

Votes for LaRouche

Approximately 120,000 Americans have cast their votes for Lyndon LaRouche to date, since the primary season began in February. This, despite the heaviest, most blatantly illegal attempts by the backers of Al Gore on Wall Street and the Democratic National Committee (DNC), to prevent anybody from even knowing about LaRouche's candidacy, let alone making the effort to get to the polls to vote for him. LaRouche is still on the ballot in more than 20 upcoming primaries and caucuses.

In the March 14 "Southern Tuesday" Democratic primaries, LaRouche polled over 43,000 votes, with 27,175 of those votes in Texas, where he won almost 4% statewide, as much as 5.5% in many of the state Senate districts. LaRouche polled 6% in Oklahoma and 4% in Louisiana, (with as high as 8-10% in some Louisiana counties).

On Super Tuesday (March 7), LaRouche won 1-3% of the vote in the nine states in which he was on the ballot. In the large industrial states, he won tens of thousands of votes: California, 17,756; New York, 12,123; Ohio, 16,755; Maryland, 4,421. In each of the five smaller states (Vermont, Maine, Massachusetts, Missouri, and Rhode Island), LaRouche won between a few hundred and 2,000 votes.

Every one of these citizens will be disenfranchised, should the DNC be allowed to get away with its plan not to count LaRouche's delegates at the Aug. 14-17 National Convention.

Delegates elected

LaRouche has also won precinct or county-level delegates in several states, who will now proceed to the next level of the delegate election process, eventually leading to the election of the final delegate slate for each state. In many cases, the evident disgust of the population at the fixing of the election for Gore led to an unusually poor turnout, leaving LaRouche's representatives as the only participants in some caucuses. While it is expected that the DNC and the Gore campaign will pull out all stops to prevent LaRouche from winning delegates at the statewide level, LaRouche's campaign workers are gearing up for the fight.

In other election races, LaRouche Democrats achieved a breakthrough in several Democratic Party races for county chair in Texas, including a victory for Steve Womack in Williamson County, which adjoins Travis County (Austin). Womack ran as a LaRouche Democrat, and received 77% of the vote in a race against the present county vice-chairman. The total was 2,470 for Womack, 746 for his opponent. LaRouche Democrat Brenda Whalen won 49.6% in San Jacinto County. She received 1,482 to 1,508 for her opponent. Olin Jobe in Lubbock County got 36%, and Charles Murray received 37% (744 out of 2021) in Atascosa. The other LaRouche candidate for county chairman was Noel Cowling, who received 15%.

Democrats Abroad

LaRouche is the hottest topic at party caucuses

by Jonathan Tennenbaum

The main European chapters of Democrats Abroad (DA), the official Democratic Party organization for Americans living overseas, held caucuses to elect delegates and vote up policy resolutions during the second week in March. Approximately 3 million Americans live outside the United States, so that in the context of the Democratic Party Presidential nomination process, Democrats Abroad has a status equivalent to a U.S. state, and will send its own delegation to the Democratic National Convention on Aug. 14-17.

The prominent participation of American supporters of Lyndon LaRouche in a number of caucuses in Germany, France, and Italy made LaRouche easily the hottest topic in Democrats Abroad, with several LaRouche supporters being elected as delegates or alternates to the national DA caucus in Germany, and a number of important resolutions, proposed by them, being officially adopted. At the same time, the LaRouche interventions launched some serious discussions among participants, many of whom were concerned with the world political and economic crisis, and were shocked at the Democratic Party leadership's attempt to squash real political debate in the party and to impose a top-down "fix" for Al Gore.

The chairman of Democrats Abroad, Paris lawyer Joe Smallhoover, was overheard at the Paris caucus complaining that "the LaRouchies swamped the caucuses in Germany." Smallhoover's orders, to exclude LaRouche supporters from speaking and voting at the caucuses, had effectively backfired. In fact, LaRouche representatives, while a minority in all but one of the caucuses, were able to shape much of the discussion.

Resolutions passed

Most significant as an indication of the real mood among American Democrats living in Europe, reflected in the cross-section attending the caucuses, was the passage of resolutions concerning the financial crisis, the "new violence" among American children, and the death penalty in the United States, which has shocked many Europeans.

