

Who are Ohio's LaRouche Democrats?

Don Scott, a farmer and National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC) leader from Springfield, Ohio, won 61% of the vote May 8 to secure the Democratic Party's congressional nomination in Ohio's 7th district.

When the editors of *Newsweek* were looking for a typical American community to profile in their 50th anniversary issue, they chose Springfield. It is a small industrial city whose major industries got their impetus from electrical and mechanical innovations in the first decades of the 20th century. For all its appearance of having stayed the same, Springfield has in fact enjoyed vast economic growth. But in the early 1980s, the economic crisis hit Springfield and other Ohio cities hard. Unemployment rose to the highest rates since the 1930s, and farmers were particularly hard hit.

Scott, in an interview with *New Solidarity* newspaper published May 18, explained the impact of the NDPC's program in the area.

"What is happening economically was the key to my campaign," he said. "I made it clear how high interest rates have affected and are affecting not only me as a farmer but also businessmen and labor, and I pointed out that the source of this problem is our Federal Reserve System and its control of the flow of the money and the interest rates. . . ."

"For the last three or four years farmers have been sitting here making no money. A certain combination the farmer can handle—bad weather and bad prices for instance—and still not go totally under. But when you throw high interest rates on top of this, there is just *no way*. Starting in 1979, agriculture was hit—like most other sectors of our economy were hit. But what is happening now, even though some areas of the economy can fool themselves about this idea that we are in a 'recovery,' there has been no such thing in agriculture. We are sitting with an unserviceable debt. Myself, I can operate for about another year. If things don't change, that's going to be it for me; its going to be the end for so many people in agriculture.

"Further problems that this creates are showing up throughout my district. The cities and communities aren't

getting the taxes because the farmers aren't making the money. And I know enough about my history to know that wherever agriculture goes, our nation isn't far behind it. . . ."

"The LaRouche platform covers the situation agriculture is in very well and what must be done to make it productive again. The programs we have put together almost sell themselves at this point."

Too close to call in the 8th district

Peter Schuller, a philosophy professor from Oxford, Ohio, came within 1,700 votes of becoming the Democratic congressional candidate in the 8th district, in a hotly contested race against John Francis.

The heart of Schuller's district is in two manufacturing cities in Butler County, Hamilton and Middletown. A conservative Democratic heritage exists in the region, and surfaced in the 18% of the vote that George Wallace got there in the 1968 general election. That was the highest percentage that Wallace won in any Ohio district. In general elections the district usually goes Republican, but in 1982 it went Democratic in statewide contests.

On election night, as the vote tallies were still described by UPI as "too close to call," Schuller issued this statement to the press:

"I congratulate all the voters who have repudiated the scurrilous politics of the eastern Liberal Establishment and their handpicked candidates. Let us now constitute ourselves a movement of patriotic citizens who will revive the Democratic Party as the vehicle for the 'harmony of interests' of all producers: workers, farmers and productive entrepreneurs.

"Let us wrest all power away from those who live by draining the productive energies of others. Let us get back to the American way of doing things—producing smarter and better than anyone else in the world and bringing our goods, liberties, and know-how to our weaker friends.

"That way we can forge a community of principles which cannot be undermined from within or without.

"I invite all citizens who have acted on their hopes that a better America can be built to take positions of leadership with me in this attempt to restore America to her principles despite corrupt journalists and the despair of their neighbors.

"Today's vote was crucial proof that it can be done. Let 'politics as usual' be buried. Here come the 'citizen candidates' to the rescue of their nation."

When the final returns were announced, Schuller was given 47.22% of the vote, against 52.88% for his opponent. At a press conference May 9, he announced that he was not conceding the election, in view of the closeness of the vote and widespread irregularities on the part of election officials. There are two main dimensions to fraud, said Schuller: manipulating the mind of the voter before and during the vote, and the physical manipulation of the vote itself. "The first was demonstrated; we are now inquiring into the second," he said.