
Interview: Eric Bauman and Ray Cordova

Democratic Leaders Dissect the Governor

These are excerpts from the transcript of “The LaRouche Show,” Nov. 5, broadcast on internet radio at 3 p.m. Eastern Time. Hosted by Lyndon LaRouche’s Western States spokesman Harley Schlanger, the show featured two California Democratic Party leaders discussing California Governor Schwarzenegger’s ballot initiatives: Eric Bauman, chairman of the Los Angeles County Democratic Party Central Committee, and Orange County Democratic Chairman Ray Cordova. Two LaRouche Youth Movement members, Cody Jones and Summer Shields also participated. The full program is archived at <http://www.larouchepub.com>.

Schlanger: Many of our listeners outside of California, are not too familiar with the four propositions backed by Arnold—Propositions 74, 75, 76, and 77—so can you give us a brief summary of these propositions, and why the vote

on Tuesday is so important?

Bauman: Sure, and I'm actually going to expand a little bit on the propositions beyond that.

. . . When Arnold's cabal of consultants came up with the notion to have this election, now almost 18 months ago, and he was riding high at close to 70% in the polls, their notion was that they would have a special election this year, where no funding limits would apply, where they'd be able to plaster his face on TV for three months, and he would move into next year's re-election, having spent millions of dollars pumping himself up, and pumping his face out there, and thereby neutering the Democratic Party next year.

Furthermore, they thought that they could use his popularity as a star, as a movie star, as the "Terminator," to make substantive changes to California law, that would make this a much more Republican-leaning, Republican-type state.

The Governor's key agenda has four parts, and it all starts with Proposition 76. Proposition 76, which the Governor has titled the "live within our means" act, is probably the most dangerous initiative that has ever been placed on the ballot in California history. That isn't because the day it goes into effect, it wipes \$4 billion in education funding out. And it's not because future increases in state spending would be based on a rolling average of the prior three years' revenue increases. It lies in the fact that Proposition 76 allows the Governor to unilaterally declare a fiscal emergency in the state, and then, in short order, go into a back room, with no oversight, no public hearings, and no appeals process, and cut any part of the budget he wants, in any amount that he wants. And the legislature has virtually no ability to reverse those cuts that he makes.

Schlanger: This is one way that he could avoid any kind of discussion in the future, any kind of deliberative process.

Bauman: Absolutely. In essence, what Proposition 76 does, is create a dictatorship, and in the many, many places that I've spoken about this election over the last three months, I always point out that 49 other governors in America do not have this power. The President of the United States does not have this power, and I damn well don't want to see Arnold Schwarzenegger have this power to destroy California. If you look at his vetoes to the budget, and his vetoes to legislation, you know that his heart's not where it needs to be. You know that his priorities are different than the people of California. He's cut and vetoed health programs, and seniors' programs, and education funding, and public safety funding, all in favor of promoting programs that help his big business cronies, and absolutely nothing that helps the poor people of the state of California. So, that's Proposition 76.

Now, of course, they have come up with the coy name, the "live within our means" act, and you know, one thing Republicans are very good at, is framing arguments using simple, logical-sounding rhetoric, and it makes perfect sense

to say, "Shouldn't California live within our means? If you earn \$1,000 a month, you can't spend \$2,000 a month." But it is such a misnomer. . . .

Schlanger: . . . But when you say the other governors don't have this, the President doesn't have it, he's Arnold Schwarzenegger, he's the "people's governor."

Bauman: Yes. He's Arnold Schwarzenegger. That, in my mind, makes him a B movie actor, who just happened to make a lot of money, and use a lot of steroids, but that's beside the point.

Now, the next piece of his agenda is Proposition 75. Again, they gave it a very simplistic, very common-sense

sounding title; they call it the "paycheck protection initiative." Unfortunately, for the people of California, only 50 people in the state of California get their paycheck protected by Proposition 75, and they're all political consultants who are on Arnold's payroll, who are raking in millions and millions of dollars off of this campaign.

