

'Impeach Ridge' campaign aims to knock out the Nazis

by Nancy Spannaus

President Clinton's reelection is currently seen as a sure thing, by most pundits, including his enemies. But, this could dramatically change in the face of the volatile economic and strategic situation, or a victory in November could even be shortlived, if the Democratic Party does not win with a landslide in the Congress.

The crucial element to ensure the necessary victory is to mobilize the Democratic Party to reject the Nazi policies of budget-cutting which are currently being imposed, primarily by Republican governors, around the country. With this reality in view, Democratic Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche has launched a *national* campaign for the impeachment of Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge, as the most exposed exponent of Nazi economic policies.

The LaRouche Exploratory Committee is actively seeking sponsors for the impeachment resolution which it has drafted. That resolution documents that Governor Ridge *knows, or should have known*, that his May 16 action cutting medical care for 220,000 indigent Pennsylvanians, would result in the wrongful deaths of thousands of citizens. Therefore, the governor is guilty of *crimes against humanity*, as defined by the Nuremberg trials which condemned Nazis to death by the same standard at the end of World War II. And, according to Pennsylvania's Constitution, this violation provides the basis for removing him from office.

Democratic Party officials in Pennsylvania have yet to take a position on the resolution, although leading members, including Black Legislative Caucus head Harold James, have been in the vanguard of excoriating Ridge's policies. But the LaRouche campaign has decided to carry out a dramatic escalation over the weeks between now and the Democratic National Convention, one that will draw the clear political lines required.

Why Ridge?

When LaRouche used the term "Nazi" to describe House Speaker Newt Gingrich's (R-Ga.) policies in his March 2 half-hour nationwide TV advertisement, and other Democrats hit Gingrich's Nazi tactics, many citizens objected that this might be too "extreme." In reality, these citizens were simply afraid to call a spade, a spade. In the Governor Ridge case, the reality is laid out in a way that forces people to confront the truth.

Governor Ridge's cuts in medical assistance were well debated in the Pennsylvania legislature. The governor was told what would happen to the more than 200,000 people faced with cutoffs of kidney dialysis, life-sustaining medications, and other vital medical treatment. He also knew that it was possible for him to balance the budget by measures other than cutting these people off from aid, since a bill for taxing speculative income had been drawn up for consideration, during the March-April debate. Yet, knowing that people would needlessly die in large numbers—studies have shown that more than 3,500 might be expected to die from lack of medical care over the first six months after the cutoff—Governor Ridge went ahead anyway.

He "knew or should have known" that his order would lead to the commitment of mass murder.

There is no difference between such action by Ridge, and the actions taken by administrators of the genocidal Nazi medical programs of the 1930s. A review of the Nuremberg Tribunal records makes this very clear.

LaRouche's Pennsylvania spokesman, Phil Valenti, described it this way: "This method of killing, is exactly what the anti-Nazi Dr. Gerhard Schmidt described as the Nazi policy for murder, which was implemented at the Eglfing Sanitarium in Germany during the war. Patients were put on near-

starvation diets, depending on how much work they could do. The motto at Eglfing was, 'We give them no fat, then they go on their own.' In Pennsylvania, Ridge gives them no medical insurance safety-net, 'then they go on their own.' Dr. Schmidt denounced this 'method of killing . . . that in the classic sense is no killing, no one-time action with a recognizable cause or conclusion.'

"What is the difference between the orientation of Ridge's 'get tough, budget-balancing' policy, and that of Dr. Arthur Guett, the Nazi Director of Public Health, who in 1935 declared, 'The ill-conceived "love of thy neighbor" has to disappear' from policy-making criteria."

LaRouche has stressed that Americans have to face the Ridge case, because, to accept Ridge, is to accept the imposition of Nazi policies wholesale in America. The current toleration of balanced-budget lunacy leads directly toward programs like Ridge's. And the mentality which allows Americans to accept budget cuts that will kill people, is the same mentality which predominated in Germany prior to Hitler coming into power.

