

Arizona in an uproar over María Elena Milton campaign

by Steve Komm

LaRouche Democrat María Elena Milton, a candidate for Congress from Phoenix, Arizona, has the state in an uproar, with shock waves spreading throughout the country. By the second day of her campaign's first barrage of radio ads, and third day of distribution of her pamphlet, "Defeat Congressman 'ValuJet' Shadegg," her opponent, incumbent John Shadegg, the chairman of Newt Gingrich's GOPAC, was virtually in hiding, ducking out of debates with her, and even calling out the police to protect him from his 120-pound opponent. Local right-wing talk-show hosts and Gingrich supporters were flooding the airwaves with howls of protest, demanding that her ads be taken off the air, lest, as one host put it, "some people might believe her." And Arizonans, from senior citizens to high school students, were thrilled at Milton's "tell-it-like-it-is" ads, which called Shadegg "Congressman ValuJet," a "clone" of Gingrich, whose policies of cutting Medicare and Social Security, like ValuJet's cost-cutting, "kill people."



María Elena Milton gives a press conference on Oct. 7, announcing the release of EIR's report on "Would a President Bob Dole Prosecute Drug Super-Kingpin George Bush?"

By Oct. 10, Gingrich and Shadegg's backer, ValuJet owner Richard Gilder, had his lawyer telling Milton's campaign and the press that ValuJet was threatening to sue, to force the ads off the air.

Milton's press conference on Oct. 7, outside an appearance by George Bush, where she called for jailing Bush as the "kingpin of 'crack' cocaine, the Godfather of the Crips and the Bloods," was covered prominently in area media, and nationwide by CNN. She also received wide coverage for her keynote speech, calling for jailing Bush, at a federal courthouse "Rally for Justice" on Oct. 9, organized by area civil rights and African-American community activists.

By Oct. 8, the second day of her radio ads, a veteran newsman was telling Milton, "You have polarized this [normally Republican] district as it never has been before. You're doing a great job." Senior citizens said how delighted they were, that she was telling the truth about the way they're being thrown on the scrapheap. Republicans over 65 years of age were volunteering to distribute Milton campaign pamphlets, saying, "How dare Shadegg try to privatize Social Security?" Other Republican seniors were saying, "I loved your ad, linking Gingrich and Shadegg. There's no way I'll have anything to do with Gingrich."

Labor and Democratic Party activists have been greeting Milton with excitement, telling her, "You said what had to be said," and "You have the tough talk we need, to win." She has been speaking morning, noon, and night at union meetings, senior citizen centers, Democratic Party caucuses, and campaign forums. High school students, at an anti-drug "hearing" organized by Shadegg, flocked around Milton, grabbing her literature exposing George Bush as the drug kingpin, asking for her autograph, and saying, "I wanted to tell you how great it is you're doing this. I just want to follow in your footsteps."

Shadegg ducks out

Shadegg was so frightened of the collapse of his supposed base, that he withdrew from two debates with Milton on Oct. 8, including a long-scheduled one-hour live radio debate on Christian radio station KHEP, which in former times would have been considered a bastion of support for Republicans. Milton thanked the audience and the moderator-turned-host for the opportunity to define and discuss public policies from the point of view of Christian morality. They proceeded to spend the hour with a live radio interview, with the moderator

repeatedly referring to the empty chair that Shadegg was supposed to have been sitting in.

Shadegg's ducking any threat of confrontation with Milton, followed a candidate's forum in front of a group of (predominantly Republican) insurance women, who applauded Milton after she exposed Shadegg's ties to the "ValuJet syndicate." Meanwhile, Shadegg and his aides nervously pored over Milton's just-released "Congressman ValuJet" pamphlet. Shadegg grimaced, as Milton told the crowd how Gingrich and GOPAC, which Shadegg chairs, pushed for airline deregulation, "getting the Big Government FAA off the back of that poor owner of ValuJet, the Wall Street speculator Richard Gilder, lobbying the FAA to stop oppressing him with their terrible safety regulations. What did GOPAC get? \$320,000 from Gilder. What did Gilder get? He saved millions on safety and maintenance. What did we lose? 110 lives." Milton went on to expose Shadegg's and Gingrich's roots: "The first opponents of America having a Big Government were King George III and his lackey Adam Smith!"

