

Conyers At LaRouche PAC Event Opens New Dialogue among Dems

by Nancy Spannaus

The process of discussion and debate within the Democratic Party entered a new phase on March 23, when Michigan Democratic Congressman John Conyers participated in a town meeting sponsored by the Lyndon LaRouche Political Action Committee (LPAC) in the city of Detroit. Rep. Conyers, who spoke on a panel with Midwest LPAC coordinator Robert Bowen, local UAW president Eugene Morey, and Nick Feden of the LaRouche Youth Movement, had a specific message to deliver.

“I come here tonight with an invitation,” Conyers said. “An invitation to take these [your-ed.] arguments, the book, the weekly newsletter, and let’s get it out into the debate . . . what I would like to do with you, is to begin to debate these issues. I know that they’re taken as gospel. But, unless they can stand the test of debate, they’re just a great view held by a number of people, who believe one thing. But that’s not going to sell it. And so, what I want to do, is, extend the discussion: What we need, is discussions about this, and where we are, and where are we going.”

The approximately 90 people in attendance responded enthusiastically to Rep. Conyers proposal, and to his presence on that snowy evening in Detroit. With Conyers having broken the ice, the door is wide open for other Congressmen, and the Democratic Party as a whole, to finally begin a public debate on the urgent measures put forward by Lyndon LaRouche to save the world economy, and the nation.

The Product of a Process

The Detroit LPAC meeting was the result of a process which took off after the Boston Democratic Party Convention last July. During those few days, LaRouche’s Youth Movement used bel canto singing, and the distribution of 50,000 copies of LaRouche’s Draft Democratic Party Platform, to make a dramatic intervention into a virtually moribund affair. The result was a shift in the relationship of LaRouche, who at

the end of the Convention endorsed Kerry for President, to the Democratic Party, with the result of increasing collaboration over the course of the fall election campaign. A crucial component of this collaboration was the deployment of the growing LaRouche Youth Movement in crucial areas, including the battleground state of Ohio.

Unfortunately for the outcome of the election, and for the nation, that collaboration came too late to ensure a Kerry victory in November. After Bush’s announced election, it was again necessary for LaRouche to take the decisive steps which pulled the deeply demoralized Democrats up off the floor, and give them a perspective for going on an offensive that would make President Bush a lame duck, particularly on the Bush proposal to destroy FDR’s signature program, Social Security.

As the Bush Administration has learned, to its dismay, LaRouche’s leadership has borne fruit. From the Jan. 6 Joint Session of Congress onward, the Democratic Party has demonstrated a virtually unprecedented determination to fight Bush’s fascist policies and illegalities. Nowhere has this been more evident than on the “issue” of Social Security privatization, where the Democratic Party leadership has not only held the line against compromise, but which has provided the impetus for a Democratic mobilization of town meetings and constituents which has not occurred in decades.

Up to this point, the Democratic Party resolve, energized, informed, and aided by the deployment of the LaRouche Youth Movement, has virtually killed the Bush proposal for Social Security privatization. But that accomplishment merely sets the stage for the next step: the Party’s adoption of an FDR-style program of emergency economic recovery to deal with the economic-financial breakdown crisis that led the Administration to seek to steal the Social Security funds in the first place.



Representative John Conyers, Democrat of Michigan and the Minority Leader of the House Judiciary Committee, addressed an audience of approximately 90 citizens in Detroit March 23, in what's expected to be the opening of a broader open dialogue between LaRouche Democrats and the Democratic Party.

The Debate Begins

The Detroit LPAC meeting featured the beginnings of the necessary debate, among an audience of community activists, local political leaders, unionists, and others.

After an opening Classical musical presentation by a LaRouche Youth Movement chorus, Robert Bowen keynoted the event with a short briefing on the LaRouche movement's perspective of restoring the principles represented by FDR, in order to meet the current breakdown crisis of the financial system, and the physical economy, including, prominently, that of General Motors.

Gene Morey, president of UAW Local 849 in Ypsilanti, who represents employees of Visteon Corp, then spoke about his experience as a labor leader and what he is facing. He particularly emphasized the way in which the collapse of infrastructure investments has strangled the economy.

Nick Feden of the LaRouche Youth Movement then addressed the question of Classical tragedy, specifically the way the corruption of the Baby Boomer generation has created no future for his generation. The LaRouche Youth Movement is dedicated to taking on this problem, Feden said, by taking on popularly accepted public opinion, and changing the way people think.

Rep. Conyers, who had chosen to speak last on the panel, then took the floor, and made the remarks which we include, in toto below.

At the conclusion of Rep. Conyers' statement, there was a spirited discussion, both on the matter of bringing LaRouche's ideas into the Democratic Party, and on issues of health care, the energy price inflation, and so forth.

In his concluding report, LPAC coordinator Bowen publicly accepted the invitation which Rep. Conyers had issued, for an expansion of the debate on LaRouche's ideas inside the Democratic Party, any time, anywhere.

The Battle Ahead

That the debate needs to be taken up immediately, rather than having the Democratic Party rest on its laurels for stymying Bush's drive for "private accounts," is not hard to see. The

Republicans may be in disarray, but the dramatic escalation of the bankruptcy crisis for the U.S. economy is well underway. The Democratic Party is a sitting duck for the bankers' campaign for austerity and budget cuts, if the FDR approach to creating jobs and building infrastructure, is not taken up extremely rapidly.

The contrast between LaRouche's approach and that of the current Democratic Party leadership is shown in their response to the latest report by the Social Security Trustees. The report projects that the Trust Fund will allegedly be exhausted by 2041, one year earlier than previous projections.

"Today's report confirms that the so-called Social Security crisis exists in only one place: the minds of the Republicans," responded Senator Harry Reid, the Democratic leader in the Senate. "This year's report from the Social Security Trustees, confirms that Social Security continues to be strong and remains on solid ground for decades to come." Reid then went on to note, correctly, that Bush's private accounts plan worsens Social Security's financial problems, and that Bush's tax cuts cost nearly three times as much as the Social Security shortfall.

LaRouche PAC's response, however, went to the heart of the matter: the incompetence of Bush's economic policy overall. For what the report actually shows is that Bush's loss of jobs, and reduction in wages from 2001 on, have led to a serious reduction in the growth of revenue into the Social Security Trust Fund. Whereas any previous three-year period from 1984 forward showed a growth of some 18-20% in revenue, between 2001 and 2004, payroll tax revenue grew by only 9%—half as much! For the year 2002 to 2003, Cheney/Bush even achieved a completely unprecedented zero growth in payroll tax income.

Obviously, the question before the nation's leaders is not Social Security, but how to reverse course and begin to have a growing economy, with decent wages, once again. That is the subject of LaRouche PAC's campaign on economic policy. Holding the line on budget cuts is one thing, but the crucial question is putting into place an FDR-style job and credit creation program, such as LaRouche's "Super-TVA."