"[Germans] accepted Hitler the same way that many Americans accepted Gingrich, and the Conservative Revolution," LaRouche said in an interview June 13. "In that time, Hitler was a product of what was called, in the 1920s and 1930s, the 'Conservative Revolution.' We had an echo of the Conservative Revolution in the United States, in the 1920s, into the 1930s, in the so-called Calvin Coolidge era. . . . So, the Conservative Revolution, then, which gave us Hitler, is now on full sweep in a new form, around the Contract with America and similar things inside the United States."

So, the Ridge issue is not a Pennsylvania issue. It is a matter of getting a movement going against these Nazi policies, starting with the most egregious example, Gov. Tom Ridge.

Moving the Democratic Party

The LaRouche wing of the Democratic Party has been battling the resurgence of Nazism—e.g., through economic austerity, euthanasia, sterilization, slave labor, and other means—for nearly three decades. Unfortunately, during much of that time, the base of the Democratic Party, and the Republican Party, refused to listen, and join in. The question today is, will they do so?

The vote totals from LaRouche's primary campaign, the support for his exoneration, and the degree of interest in LaRouche in the base of the Democratic Party would indicate growing receptivity. Although prominent national and state officials are loathe to admit it, most activist Democrats are fully aware of—and quite grateful for—the killer blow that LaRouche Democrats delivered to Oliver North during his Virginia Senate race of 1994.

Thus, when three LaRouche Democrats addressed over 2,000 delegates at the Virginia State Democratic Convention over the June 7-8 weekend, in order to nominate this writer

for the U.S. Senate, their attacks on North and the Gingrichites were applauded several times. Chief nominator Stuart Rosenblatt used his five minutes to lay out the Ridge campaign, and urge Virginia Democrats to join it. Rosenblatt said:

"Fellow Democrats, the *Republican* governor of Pennsylvania, Thomas Ridge, a disciple of that *scoundrel* Newt Gingrich, has just *ramrodded* a bill through the Pennsylvania legislature to remove all emergency health care from 250,000 people in Pennsylvania who are in *dire need* of that care. This is going to *murder* 3,000 people or more, *right now!*

"Are we Democrats going to stand by and let this happen?"

"Of course not! Nancy Spannaus is already leading the growing movement to impeach the *Republican* governor of Pennsylvania *before November!! This is real!* There are *thousands* of Ridges and Gingriches stalking the halls of power. We must make an *awful example* of Ridge now, as we did with Ollie North in 1994 [applause]!"

"To quote Democratic Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, 'By impeaching Ridge we set a pattern which we intend to use, in Pennsylvania and in other states, to remove all present members of Congress who are with the Contract with America, who are *indictable* under the Nuremberg Code as *Nazi* criminals for crimes against humanity.'

"Not the *high road*, or the *low road*, but the *hard road*. To call things by their right names: Murder is murder. You cannot hide that; you can't say, 'That's my *opinion*.'—It was also Adolf Hitler's *opinion*."

"In 1994, Nancy *chaired* the Committee to Get Ollie North. That SOB, and sparked the campaign that *defeated* North [applause]."

"Now we must win the battle to impeach the *murderous* Governor Ridge and *run the cohorts* of Newt Gingrich out of the House and out of the Senate [applause]."

"It is this kind of aggressive campaign against *this* lurking evil that will energize the party and give us total victory come November."

"As *sitting* U.S. senator, Nancy Spannaus will lead this fight! I hereby place her name in nomination. Thank you."

The Virginia convention provided the most open situation for LaRouche Democrats mobilizing the party, as impeachment resolutions were circulated, in addition to the speeches. But LaRouche Democrats also participated in the Texas Democratic Convention, as well as smaller Democratic Party meetings.

In addition to the reluctance to face the Nazi issue, the main blockage LaRouche Democrats are finding, comes from Democratic National Committee circles around DNC Chairman Don Fowler. As previously reported, Fowler has moved to block LaRouche's lawful delegates to the National Convention, and, over June 7-8, also blocked the credentialing of three delegates to the Texas State Convention. If such actions are permitted to continue, they will amount to the Democratic Party committing suicide, and leaving the nation defenseless before Nazis like Governor Ridge.