The bottom line is, the U.S. Supreme Court in the *Beck* decision said, that unionized workers have the right to opt out of their dues being used for political purposes and, in point of fact, about 24% of California's state workers already opt out. The reason this is on here, is because when Arnie's lies became apparent, it was public sector unions, cops, and firefighters, teachers, and nurses, who exposed him. They went

Elections Suggest Bush's Republican Base Eroding

Significant Democratic electoral victories across the nation on Nov. 8, suggest that the collapse of credibility of the Bush-Cheney Administration has begun to demoralize its Republican base, leading to losses at the polls because Republicans stayed home. Particularly striking were Republican losses in areas which had gone heavily for President Bush just one year ago, in the national election.

The most dramatic example of such a turnaround came in the Commonwealth of Virginia, a legendary "red state," where Republican gubernatorial candidate Jerry Kilgore lost to Democrat Tim Kaine, by a margin of 52 to 46%. President Bush himself had come to Virginia on election eve to campaign for Kilgore, who knew he was in a tight race. Rather than turning the tide, the Bush appearance simply confirmed the fact that the anti-Kilgore vote would be seen as an anti-Bush vote as well.

At first blush, the changes from traditional voting patterns were stunning. Kaine, an avowed liberal, even won in Virginia Beach, home of "Diamond Pat" Robertson, and generally a right-wing voter stronghold. Additionally, Kaine swept the Northern Virginia suburbs, including both Loudoun and Prince William counties, which have been Republican bastions for decades.

One leading pollster told *EIR* that LaRouchePAC's mass distributions of anti-Cheney material in the Northern Virginia area, "definitely created an anti-Bush/Cheney climate in the area. Who else gives out pamphlets called *Children of Satan*? We even talked to fundamentalists who had been convinced that Cheney was a child of Satan. Republicans and Democrats . . . voted against Kilgore and against Bush's support for him."

While the impact on local races was not great (most are actually uncontested), Democrats are pointing to the unseating of four-term "Christian-right" Delegate Richard Black from Loudoun County, as an indication that the tide is turning. Democrat David Poisson received the votes of moderate Republicans as well as Democrats, according to local officials.

Repudiations of Bush

Two other examples of radical shifts by voters against Bush stand out.

The first is the mayoral race in St. Paul, Minn., where two Democrats were vying for the seat. Incumbent Mayor Richard Kelly had publicly endorsed President Bush for President in 2004. But in this election, Democratic City Councilman Chris Coleman trounced him with 70% of the vote. Voters told exit-pollsters in no uncertain terms that they were kicking out Kelly, a long-term popular politician who had been in the state legislature as well, because of his support for Bush.

Second was the mayoral race in Parkersburg, W. Va., scene of George W. Bush's infamous press conference on Social Security, where he pointed to a filing cabinet full of Federal Government Treasury bonds, and called them "worthless IOUs." President Bush had received 62% in this area in 2004. But on election day 2005, Democrat Bob Newell defeated Republican Rick Modesitt, 63 to 37%.

Pundits nationally are going out of their way to insist that there is no "national trend" in the 2005 elections pointing to a necessary Democratic victory in 2006, citing previous patterns. It's true nothing is inevitable, but it is clear that Bush is weakened, and the next election is the Democrats' for the taking, if they follow the leadership direction being provided by Lyndon LaRouche.

—Nancy Spannaus

on television with their resources, and said, “Governor, why did you break our promise to the kids, and cut education funding? Governor, why didn’t you tell the truth? Why did you try to cut our pensions? Why did you try to hurt the widows of cops and firefighters killed in the line of duty?”

So, Proposition 75, while it’s a long-time standard piece of business that conservative Republicans have tried to enact, because it goes at the heart of Democratic funding—labor unions usually support Democratic candidates—for Arnold, it’s about “payback” to the public sector unions who’ve taken him on, and exposed him for the fraud that he is, and dropped his approval ratings from some 70%, down to 34 or 33% in the latest poll. So that’s Proposition 75. We call it “paycheck deception. . . .”