A resolution supporting LaRouche's "New Bretton Woods" policy was unanimously passed at the Wiesbaden/Frankfurt caucus, while the Berlin caucus adopted a state-

ment criticizing the line, put out by Al Gore and others, that America is in the midst of “unlimited prosperity.” It was emphasized by speakers at the Berlin meeting, that the claimed prosperity is largely “stock market” prosperity, and not likely to last long. Several Americans there criticized the International Monetary Fund, and expressed concern that the United States has a “very bad reputation” abroad. On the initiatives of the LaRouche Democrats, the Paris and Berlin meetings both passed resolutions calling for the abolition of the death penalty. The Paris and Wiesbaden/Frankfurt caucuses adopted resolutions calling for increasing assistance to African and other poor countries. The Wiesbaden resolution, which included the idea of utilizing the U.S. military, including the Army Corps of Engineers, to rebuild African infrastructure, was strongly supported by the chairman of the meeting, a U.S. military officer who is also the local head of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The Berlin and Wiesbaden/Frankfurt chapters passed resolutions calling for action against the “new violence” among youth, which is being promoted through dehumanizing forms of video games and other so-called “entertainment.” This issue was forcefully driven home to everyone in Europe, when, several weeks ago, three teenaged children of American servicemen stationed in Darmstadt, cold-bloodedly threw huge stones from a bridge onto cars on a main highway, killing two drivers and injuring several others.

Thug tactics backfire

In a certain way, the behavior of Small Hoover and a few other party hacks at some of the caucuses, in trying to silence LaRouche supporters, displayed a similar, callous disregard for elementary rights and common decency, which has otherwise shocked Europeans in the case of the death penalty in the U.S., the outbreaks of “new violence,” and the steamrolling of the Gore nomination. This was particularly evident in Milan and in Paris (where DA chairman Joe Small Hoover made a disgusting performance, trying to shout down LaRouche representatives); while in Germany, the national head of Democrats Abroad, John McQueen, had sent out a memorandum to caucus leaders on orders from Small Hoover, with the outrageous statement: “The DNC has ruled that LaRouche cannot present himself anywhere in the party as a candidate and the courts have backed up the DNC completely. No vote, either in the Straw Poll or for delegates, may be counted for LaRouche. If someone comes to the caucus and insists that he/she wants to vote for LaRouche and that the vote must be counted, *do not count that vote!* . . . *Sounds a bit undemocratic perhaps*, but his candidacy is not something that the Democratic Party wants to have anything to do with” (emphasis added).

At the Wiesbaden caucus, this passage was read aloud by the caucus chairman, who expressed his dismay at the letter and nodded to a LaRouche representative’s character-

ization, that citing “not *wanting* to have anything to do with LaRouche” as an excuse for violating elementary democratic rights, is just like what the Southern bigots used to do, when they said, “It may be a bit unlawful to hit someone with a baseball bat, but we don’t want those black people in our neighborhood.”

At the other caucuses, including particularly the caucus in Milan, LaRouche supporters repeatedly pointed the finger at former Democratic National Committee Chairman Donald Fowler’s open racism, in daring to push for rescinding the 1965 Voting Rights Act to justify the unconstitutional exclusion of LaRouche and his supporters from the election process and the disenfranchisement of over 600,000 Democrats who voted for LaRouche in the 1996 primary elections.

Ironically, the arrogance of the DNC and DA leadership, and their open lack of respect for the intellects of Democratic voters, made the LaRouche supporters appear all the more clearly as the “true Democrats” at the caucuses.

In Munich, it was actually the LaRouche representative, Carl Schoeppel, who organized and chaired the caucus, at the request of an older party member, only to be voted out at the very end by Gore supporters. At the poorly attended Wiesbaden/Frankfurt caucus, LaRouche representative Jonathan Tennenbaum was chosen to chair the meeting and was elected delegate for LaRouche, with his colleague Chris Lewis chosen as alternate. The organizers of the meeting, two black Americans, expressed disappointment at the lack of interest among 80 local Democrats who had been invited, agreeing that this was in large part due to the “fix” for Gore; one proposed organizing meetings for LaRouche representatives to address his friends.

In Berlin, lone LaRouche representative Jessica Tremblay dominated much of the discussion, introduced the key resolutions, and was elected an “uncommitted” delegate, after the caucus chairman refused to allow votes for LaRouche.

In Paris, Christine Schier challenged the hysterical DA chairman Small Hoover, and was able to introduce two resolutions which were adopted by the caucus.

In Milan, Andrew Spannaus unleashed pandemonium when he read out a resolution, condemning DNC lawyer John Keeney, Jr.’s argument that the 1965 Voting Rights Act should be overturned, and proposing that the Democratic Party “repudiate any attempt to roll back the gains of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, and in particular any attempt to controvert the letter and/or the spirit of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.” The resolution also proposed that the Democratic Party make every effort to expand the debate inside the party, and include all voters and candidates registered with the relevant public authorities.

Most of caucuses were witnessed by foreign observers, including Africans, Asians, and Ibero-Americans, as well as Europeans.