

Only LaRouche is advancing ideas in the U.S. Presidential campaign

by Nancy Spannaus

It's already political season in the United States, as candidates for the Democratic and Republican party nominations for the year 2000 Presidential election seek to position themselves with the money and the support to win the nomination. The "standard wisdom" is that the winners have to raise more than \$20 million this year to have a chance to sweep the primaries, most of which have been moved up to late February and early March. By this standard, Al Gore (Democrat), George W. Bush (Republican), and Bill Bradley (Democrat) are leading the pack.

But the currency of the coming election is actually not going to be money at all: It's going to be *ideas* for dealing with the most devastating financial and strategic crisis in history. Measured by this standard, Democrat Lyndon LaRouche is the only qualified candidate, and the only candidate proposing ideas to address the reality of the world situation.

LaRouche statement on the Balkans

Take, for example, the matter of the war which is now raging in Kosovo, threatening to turn into a new Thirty Years War world war. Gore and Bradley have said virtually nothing about the war. The Republican candidates—all nine of them—have evaded specificity as much as possible, although their sentiments range from wanting an all-out ground war (John McCain) to seeking withdrawal (Pat Buchanan).

LaRouche, to the contrary, has been actively working to provide the ideas which could form the basis of a solution, not only to that particular conflict, but also to the underlying cause of the war: the financial collapse. On May 5, he issued the following campaign statement:

"Today, President Clinton arrived in Europe. Although the Rev. Jesse Jackson's success in bringing the U.S. servicemen out of Yugoslavia is notable, my attention is focussed on the President's efforts to bring Russia and relevant nations of western continental Europe fully into the effort to build an exit strategy for the present carnage in the Balkans. More may depend upon the President's success than most citizens might even suspect.

"You know my policy in this matter. I stated it in a keynote which I delivered at a recent seminar held in Germany's capital of Bonn-Bad Godesberg. The President is working in a similar direction; he deserves your energetic support in that effort.

"It is probable that a point may soon be reached at which the President will need the help of our active support for his efforts. Most continental European states are in support of the President's taking the lead in working for the exit strategy, but there are some other influential circles who would prefer that the world is plunged into a full-scale ground war in the Balkans. The President may need your full backing against those who wish him to fail. Give him that backing."

LaRouche then added, "I take the occasion to welcome former Sen. Bill Bradley into the Y2000 nomination campaign. I would hope that an additional qualified candidate would join us; the rebuilding of a victorious Democratic Party will require the kind of public dialogue which several of us, as Y2000 Presidential candidates, would be best situated to generate for Party-rebuilding purposes."

The Democratic Party mess

It should be common knowledge that the only factor which keeps the national Democratic Party alive, is the popularity of President Bill Clinton. Clinton provides the fundraising and the draw which generates what exists of *esprit de corps* in the party organization. That said, the party has seen its core constituencies—working people and minorities, in particular—slip away, in terms of organization and willingness to turn out at the polls. This is the lawful result of the compromises which President Clinton and the party made, most dramatically beginning in 1996, with his disastrous capitulation to Al Gore and Dick Morris in signing the Welfare Reform bill.

The reason for this disintegration is laid out in LaRouche's *Road to Recovery* campaign book, as is the solution. What is needed is a thoroughgoing dialogue within the population, with the objective of bringing back into an active role in the party, the constituencies associated with Franklin Delano Roosevelt: labor, minorities, independent farmers, and senior citizens.

If the "frontrunner" Al Gore succeeds in winning what he believes that he has inherited, there is virtually no chance that the Democratic Party will survive the Year 2000 elections in a form worthy of the name. Gore, with his commitment to Malthusian depopulation, free trade, and austerity, is distrusted or hated by most trade unionists, and many civil rights leaders. His nomination would lead to a smashing defeat for

the Democrats, most likely by Republican frontrunner George W. Bush.