Jones: I just want to get your thoughts on, given that Lewis Libby has recently been indicted, you’ve got the flame being turned up on Dick Cheney, and the whole neo-con cabal is now on the hot seat, I wonder what have you seen as the effect this has had on California politics, both the Democratic Party, the Republicans, and just in general. . . .

Bauman: This is a very interesting question, and I had wondered, as we were in the lead-up to the indictments being issued, what impact it might have. And I think it’s done a couple of things, and we’ll see next Tuesday if I’m right.

I think it’s helped demoralize Republicans in California, because their President, George W. Bush, who was elected because he was going to restore honor to the White House—after all, he’d never be caught with a cigar and an intern in the Oval Office—has turned out to put our national security at risk, because of his nonsense, because of his lies and deceit, in taking us into a war based on falsified facts. And, furthermore, I think it’s energized Democrats, who’ve been pretty low-key about this election. Because, you know, one of the problems we face in California—across the nation, but especially in California—is that Democrats tend to be lazy voters. You know, they will turn out to vote, if Bill Clinton is on the ticket, because it’s a personality for them to rally around.

But it’s much harder to get people, and especially Democrats, to rally around a group of issues, much less to rally around saying “no” to a group of issues. There’s nothing that seems compelling. And in point of fact, for several weeks, what I was hearing when I would go out and talk to groups, is, I’d hear people say, “I’m going to show that governor, I’m going to show him that his special election is unnecessary, I’m going to say ‘no,’ I’m not going to vote in this election.” And I said to them, “By doing that, you’re voting for his election. Because if you don’t cast your vote, that makes the Republicans’ vote worth double.”

So, I think what’s happened over the last two weeks, as we’ve seen the death toll cross 2,000 in Iraq, as we saw the destruction, the implosion of the Harriet Miers’s nomination to the Supreme Court, and the results of Bush’s other crony-

ism, and as we saw the indictment of Libby, and hopefully soon of Karl Rove—I think Democrats have become energized, and realized that maybe all is not lost. That it’s worth standing up and speaking out, that we will, and can, take our state, because this is a “blue” state; this is not “red” state.

Schlanger: So, Cody, you’re seeing Republicans starting to turn on Schwarzenegger, and the Bush Administration, both of which are George Shultz projects.

Jones: Oh yes, definitely. And we tell people, Abraham Lincoln wouldn’t have supported fascism. . . .

Schlanger: . . . This is Ray Cordova, who’s a labor leader, a veteran activist. He’s the chairman of the Orange County Democratic Party, he’s someone that I know is a rough and tumble fighter, the kind we need more of. . . .

We’ve been talking with Eric Bauman earlier in the show. The last question we took up is the fight to oust Dick Cheney as Vice President, and the effect that that might have on the voters here. . . . What do you think the chances are we can get “two-fer”? Get Cheney out and defeat Arnie on Tuesday?

Cordova: Well, beginning with the latter: I have never seen a mobilization moving the way it has in this last two weeks. It started out a little slow, and once the voters start taking a look at the ballot propositions, they said, wait a minute! There’s something hidden in here. They put 73 on the ballot, which is the parental notification for a minor child—they put it on the ballot to pull their base out on the street. It’s not working with them. The mobilization we have going right now, is just unbelievable.

I was in Long Beach this morning for the first mobilization, and we pulled in over 400 good folks, who came out on a Saturday morning, didn’t mow their lawns, and they’re out walking, knocking, and talking right now. And there’s actually five mobilizations just out of Long Beach alone, and several of the union facilities that have phone banks only; but we must have out almost over 1,000 people on the street walking today. And this is happening throughout Southern California.

Schlanger: Let me ask you a question about the broader implications. . . . One of the things that Schwarzenegger keeps saying, is that the problem we have is too much government, labor gets too much money, they have too much power. We need tax cuts, to make the state more business-friendly. But . . . we’ve made the point that the real problem with the California budget, is that there’s not enough revenue, because we’ve lost industrial jobs, there’s no investment in infrastructure. Too many Democrats in the 1980s and 1990s went along with free trade and deregulation. LaRouche, as you know, has said we’ve got to return to FDR, regulation, fair trade. What are your thoughts on this?

