

Hulan Jack proposed to rebuild the party

The late veteran Democrat Hulan Jack, former Borough President of Manhattan, and, along with Lyndon LaRouche, a founding member of the National Democratic Policy Committee, devoted a chapter of his 1982 autobiography Fifty Years a Democrat to "Rebuilding the Democratic Party." Excerpts follow.

I believe that at its best the Democratic Party has traditionally functioned as a living embodiment of the principle that America's national purpose is to further the progress of its own people and the peoples of the world. I joined the party to strengthen its institutional power to fight for this idea, and I have served in the party for five decades on behalf of this idea. I am grateful to this nation for the opportunity that has been afforded me, an emigrant escaped from British domination, to enjoy the dignity of human development and to be a party to the progress of all Americans which has been gained under the banner of the Democratic Party. . . .

As leaders of the Democratic Party, we must put before the voters candidates for elected office who represent an

informed and unswerving commitment to:

1. national credit and taxation policies which will revive American basic industry and permit the revival of family formation in our country;

2. research and development and credit policies which will guarantee America's energy future through investments in nuclear fission plants and the near-term development of nuclear fusion technologies;

3. monetary and foreign policies which seek to restore the role of a stable American dollar in a system of expanding world trade based on superpower cooperation for Third World development; and

4. a relentless war on drugs, the scourge of the new generation of American youth, regardless of what battles with what adversaries into which this fight may take us.

Without such a commitment from its leadership, the Democratic Party, which the voters of America have already turned out of power in Washington, will sink into irreversible disrepair. Like all other institutions in history which have lost the morality to survive, our party, now merely sick, will die.

It was from the deep conviction that the moral well-being of the Democratic Party is absolutely essential to the economic and moral recovery of our nation that I took the bold and unconventional step of endorsing Lyndon H. LaRouche for the Democratic Party's Presidential nomination in 1980. . . .

Well-known Virginia LaRouche Democrat Nancy Spanaus entered the Democratic Party primary to mobilize party support to defeat North; and after she was defeated by Robb for the Senate nomination, she formed a political action committee, the Defeat that Son-of-a-Bush Committee, and led a drive to expose the former Marine lieutenant colonel as a dope trafficker and terrorist.

In the closing days of the campaign, North, a loose cannon, made a fatal error: He boasted that, if elected, he was committed to wiping out Social Security and other benefits for the nation's elderly—policies that would later emerge as the hallmark of the Gramm-Gingrich Republican Congress, but were blacked out of the GOP's campaign rhetoric. The Defeat that SOB Committee saturated Virginia with leaflets on the eve of the election, quoting North on the end of Social Security. Senator Robb won re-election.

The defeat of North was strategic. It proved that "free market" Republicans could be defeated by mobilization of the traditional constituencies of the Democratic Party. Many of Pat Robertson's own blue collar and rural poor supporters voted *against* North following exposure of his drug ties, and his austerity policies.

At least one Democrat, aside from LaRouche, grasped the strategic significance of the North defeat.

On Jan. 11, 1995, Senator Kennedy delivered a speech at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. Kennedy had just won a hard-fought re-election victory. He strongly chastised many of his fellow Democrats for having abandoned the principles of the party. "Democrats must be more than warmed-over Republicans. The last thing this country needs is two Republican parties. If we fall for our opponents' tactics . . . or engage in a bidding war to see who can be the most anti-government or the most laissez-faire, we will have only ourselves to blame. As Democrats we can win.

"The election last November," he continued, "was not a ratification of Republican solutions. By the narrowest of margins they gained control of Congress. But less than 40% of the eligible voters turned out on Election Day, and only slightly more than half of those—about 20%—cast ballots for Republicans."

In the speech, Kennedy picked up on a second theme—the need to restore economic justice. "We are, without apology," Kennedy stated, "the party that believes in assisting the poor and the disabled and the disadvantaged—but not to the detriment of the working class, which is justifiably frustrated and angry. They . . . know they are losing ground. They see the wealthiest Americans becoming wealthier. . . . The majority of Americans are working harder and making less."