

Establishment media throw tantrum over LaRouche North Dakota victory

by Suzanne Rose

When Lyndon LaRouche won the Democratic presidential primary with over 7,000 votes in North Dakota on June 9, it placed before the voters for the first time a real alternative to the collapsing Bush and Clinton campaigns. The threat of an anti-establishment campaign with teeth beginning to emerge around LaRouche's policies, during the weeks before the Democratic convention, therefore sent the controllers of the establishment media scurrying to find any means to blunt the movement's impact.

Leading the pack, Associated Press attempted to cover up the LaRouche vote, falsely declaring Perot to be the winner. LaRouche was initially credited by AP and other media outlets as the top vote-getter in a field which, on the Democratic side, included Charles Wood, a Nevada-based businessman and populist; Tom Sheikman, a North Dakota comedian believed to be a stand-in for Governor Bill Clinton, whose name did not appear on the ballot; and the write-in candidacies of Clinton and Perot. The early versions of AP stories slanted coverage along the lines: "Perot Write-in Fizzles," while admitting LaRouche won by saying that "LaRouche Leads in Quirky, Meaningless Election." At 3:00 a.m., Cable News Network began lead coverage with "Bizarre Shocker: Convicted Felon LaRouche Wins Primary."

But by 4:00 a.m., AP had reversed its course. The new AP reports appeared, for example, in the Moline, Illinois *Daily Dispatch* on the afternoon of June 10, under the headline "Perot Wins in Write-in Contest," reporting on a supposed write-in duel between Clinton and Perot. Only buried at the end could one read that with 97% of the precincts counted, LaRouche led with 7,000 votes, with Perot in fourth place with 4,700 votes. By 7 a.m. on June 10, national network television news shows and papers such as *USA Today* followed AP in lockstep, by not even mentioning that there had been a North Dakota presidential primary. Only coverage outside of the United States drew attention to the LaRouche victory.

AP then brought in a second phase of the coverup. By the evening of June 10 it issued a new wire trumpeting a Perot write-in victory, crediting him with 5,000 more votes than had been reported previously. Papers which on June 10 had reported the story from AP wires saying "Perot Campaign Fizzles," reversed themselves on June 11, generally reporting that Perot had won with 8,900 votes, and omitting

any coverage of LaRouche.

By contrast, election officials contacted by EIR News Service at the Bismarck Board of Elections were completely ignorant of these Perot totals up through closing on June 12. One bemused board employee even asked a caller to fax her a copy of the AP wire story from the *Los Angeles Times*, which had reported the new Perot totals on the previous day. Election officials continued to be quoted, as, for example, in a UPI wire story datelined June 11, expecting a 10% write-in vote for Perot. At closing time on June 12, the State Board of Elections faxed out totals which continued to place LaRouche in the lead with 7,072 votes and Perot with 5,866 votes, with 800 out of 804 precincts reporting.

On June 12 LaRouche campaign spokeswoman Debra Freeman held a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., and charged AP with dirty tricks and "fabricating" election results. She said AP's story of a Perot victory was strange, to say the least, after reports had come in from all over the state on election eve that Perot's write-in campaign had fizzled. AP reported the LaRouche campaign charges the next day. While sticking by their story, they reduced their totals for Perot by 500 votes.

New write-ins for Perot 'discovered'

But on June 15, the Election Board employees told callers they had rechecked around the counties to verify the LaRouche-Perot Democratic totals, and had somehow discovered 3,000 more Perot votes from counties that had not previously reported. Even this current reading, however, is unofficial until the election is certified on June 24. LaRouche campaign chairman Mel Klenetsky said that it will be determined over the next week how these new write-in votes appeared. Since they were write-ins and the methodology for counting them is unclear (as to whether they should be considered Republican, Democrat, or independent), "there is plenty of room for hanky-panky."

The LaRouche victory was not unexpected. There has been long-standing support in North Dakota for LaRouche and his policies. In 1982, LaRouche supporter Anabelle Bourgois, running as an independent for the U.S. Senate, received more votes than any other independent since the 1930s, according to the *Grand Forks Herald*. In 1984, Bourgois, a dairy farmer, won 17% in her bid for governor in

the Democratic primary. LaRouche received 11.9% in the Democratic presidential primary, while Claire Blomquist, running on LaRouche's policies, garnered 35% for agricultural commissioner. In this most recent primary, LaRouche swept the rural counties and the Indian reservations.

