

María Elena Milton: 'It's not negative campaigning, it's telling the truth!'

by Katherine R. Notley

María Elena Milton, the LaRouche Democrat who is challenging incumbent John Shadegg (R) for the Congressional seat from Arizona's Fourth District, which includes Phoenix, spent an hour pummeling her opponent in a debate broadcast live on cable TV on Oct. 16. The program will be rebroadcast eight times on cable TV in Scottsdale and Phoenix before the election. She exposed Shadegg's sponsorship of such murderous policies as privatization of Social Security, forcing the sick into managed health care, cutting \$245 billion from Medicare, and airline deregulation. She referred to Shadegg, the chairman of Newt Gingrich's GOPAC, as "not a Republican at all, but a member of the 'Newtzi Party.'"

The debate was sponsored by the *Scottsdale Progress-Tribune*, which has run scurrilous attacks against Milton. In a virtually unique moment of honesty, the paper headlined its story the next morning, "Milton Relentless in GOP Attack."

Milton also took on the lying role of the media, including the moderator of the debate, the editor of the Scottsdale newspaper. After she described managed health care as a Nuremberg crime, she then turned to the editor: "And you printed an editorial, saying I had no appreciation of the horrors of the Holocaust. The next day, you printed this cartoon [holding it up], showing me as a cockroach—exactly what Hitler's pet journalists used to call the Jews!"

As one supporter said afterwards, "María had sharks for dinner tonight!"

Telling it like it is

The Arizona media and their allies in the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of B'nai B'rith are branding Milton's hard-hitting advertisements as "negative campaigning." But it's not working: In the heavily Republican district of Phoenix, which elected Shadegg as a leading Gingrichite freshman in 1994, most voters on both sides of the aisle are listening to what she has to say.

The radio advertisements, plus her mass circulation campaign pamphlet, brand Shadegg "Congressman ValuJet," comparing him to the airline whose cost-cutting ended in tragedy in the Florida Everglades, and pointing out that GOPAC received a juicy \$320,000 from ValuJet's Richard Gilder. Far more scandalous, however, are Shadegg's policies to take down Medicare and turn patients over to what Milton

calls the "gas ovens" of managed care; and his post-election plans to privatize Social Security—that is, turn \$5 trillion over to Wall Street.

On Oct. 11, Phoenix's leading daily, the *Arizona Republic*, tried to stir the pot over the ads, going so far as to solicit a comment from the widower of ValuJet pilot Candalyn Kubeck, whose plane had crashed last May in Florida, killing all 109 on board—all so the daily could refer to the ads as "tasteless." The ADL strained itself as well, trying to argue that Milton's comparison of HMOs to Hitler's gas ovens was, well, not anti-Semitic, but "offensive" and, of course, "tasteless." "It's not just the Jewish community," Phoenix ADL head Joel Breshin told the daily. "It's the larger community of people that are offended by it. At the very least, it's bad taste," adding darkly, "at the very worst, it could be something else." Milton, asked by the paper for her response, asked in return: "Does the ADL want to defend Nazi economic policy?"

Milton, far from being thrown by complaints from the arbiters of election-year "taste," addressed the serious questions posed by the ads in a radio interview: "I've told [Shadegg] a number of times," that his backing for deregulation "will kill people. And [as head of GOPAC], he took \$320,000 from the head of ValuJet, to lobby for deregulation and even the abolition of the FAA, all right? So, what deregulation does, is, it makes the airlines unsafe. It's a matter of record that ValuJet's accident rate is 14 times higher than the average for major airlines, okay? The age of their planes is 27 years. They farm out the maintenance. They can't pay a decent union wage, instead they go hire temporary mechanics at \$6 an hour. When you play these kind of games with peoples lives to make a buck, cost-cutting counts." She continued, "How much more is the privatization of Social Security and Medicare, the cost-cutting to make a quick buck, a threat to the lives of the sick and elderly?"

A mechanic for Western Airlines called into the station to confirm that what Milton had said about deregulation was "100% right. They're farming out handlers; they're farming out mechanics. This is what happened with ValuJet." The mechanic drove home his point: "You can't kill me as a talk show host, but you can as a mechanic, if I fly with an airline, and this is what is happening."

