

Democrats defy party racists, as LaRouche wins in Michigan

by Debra Hanania Freeman

In a clear demonstration of his ability to drive a stake into the heart of Wall Street's attempts to rig this Presidential election, Lyndon LaRouche succeeded in mobilizing tens of thousands of Michigan Democrats to cast votes in that state's Feb. 22 Democratic primary, in defiance of both the party leadership and the media. Campaign representatives declared that LaRouche's decisive victory in Michigan marks the real beginning of the year 2000 battle for the U.S. Presidency.

'Satisfied by this victory'

In an address delivered to supporters who had gathered in Detroit and Grand Rapids to celebrate LaRouche's victory, the Presidential candidate said that he was "satisfied by this peculiar victory, given us courtesy of our enemies. We have turned the enemy mistake into a victory. This has been a great embarrassment for the racists of the Democratic Party and for Al Gore."

LaRouche was referring specifically to the fact that, uncertain of their ability to maintain control over Democratic voters in Michigan, the Democratic National Committee (DNC) leadership in Washington insisted that Al Gore and Bill Bradley remove their names from the Michigan ballot. Because the intent of the action was to avoid another embarrassing New Hampshire-style "victory" for Al Gore, Gore favored the move. But, Bradley's willingness to comply with the diktat issued by an apparatus clearly determined to deliver the nomination to Gore, and to destroy his own candidacy, surprised many. The move left LaRouche, who has gathered 23,000 petition signatures, as the sole Democratic candidate on the state's primary ballot.

The Michigan Democratic Party threw its propaganda ap-

paratus into full gear, churning out daily press releases and newsletters that lied that there was no Democratic primary in the state! One district organization issued a memorandum that threatened that any Democrat who came out to vote in the primary, would be barred from participating in the March 11 Democratic caucuses, where delegates to the August Democratic National Convention are to be selected. And, for the most part, the state's print and electronic media helped perpetrate the lie that there was no Democratic primary.

LaRouche countered with paid radio and television ads informing people that they were being lied to; that there *was* a Democratic primary. He urged Democrats to come out and vote for him.

Wall Street vote-riggers

In a panicked response, the party bosses tried to shift tactics and began asking Democrats to go to the polls, *and vote for John McCain* (since Michigan is a state with an "open" primary). All over the state, so-called Democratic Party leaders were caught openly mobilizing a vote for McCain. It was similar to the tactic Gore employed in New Hampshire, where his campaign was desperate to keep independents from casting votes for Bradley and LaRouche, but this time, it was done openly.

LaRouche countered with personal appearances across the state. At a meeting in Detroit one week before the Democratic primary, LaRouche detonated a bombshell when he presented the evidence of the attempt to rig the election, and ripped into both parties' so-called front-runners. LaRouche told a Detroit town meeting, "It's a question of how politics are being orchestrated to prevent the independent vote, and



Organizers for Lyndon LaRouche in Hamtramck, Michigan, Feb. 5. After the primary on Feb. 22, LaRouche proclaimed himself “satisfied by this peculiar victory, given us courtesy of our enemies.”

the American people, from intervening to change the name of the game.

“Who’s doing it? Wall Street! The big financial interests that control the mass media, and control both party machines from the top down, with money. It is the mass media; it is Wall Street—*against* the American people, and against the world. So don’t worry about voting your choice for McCain, or Bush, or Gore. If you are voting for any one of them, you are one of the fools who believes in the sincerity of World-Class Wrestling, or worse!”

Michigan Democrats responded. More than 12,000 came out to cast their votes for Lyndon LaRouche. Not surprisingly, that vote was concentrated in such areas as Detroit and Flint, where LaRouche volunteers were present in greater numbers, and were able to distribute thousands of pieces of campaign literature leading up to the election. And, ironically, it was in these same areas, particularly Detroit, where George “Dubya” Bush was dealt a hefty defeat, with LaRouche getting 2,361 votes, to Bush’s 2,312. Clearly, LaRouche’s concentrated assault on Bush’s disastrous policies was far more effective in defeating the man who has been described as “the idiot son of a former President,” than the undisguised attempt by state party apparatchiks to herd Democrats into the McCain camp.

In fact, approximately 30,000 Democrats, who were not yet ready to throw their full support behind LaRouche’s candidacy, but who were clearly angered by the party’s campaign of lies and black propaganda, as well as the blatant attempt to herd them into voting for John McCain, responded to LaRouche’s call, and came out for the Democratic primary and voted uncommitted.

The next battle

LaRouche’s address to his Michigan supporters was also broadcast live from the candidate’s website (www.larouche.com). He took the opportunity to ready people for the battles ahead. “I’ve understood from the beginning, that I had no possibility to win, unless the American people recognized that it was necessary for them. As long as they believe they can get by with Internet stocks, with the bubble, with insanity of the type of Gore and Bush—as long as they stuck with that, there was no chance to save the U.S. from self-destruction. And we are on the edge of self-destruction.

“Our only chance is two things: First, just as FDR was elected in 1932, because there was no alternative candidate able

to address the crisis competently or to solve it. And only he understood the need to call on the ‘Forgotten Man,’ or what today we would call the ‘Forgotten Man and Woman.’

“Under such conditions of crisis, the top dogs become nothing but the top failures. There is no hope in following these fools. Under these conditions, the forgotten men and women can awaken out of the grandstands of the Colosseum, go out onto the streets, and select candidates and politicians with a rational perception of their true interests!

“And what do you say of people who are looking for leadership to the party machines and their candidates, who themselves are criminally insane? Of the AFL-CIO, for instance, which is voting for the extinction of organized labor by voting for Gore? Their insanity will continue until something breaks.

“We must continue on our course, knowing that history is on our side. We must recognize that the only chance of survival depends upon what we do. Don’t worry about the short term! Don’t lose your nerve. Be confident and organize! We can save the nation; regardless of what many say or think now, we are needed to save the nation. Today’s victory was a lot of fun. You should richly enjoy it. And now, let’s discuss where we go next.”

And, as that discussion ensued, LaRouche made clear that now, especially based on his demonstrated support among Michigan Democrats, he intends to force the issue of allowing LaRouche Democrats to participate in Michigan’s March 11 delegate selection caucuses. “If the racists in the DNC and the state party try to exclude us,” he said, “we shall convene a Michigan Freedom Democratic Caucus. This fight has just begun!”