By the evening of Oct. 8, Milton's ads were a feature story on the evening news of ABC affiliate KNXV-TV, which referred to "outrage" among some at the "powerful, haunting memories" evoked by references to Nazi gas ovens and the ValuJet crash. Milton's picture was shown, while her ad was played: "Don't let the philosophy of Gingrich Republican Shadegg push your parents into the gas ovens of managed health care." Shadegg was quoted calling the ads "outrageous

... completely beyond the pale ... of normal discourse." An official of the Anti-Defamation League was shown complaining that the ads were "almost ... a slap in the face to the Jewish community"—followed by a reporter saying, "María Elena Milton stands behind her commercials. She says they demonstrate that managed health care and the privatization of Social Security, will be deadly for the sick and the elderly. The Lyndon LaRouche Democrat is a native of [working-class Hispanic] Nogales, and says she is part Jewish."

The excitement which Milton's campaign is evoking, is typified by her address to a meeting of women labor activists. She began by telling the activists that she had been invited, by an AFL-CIO leader, to come and speak to them informally. "Now, I was asking myself, while I was thinking this morning about what to tell you: Here I am, a housewife and a mother. Some people claim I have no business in this race, because I have no credentials. With all the impressive, talented political people in Arizona, why did it have to be a housewife that takes on the head of Newt Gingrich's GOPAC, one of Gingrich's right-hand henchmen, John Shadegg?"

"Then I realized: It's because we women know how to clean house. I'm an expert toilet-bowl scrubber—I know how to get rid of the scum!"

This brought down the house. While the AFL-CIO leader who had invited her was standing in the back of the room, saying, "Oh my gosh, oh my gosh," the crowd started chanting, "Go, Milton, go!" She's still going.

The ads that have the Gingrichites howling

Managed health care is a killer:

Milton: Managed health care is a killer. Managed Health Care turns a doctor into a clerk, and his patient into a *corpse*—all for the greater glory of the financial sharks. Don't let the philosophy of Gingrich Republican Shadegg, push your parents into the gas ovens, of managed health care.

I am running for Congress in the 4th CD against John Shadegg, the chairman of Newt Gingrich's GOPAC, which is promoting managed health care. To stop this killing, elect me, María Elena Milton.

Why I call him 'Congressman ValuJet':

Milton: Gingrich Republican John Shadegg says he is very offended, when I call him "Congressman ValuJet." Well, I am very offended that John "ValuJet" Shadegg is the chairman of GOPAC, the main funder of Newt Gingrich's Conservative Revolution. It's not just that GOPAC

received \$300,000 from the financial shark that founded ValuJet. More important, John Shadegg has called for brutal, vicious cost-cutting measures for Medicare and Social Security—the same way ValuJet "cut costs," on safety and maintenance.

These policies *kill people*.

Newt Gingrich has taken out a Contract *on* Americans—and people are dying. . . .

Elect me, María Elena Milton, to Congress. I won't let that Gingrich Republican, Shadegg, send your Social Security crashing into the Everglade swamps, like ValuJet.

On privatizing Social Security:

Milton: Congressman Kolbe, from Tucson, has spilled the beans. After the election, the Gingrich gang is planning to *privatize* Social Security. Do you know what Newt Gingrich and his clone, John Shadegg, mean, when they say privatizing Social Security? They should call it, "piratizing." They want to hand over up to \$5 trillion from your retirement fund, to a bunch of Wall Street speculators.

Do you remember when Orange County, California, lost \$2 billion, and went bankrupt, by speculating in these same markets? Don't let the Contract on America crowd make an Orange County gamble with *your* Social Security.