

Editorial

Subject Leadership; Predicate Energy

Brief gusts of debate seemed to be sweeping Congress about Federal energy legislation in mid-November; but they blew away with the usual result. Senate Minority Leader Daschle announced the Democrats would let this Cheney-directed bill, drafted with the help of the Vice President's energy-pirate allies, and which the Democrats had not been allowed to read, go through—much like the \$87 billion “Halliburton Relief Act” on Iraq. The subject of these brief debates was not energy; it was leadership—the Democratic Party, in its elected and appointed national officials, does not have any.

This was even more sharply shown in the firefly-brief debate among the “nine dwarves” Democratic Presidential candidates over Howard Dean's apparent call for re-regulation of energy and other economic sectors. Other Democratic candidates flew to attack Dean for departing from orthodox “expert opinion” and “public opinion,” according to which only economic deregulation is allowed, despite the California and many other disasters. Dean then dropped the matter, not mentioning it even though his next scheduled speech was supposed to be an attack on “Enron-omics”!

The nine dwarves each want find “issues” with which to get elected—not to lead, not to fight for important principles of national policy no matter what the conditions of battle. This failure would tend to give the election itself to the Cheney-Bush war party, and the country to disaster.

But it is turning the best activists of the party on the state and local level, to the prospect of the leadership of Lyndon LaRouche, whose campaign—unsuccessfully obstructed and blocked by the Democratic Party leadership—is clearly now entering what the candidate has called its “hot phase.”

Contrast the quick Capitol Hill capitulation on Cheney's energy bill, to the LaRouche campaign's real leadership of the Democrats of California, where Cheney's energy pirates, through deregulation, destroyed the economy and now the governability of the state. At a recent Los Angeles County meeting, the county

Democratic Chairman called on all activists to read LaRouche's *New Federalist* on how to fight “beast-man” Schwarzenegger's regime; and LaRouche Youth Movement organizers present then led the charge to Sacramento to get the Democratic-led legislature to fight new layoffs, budget cuts, and more disastrous deregulation. California Democrats know LaRouche's principled leadership against deregulation for many years, and know his campaign alone effectively fought the Recall there.

Howard Dean, in fact, was covering his LaRouche flank when he suddenly “called for” national re-regulation, to reporters on his airplane. No national leader of either party has opposed deregulation's march of devastation through the U.S. economy for two decades—except LaRouche, whose FDR-style re-regulation policy is known to all. Dean, during most of that period up to 2000, was a promoter of deregulation. Now Dean faces a “hot phase” contest with LaRouche and only a few other candidates in the Washington, D.C. primary in six weeks.

The phenomenon of LaRouche taking leadership of the Democrats from their elected and appointed national representatives who will not fight Cheney or Cheney-ac policies, is spreading from California and Philadelphia, where his LaRouche Youth Movement has won clear recent victories. It was evident in his campaign meetings in the Midwest, reported in this issue. State and local Democratic leaders are organizing meetings for the candidate precisely because he is barred from the irrelevant nine-dwarves debates, by a national party bureaucracy which won't fight the economic depression.

These state and local leaders want to see not party-issue politics, but a *movement*, without which the nation and its economy can't survive or recover. Much more important than this or that issue, is leadership for that movement. The Democratic nomination fight is LaRouche's to win or lose, and depends on how fast that movement, especially the LaRouche Youth Movement, grows.