But, asked the host, do you really have to compare man-

aged health care to the Nazi Holocaust? Milton responded by reading from the conclusion of psychiatrist Dr. Leo Alexander, the expert witness who formulated the basis for the prosecution of the Nazi doctors at Nuremberg: “ ‘Whatever proportions these crimes finally assumed, it became evident to all who investigated them, that they had started from small beginnings. The beginnings at first were merely a subtle shift in emphasis in basic attitude, basic in the euthanasia movement, that there is such a thing as a life not worthy to be lived.’

“And what we have today,” she continued, “is the attitude that there are some patients out there, not worthy to receive treatment. And I’m making people look in the historical mirror of Nuremberg. Too many people were comfortable with fascism, and Adolf Hitler, in the ’30s. If they had been challenged when Hitler could have been stopped easily, the Holocaust, and World War II, could have been prevented. So, I invoke that Nuremberg statement. This is why the Nuremberg Trials were held, so that people would know the origins, the small beginnings, so that they could stop it, when the beginnings were small. Didn’t we say, ‘Never again!’ Didn’t we say that? And so, I invoke that standard, precisely to prevent the repeat of history.”

Milton’s campaign has generated enthusiasm among the Republican district’s Democratic voters, many of whom are overcoming years of media lies about Lyndon LaRouche, and asking Milton about his ideas and policies. On Oct. 10, she swept through three Democratic Legislative District Caucuses. At one, the chairman asked her to explain how she became associated with LaRouche, beaming, after her explanation, “This would be the upset of the century. I’ve never been so excited with a political campaign in my life!” Even Democrats who remained hostile to LaRouche, grudgingly admitted that he and Milton are right about Shadegg’s fascist policies, and will vote for her.

The candidate’s supporters have been phoning Republican voters in the 4th Congressional District, finding many abandoning Shadegg precisely because of his allegiance to Gingrich’s “Contract on Americans.” One woman, from a family of physicians, told the campaign: “You don’t have to tell me about managed health care. My husband and I heard the ad about it. We’re terrified with what’s going on. We’re voting for María Elena.” An 85-year-old woman, after hearing Shadegg’s weak defense of himself on the radio, volunteered to distribute 200 of Milton’s pamphlets throughout her senior citizen complex.

Focus on drug legalization

The Arizona election has become a focus of international attention, in part because of the issue of drug legalization. The London *Sunday Telegraph*, owned by the Hollinger Corp. media empire, ran an article on Oct. 13, titled “Arizona Puts Stamp of Approval on Pot.” In 1983, a law was passed in the state, licensing marijuana dealers, who now receive a stamp with the word “cannabis” on it. They are required to pay a



Arizona’s Congressional candidate María Elena Milton. The LaRouche Democrat is running against incumbent John Shadegg, a standardbearer of Gingrich’s Contract on Americans.

\$10 tax for every ounce they sell. Now, on the state’s ballot in the November election, is a referendum to “decriminalize” the so-called medical uses of marijuana (a similar referendum is on California’s ballot), which is heavily funded by super-speculator George Soros, the leading funder of the pro-legalization Drug Policy Forum. The drug lobby has long used the excuse of legalizing marijuana for medical purposes (there are none) as an entrée to a free market in mind-altering substances. The referendum, Proposition 200, would also lift prison sentences for possession of marijuana, heroin, LSD, and cocaine, because imprisonment is “too costly.”

Where do Milton and Shadegg line up on these issues? Milton strongly opposes drug legalization, and her campaign pamphlet demands that George Bush be jailed as a drug kingpin for his role in arranging for the Nicaraguan Contras to pay for their weapons by selling crack cocaine to Los Angeles gangs.

As for Shadegg, although he officially denies that he supports drug legalization, yet he is the founder of the Goldwater Institute, which works closely with groups like the pro-legalization Cato Institute. Shadegg is also one of the half-dozen members of the Republican Liberty Caucus, which espouses the libertarian ideas of Milton Friedman, F.A. Hayek, and Ludwig von Mises. Friedman is among the leading conservative backers of drug legalization. In a 1995 interview with John McLaughlin’s “One on One” broadcast, Shadegg boasted that he was against seizing drug lords’ assets during his tenure as Arizona’s Special Assistant Attorney General from 1983-90—i.e., when the state had effectively, if quietly, decriminalized marijuana.