Cordova: Well, you know, if it was *fair* trade, but it’s not fair trade. The deregulation goes way back to President Nixon,

and regretfully, some of our Democrat friends have signed on to it as well, and the major impact is the airlines. You can see what's happened with the airlines: They're going belly-up, constantly, and all the medical plans are being cast by the wayside. It's a whole master plan. And yet, this President, along with Governor Schwarzenegger too, they're trying to blame organized labor for everything.

They can blame us as much as they want. But yet, we are being outspent by multinationals, and corporations, 24:1, and they want to silence our voice, and they go out and tell the public the big lie about us using the union dues dollars—and there are a lot of union members who don't want us to spend their dollars. For those who don't want us to spend union dollars on political activities, they have the right to opt out today. Because, the U.S. Supreme Court has already ruled on that, beginning with the *Beck* decision. So, they can keep telling all the lies they want to tell, but as long as there's somebody there to point the finger at them, or tell the truth, they can only lie for so long.

But I'm vitally concerned, I'm concerned about the American dollar. That the [three] countries, China, Japan, and South Korea, if they start buying euros instead of dollars, we are belly-up in this country. . . .

Schlanger: Well, there's certainly an arrogance of power. You see the same thing with Arnie when he claims he's working for the people. We have a call-in from our conference line. . . . The question is: Is Schwarzenegger still going after the unions? Why is he going after the unions the way he does, Ray?

Cordova: There's only one, true major voice, that can muster the bodies out there and can put the dollars together to be an effective voice. Granted, we are being outspent 24:1, and it's much larger than that. If they can silence our voice, they can get away with whatever they want to get away with. Who is going to stand up to them?

And yet, the sad part, is that the American labor movement is a business. It's the only business in the world, dedicated to putting itself out of business. If we had absolute guarantees that every worker in America and the world would be treated with fairness and be treated square, you wouldn't need organized labor. So, we're in business to put ourselves out of business, but we're not going out of business until we have those absolute guarantees, iron-clad guarantees. That's the reason why Arnold wants us out of business: Because we're the only major voice standing up to him.

Shields: All right. Great. We've been leading this two-front fight against Cheney and free trade, and I was wondering what you thought the possibility of the post-Cheney era, as LaRouche is calling it, as that also being the post-free-trade era?

Cordova: Well, first things, first. I think—I have to say something about the Schiller Institute and all you good folks

out there: When we had a WTO [World Trade Organization], when we were fighting that fight, and then also, too, when we have a President of the United States, President Clinton was under attack, it was your organization that was the first on the scene and stayed there, telling the truth to the American public: I want to congratulate you guys for that. It took us Democrats a little bit longer to get on board. But, we did finally.

On the post-Cheney thing: What we have to do collectively—I'm talking the United States of America—we have to return to where we once were before, and that's to carry our banner and carry it high, but carry it with integrity. We've lost integrity, across the United States. . . . You can not have a paperless ballot, you have to have a paper trail on your ballot. And the American public is being duped today.

Schlanger: Well, Ray, I think you know we've got the LaRouche Youth Movement on the tail of Tom DeLay, as well. When we talk about a cesspool of corruption on the other side—

Cordova: You know, I have a *whole list* of his cast of characters out there, from beginning with Newt Gingrich and Tom DeLay, and *all* these guys. . . . And even Bill Frist, as well too—he is not clean. You know the man is supposed to have some ethical values, out there, being a physician and all those things, too. It just isn't happening.

And you look in the halls of Congress, there was time when I was growing up, and I had complete faith in our country and our members of the House of Representatives to do no wrong. Some of these guys over there, they just think that that's their palace and they can do whatever they want with it. Well, I've got news for them: We in organized labor and the American public, when we wake up enough of the folks out there, we're not going to make it easy for them.

But, I want to congratulate all you guys who are working out there. Now, even though we're having a special election in California, if they're able to do it in California and get away with it, it's going to happen across the United States. And this is the line in the sand, right here. We have to stop them, now.

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