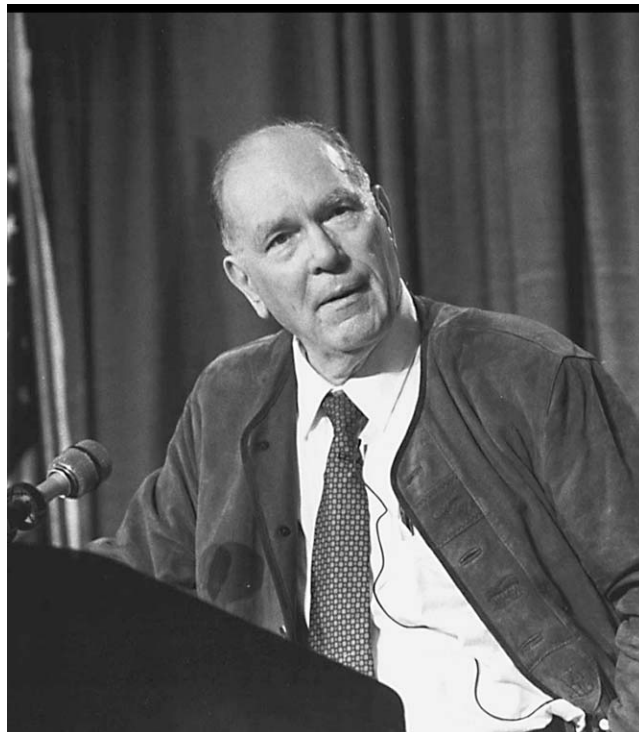
Despite the fact that party “insiders” are signing up for Gore, his support is paper-thin. Polls show Bradley, the only other Democratic candidate whom the establishment media is prepared to recognize, getting a surprising 23-35% against Gore. But some show a strong desire for another (*any* other) candidate. And leading columnists, as well as gossip columnists, are filling their pages with tales of the Vice-President’s gaffes and difficulties. Notable are the April 25 *Washington Post*, which stated that Bradley could upset Gore in the early primaries, and the statement by self-proclaimed Democratic Party “attack-dog” James Carville to the same effect.

Who is Bill Bradley?

The Bradley candidacy is, indeed, picking up steam. The former New Jersey Senator was endorsed on April 25 by Sen. Paul Wellstone of Minnesota, who had himself considered running for President, but pulled out due to health problems. Wellstone’s stated basis for the endorsement was Bradley’s emphasis on solving the growing problem of child poverty, and his opposition to the 1996 Welfare Reform Act. Bradley’s opposition to the Welfare Reform Act is not necessarily what you would expect from him, given his background. A Rhodes Scholar like President Clinton, and a former professional basketball player, Bradley served in the U.S. Senate from 1978 to 1996. There he took the middle of the road, collaborating with some of the Republicans on tax cut bills (1986), supporting the Contra operation, and advocating free trade. In his 1996 autobiography, *Time Present, Time Past, a Memoir*, Bradley cites as his three major accomplishments in the Senate the 1986 Tax Reform bill; the Brady bond reform of the late 1980s, which reduced Third World debt in the short-term, but only as a palliative; and the Clean Water Act of 1992.

Bradley’s book provides no indication that he recognizes the disaster of the “global economy” which goes along with the post-industrial axioms that set in in the 1960s, or the Malthusian axioms behind it. But interestingly, the former Senator does identify the crucial turning point, when President Nixon took the U.S. dollar off the gold standard in 1971. Criticizing the Democratic Party, he says, “we might have addressed the international economy, *whose monetary system had been broken since the early 1970s*, when inflation and Eurodollars forced the abandonment of fixed exchange rates backed by the gold standard, and whose chaotic functioning made business planning increasingly problematic.” (p. 54)

Unlike Gore, however, Bradley has been engaged for several years in travelling the United States talking to ordinary people, and his speeches reveal that he has learned about some of the realities of life. In addition to child poverty, and declining health care coverage, Bradley notes that the increased income of U.S. households in recent years is a direct result of more people in each household having to work! That’s hardly what you would call prosperity. When asked



Democratic pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche.

directly to distinguish himself from Vice President Gore on the “issues,” Bradley has so far demurred, saying that there will be plenty of time for such discussion in the fall. But he is picking up big financial backers, such as Microsoft, and was endorsed recently by none other than former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, whose murderous high interest rates of the late 1970s, Bradley points out, “brought the economy to a screeching halt.”

Gore on the Internet

While Vice-President Al Gore has been mercifully consigned to the “funeral” and “local disaster” circuit lately—keeping him at a distance from foreign policy—his problems have not decreased. His speeches inevitably fall flat, as the only variation in his normal monotone delivery is his occasional resort to shouting. As for campaign events, he is concentrating on the “little issues,” like suburban sprawl.

So far, no one outside the LaRouche movement is asking Gore the really hard questions. A few hundred thousand copies of the *New Federalist* pamphlet “The Pure Evil of Al Gore,” are circulating, and are being snapped up especially by trade union layers. One devastating question, for example, would be related to the massacre in Littleton, Colorado, whose perpetrators’ murderous inclinations were fostered by the hideous fare promoted on the Internet (see article, p. 00). Would Internet-promoter Al Gore like to take responsibility for that bit of evil, which goes directly with the medium that he promotes?