Even though this month's primary election was a "beauty contest" having no effect on the delegate selection process, LaRouche campaign organizers had a strong sense that it was not business-as-usual in this state. The first indication was the fact that at their April 3-5 state convention, the Democratic Party selected 12 uncommitted delegates and only 3 for the party's choice, Clinton, out of their 15 delegates for the Democratic National Convention.

On June 3, John Ruby, a popular radio talk show personality on the NBC station KFYZ, took a presidential preference poll, asking viewers to call in their choice: Bush, Clinton, or Perot. The poll did not mention LaRouche's name. The phone lines were jammed for several hours. The result was announced by Ruby when a caller called in to talk about LaRouche. Ruby said his listeners had selected Perot, LaRouche, and Bush, in that order.

In the days leading up to the election, LaRouche campaign organizers reported widespread recognition and support for his candidacy at cattle shows, auctions, agricultural fairs, and from labor, pro-life, and farm activists. Many

meetings were held with people who had been victims of judicial harassment, who recognized that LaRouche was a political prisoner for his opposition to establishment economic policies. As LaRouche said to the voters in his statement of thanks, which appeared on the front page of the *Grand Forks Herald*, the political establishment is "savagely cutting the production of food at a time of murderous worldwide shortages of food. This, of course, is the leading issue in North Dakota, and it expressed itself in the way it did in the results yesterday."

North Dakota is the leading producer of the high-protein durum wheat used in the production of pasta. Over the last decade, 500,000 people have been forced to leave the state, because government policy has collapsed the farm economy, forcing farmers off the land. According to one trade union leader, it is impossible to get a full-time job in the state. Since 1988, drought and free trade have had a detrimental effect on the state's economy. The U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement has allowed the dumping of Canadian wheat in North Dakota.

'Wild Bill' Langer's heritage

Political activists in the state have been regularly railroaded into prison. "Wild Bill" Langer, who was governor in the 1930s and U.S. senator in the 1940s and '50s, survived a

LaRouche candidates win in California

Candidates identified with the political and economic program of political prisoner Lyndon H. LaRouche racked up some important victories in local and state California elections June 2, demonstrating LaRouche's growing appeal to the electorate, even though his own vote total was kept to 1% in the Democratic presidential primary.

Alice Robb won the Democratic primary for the California State Legislature in the 65th Assembly District. Mrs. Robb took 60% of the vote, devastating her establishment-endorsed opponent Ray Strait, who reportedly spent tens of thousands of dollars trying to defeat her.

Mrs. Robb, a 75-year-old retired teacher from Yucca Valley, is a longtime LaRouche activist and supporter who made her ties to LaRouche the leading edge of her campaign. "First and last I am a LaRouche supporter. My campaign is his campaign," she would say to everyone. A veteran of many campaigns, she had been previously elected to the Lucerne Valley School Board and currently sits on the San Bernardino Democratic County Central Committee.

Mrs. Robb made water development a major issue of her campaign, calling for rapid implementation of the North America Water and Power Alliance (Nawapa) project as the antidote to state's worsening water shortage. She will face off against two-term Republican incumbent Paul Woodruff in the November general election.

LaRouche candidates also did well in other races. Elliot Graham won the primary in the 43rd State Assembly District. In that same district, LaRouche activists won five of the seven seats on the Democratic County Central Committee. Fifteen other LaRouche supporters were elected to the Democratic County Central Committee positions elsewhere in the state.

In other State Assembly races, Andrea Ingraham was given 40% of the vote, in what was probably the most media-covered campaign of the LaRouche slate, while Don Tirey garnered a surprising 30% in San Jose against incumbent John Vasconcellos, who was considered unsailable.

