "trying to pick off parts of the Clinton administration." For the average citizen, the issue is whether he or she will be represented, or whether their congressman will be blackmailed by the FBI and the IRS.

LaRouche had words of praise for CityVote, which aims at highlighting urban and economic issues in a cross-section of communities before the Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primary take center stage. LaRouche called CityVote "a new approach to an old idea, the idea that candidates should talk to the people." He pointed out that attempts from

the Democratic National Committee to quash CityVote do not necessarily have the President's approval. There are those at the DNC who have an agenda different from the President's, he noted. The DNC is fascinated with power, with how to control elections, and how to rig votes. CityVote is too unpredictable for them, because unforeseen candidates might take off.

No interest in 'wedge issues'

During LaRouche's meeting with city officials at City Hall, Professor Hirsch pointed out that Fayette had just lost its hospital and a textile plant. Other questions raised involved the future of the farm economy, and how to provide adequate medical care for the population. LaRouche later commented that the citizens of Fayette showed that the American people were not interested in the so-called "wedge issues" purveyed by the news media. The top issues in Fayette were the issues of economic survival—and these are LaRouche's issues.

Wedge issues, as theorized by the late Lee Atwater and other Bush advisers, are issues which can be exploited to erode the classical FDR national constituency coalition of cities, labor, farmers, minorities, intellectuals, and others. In the hands of Beltway think-tanks such as the Heritage Foundation and the Cato Institute, wedge issues include term limits, gun control, lobbying reform, the balanced budget, welfare, abortion, affirmative action, taxes, and the GOP Contract with America. The wedge issues include the "hot-button" social questions which Pat Buchanan had in mind when he called for a "new war of religion" in this country. The good news from Fayette is that a sense of reality is gaining ground. The GOP and the DNC have made the average American into a "forgotten man" of the type Roosevelt promised to empower in 1932.

A mid-September CityVote poll in cities such as Boston, Tuscon, the Twin Cities, Pasadena, Fayette, and localities in Idaho, New York, and Washington state shows that 23.3% of registered voters are very familiar with LaRouche—comparable to the figures for Bill Bradley, Arlen Specter, and Pete Wilson, and about double the ratings of Lugar, Dornan, or Forbes. Of these 23.3%, 5.7% expressed strong approval of LaRouche, indicative of a durable base of committed support; 81.2% expressed strong disapproval—the highest negatives of any candidate. Given the frameup and jailing of LaRouche and endless slander barrage by the media, the high negatives are not surprising, and often do not represent deeply held beliefs. When asked for whom they would vote, 0.2% chose LaRouche. LaRouche is ahead of Fletcher and Forbes, tied with Dornan, and less than 0.4% behind Specter, Weicker, Keyes, Alexander, and Lugar. Given the plus or minus 3% margin of error, this result is comparable to those for Buchanan (2%), Gramm (1.7%), Jesse Jackson (2.2%), and Wilson. The CityVote poll shows 35.5% are committed to vote for Clinton, as compared to 13.1% for Dole and 12.2% for Colin Powell, with 15% undecided.