

Rogers Tours Texas To Bring Democrats 'Out of the Bushes, Into the Future'

by Nancy Spannaus

"People are looking for leadership from young people," said Lakesha Rogers, the member of the LaRouche Youth Movement running for Chairman of the Texas State Democratic Party, when reached on the road May 18. "We are getting a very good reception, and people are ready to take action."

Rogers has been on tour for the last two weeks, travelling around eastern and central Texas between Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, Corpus Christi, Tyler, and Austin. She and four of her LYM colleagues are driving a car packed with the literature that reflects the LYM's nature as a "university on wheels": works of Plato, Alexander Hamilton, Gauss, and LaRouche, and stopping at college campuses in town after town. The response has been very positive.

On the weekend of May 19-20, Rogers will participate in candidates' events in Houston and Austin, which will bring together all four candidates for Party Chair, as well as state-wide Congressional and other candidates. However, Rogers is not waiting for formal events, but is taking her campaign for the revival of FDR's approach for economic development, to every constituency group she can find.

Labor Is Key

Rogers has sought in particular to activate the labor constituency, and the response has been a lot of excitement. Exemplary was the May 17 meeting of Amalgamated Transit Union Division 1338 in Dallas, where she was a featured speaker. After a warm introduction by the President of the local, Rogers didn't just describe the incompetence of the Bush Administration, but issued a challenge to the unionists to get involved in politics again. "If you aren't part of the decision-making of the Democratic Party, who *is* going to lead it?" she asked.

During the course of her remarks and the discussion that followed, Rogers reviewed how the Democratic Party has been destroyed by the abandonment of the Roosevelt tradition by the '68ers, who have embraced the post-industrial paradigm shift, and turned their backs on the lower 80% of family income brackets. She urged the union members to support her campaign, and mobilize side-by-side with her to put the country, and the party, on the path toward economic development.

The response, Rogers said, was very strong. One unionist got up and called for a second standing ovation for her, saying that she reminded him of great Texas political leaders who fought for civil rights in politics. He declared that he agreed that the unionists could do a lot more, and volunteered to be her collaborator in Dallas. The positive impact was also reflected in the fact that not only did the 50-60 persons present all take literature, including LaRouche's "Prolegomena to a Party Platform," and draft legislation to save the auto industry, but many took bundles of pamphlets to distribute, promising to get them out "everywhere."



Lakesha Rogers

The Youth Are the Future

Rogers, who is 29 years old, told this reporter that she is constantly putting on the table the question of how to integrate young people into the party. That concern is also reflected in her campaign slogan, "Out of the Bushes, Into the Future," which highlights the fact that the youth *are* the future of the nation.

Rogers' campaign has virtually run out of the first 4,000 copies of the "Out of the Bushes" bumper sticker, and is planning to put out more in the drive up to the June 8-9 convention.

But Rogers does not expect the campaigning to stop at that time. In addition to bringing youth into cooperation with the LYM and LaRouche's Political Action Committee, her campaign has generated many invitations for further discussions after the convention. Rogers intends to accept them, in order to push forward the recruitment of youth, and mobilize support for LaRouche's program of using the machine-tool capacity of the auto industry to rebuild the physical economy, particularly vital infrastructure projects such as rail and power. That is the road to the future.