Other significant results included George Hanna with 30% for State Senate in Orange County; Scott Gaulke with 16% in the 29th Congressional District against incumbent Henry Waxman; and Art Dunn with 14% running against Rep. Leon Panetta, chairman of the House Budget Committee.

number of attempts by his political enemies to railroad him out of office, beginning with three conspiracy trials in the 1930s. Langer won the Republican nomination for governor in 1934, after having been convicted of charges which were later overturned, even though most of the press labeled him a "convicted felon." He hated the eastern establishment, the British and their banks, and the Minneapolis Grain Exchange. Langer's hatred of the British was so strong, that when Winston Churchill came to visit the United States in 1952, Senator Langer called up North Church in Boston and told them to light two lanterns in the belfry.

Earlier in his career, Langer assisted North Dakota's Non-partisan League to set up the State Bank of North Dakota. The Bank of North Dakota was established by an act of the North Dakota Legislature in 1919 to serve agriculture and industry in the state. It was overseen by the State Industrial Commission, which included the governor, the agricultural commissioner, the attorney general, and the president of the bank. The state's tax dollars were deposited in the bank, and the funds were used exclusively to finance industry and agriculture in the state. Its records were open to the public. Langer also set up a state-run mill and grain elevator in Grand Forks to protect farmers from the looting of the establishment speculators.

The ADL-controlled opposition

Opposition to LaRouche's policies in the state has been concentrated in the farm networks associated with the grain cartel-funded Anti-Defamation League (ADL), such as current North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Sara Vogel. In 1983, during the height of the farm crisis when thousands of farmers, bankrupted by the high interest-rate policy of Paul Volcker, were being forced off the land—the Anti-Defamation League started a campaign to rid the farm belt of political resistance. They established captive farm groups like the Iowa-based Prairiefire, under the direction of ADL asset Dan Levitas, which would steer farmers into impotent forms of resistance.

On Feb. 13, 1983, U.S. marshals under the control of the ADL attempted to gun down farm activist Gordon Kahl, and instead were killed by Kahl. The countryside was terrorized while Kahl was hunted down and killed. ADL networks attempted to use this incident to purge the state of "political extremism." Out of this incident, the myth was fostered: "If you try to oppose the banks, you'll get the Kahl treatment." James Corcoran, an ADL-linked journalist, wrote the book *Bitter Harvest*, about the Kahl incident, in which he profiled the "right-wing" farmer who protests the two government agencies most oppressing farmers—the IRS and the Federal Reserve—as a terrorist.

An NBC movie based on the book but entitled "Manhunt in North Dakota," was aired during prime time the evening before the primary. It was a clear message from the media to voters that if they broke with the establishment choices in the primary, the only alternative would be violence and anarchy. As the election results show, their plan backfired.

Books

None dare call it Christian

by Leif O. Johnson

None Dare Call It Treason . . . 25 Years Later

by John A. Stormer
Liberty Bell Press, Florissant, Mo., 1992
625 pages, paperbound, \$5.95

None Dare Call It Treason is one of the most famous among the wave of anti-Communist books written to put Barry Goldwater in the White House in 1964. Seven million copies were distributed; Stormer, then the head of the Missouri Young Republicans, member of the Missouri GOP Central Committee, and superintendent of a Christian school, became a well-known spokesman for the right-wing circles around the John Birch Society. I had my first impression of John Stormer two years ago, when I was campaigning against Satanism at a LaRouche literature table. I encountered Brad Hicks, the number-two Satanist in the St. Louis area and one of the persons I was battling.

Since it is rare these days that one meets one's adversary face to face, I took the opportunity to talk with Hicks. We discussed the nature of man, God, and Satan, and I finally asked Hicks how he became a Satanist.

"Because I was a student all the way through high school at John Stormer's Christian Academy," he replied. As my eyebrows rose, Hicks continued: "Stormer always taught that Satan rules the world, and I believed him. I'm not a hypocrite, I practice what I believe."

I never saw Hicks again, but his words struck me. If Stormer, the 10-year head of the Missouri Association of Christian Schools, was teaching his students that Satan rules the world, was he teaching them that man is essentially evil? That would mean that God's crowning creation is a being by nature incapable of doing battle with Satan, or indeed, heeding the commandment to go forth, multiply and subdue the earth.