

DNC says, nullify Voting Rights Act to stop LaRouche

Attorneys for Al Gore's Democratic National Committee (DNC) shocked courtroom observers on Aug. 16, when they asked a Federal district court panel to declare the 1965 Voting Rights Act unconstitutional rather than apply it to the DNC.

The astounding argument was made in the course of a hearing on a DNC motion to dismiss a lawsuit brought by Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche, and Democratic voters from Virginia, Louisiana, Texas, and Arizona. The lawsuit, which was filed in 1996, charges that Donald Fowler, then chairman of the DNC, violated the Voting Rights Act when he ordered state Democratic parties to disregard the votes of thousands of Democrats in the 1996 Presidential primaries who cast their votes for LaRouche. (LaRouche received over 600,000 votes in 28 states.)

In a Jan. 5, 1996 letter, Fowler not only directed state party leaders to disregard any votes cast for LaRouche, but said that any state delegation that included delegates pledged to LaRouche would be denied access to the Democratic National Convention. Ironically, Fowler justified his 1996 violation of the Voting Rights Act by charging that Lyndon LaRouche was "a racist."

Which tradition will be followed?

In a statement released on Aug. 25, LaRouche's national spokeswoman, Debra Hanania-Freeman, said that she was not surprised by the openly racist arguments made by the DNC attorneys. "We like to think of the Democratic Party as the party of Franklin D. Roosevelt and John Kennedy. But, we have to face the fact that long before FDR, it was the party of the Confederacy and of slavery. And, as late as 1964, the world watched as the Democratic National Committee refused to seat Fannie Lou Hamer and the Mississippi Freedom Democrats at a national convention. As we enter the hot phase of the Y2000 Presidential campaign, Democrats are going to have to take a position. Are we going to let the Democratic Party be controlled by an openly racist DNC bureaucracy, the same crowd that is currently using strong-arm tactics to try to circumvent the entire nominating process, and shove Al Gore down our throats, or are we going to clean this crowd out?"

Freeman noted that the DNC had selected attorney John C. Keeney, Jr. to bolster its argument that the DNC was above

the law, with citations from Supreme Court Justices Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas, and William Rehnquist. She said that Scalia and Thomas have both questioned the constitutionality of the Voting Rights Act, and that Chief Justice Rehnquist has been accused of harassing minority voters in the state of Arizona in the early 1960s, by engaging in specific conduct which the Voting Rights Act was enacted to stop.

The Gore gang

"John Keeney's father, Jack Keeney, is one of the most notorious and *the* most senior member of the Department of Justice's permanent bureaucracy. Jack Keeney played a key role in the Department of Justice's unlawful targeting of Lyndon LaRouche, and is widely acknowledged to be one of the key enforcers of the Department of Justice's 'Operation Fruhmenschen' — the overtly racist policy of targeting African-American public and elected officials for investigation and prosecution. His son John is following in his father's footsteps," Freeman charged. "This is the gang that Al Gore has chosen to run his bid for the Presidency and to deliver the Party's nomination to him by locking everyone else out."

Freeman said that the LaRouche Presidential campaign was denied the right to address the national convention of the Young Democrats of America in Arkansas the previous week, as a result of an obvious intervention by the DNC. She also pointed to a report in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* that Gore campaign representatives are trying to persuade Virginia Democrats to change the method by which they select delegates to the Democratic National Convention, in order to prevent the election of delegates pledged to LaRouche.

"LaRouche supporters don't have to defend their 'qualifications' as bona fide Democrats. It was the LaRouche faction of the Party that took the point against Gingrich and his 'Contract on America,' while Gore and his friends were busy 'triangulating.' And, it is well known that Americans to Save the Presidency was a LaRouche initiative. We not only defended President Clinton from attack by Ken Starr, but from those traitors inside the Party that were calling on the President to resign."

"But, more importantly," Freeman said, "Lyndon LaRouche is the only visible candidate of either party with a proven competence to design and actually implement the right policies for this time of crisis. For thousands of Americans, who are part of the traditional core constituencies of the Democratic Party, like minorities and trade unions, LaRouche represents the only hope of survival.

"The issue is a clear one. If we Democrats don't clean this nest out now, we will not only lose the election, we will lose the nation."

Freeman also said she intended to contact representatives of former Senator Bill Bradley's Presidential campaign, and encourage them to take a public position dissociating themselves from the DNC's attempt to nullify the Voting Rights Act.