

LaRouche's ideas dominate state legislators' conference

Despite the fact that Lyndon LaRouche was prevented from addressing the national meeting of the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL), which took place in Indianapolis in late July, his drive for the Democratic Party nomination in the year 2000 dominated the debate among both Democratic and Republican legislators in attendance.

An organizing team dispatched from campaign headquarters brought a strong dose of reality to an agenda that otherwise generated very little interest. Few of the official panels drew more than 50-75 participants, while the majority of the several thousand in attendance spent their time at the nearby Indianapolis Speedway. Such behavior was not surprising, when one considers the content of most of the panels.

The conference occurred while most state legislatures are scrambling to control the damage wrought by the unraveling of the global financial system, including, but not limited to, the forced sell-off of many states' vital infrastructure to private interests, and the burden of providing some social safety net to increasing numbers of poor and working poor citizens, particularly as the catastrophic impact of Federal welfare reform legislation is being felt. Many face real medical emergencies due to the inadequacy of the states' health apparatus in the wake of the still growing AIDS epidemic. Others are having to deal with massive losses suffered by state pension funds that were heavily invested in high-risk derivatives and other speculative ventures.

Despite this, though, there was only one panel (undoubtedly the week's most heavily attended workshop) devoted to discussing the AIDS epidemic, and that was one organized by the National Black Caucus of State Legislators. For the most part, panels were dominated by high-pressure pitches for privatization, and fantasy-laden discussions about expanding trade with economies in Africa and elsewhere that are near death.

LaRouche organizers circulated thousands of copies of the candidate's analysis of the financial crisis and concomitant economic crisis, and his proposal for global reorganization. As distribution of the pamphlet "The Pure Evil of Al Gore" intensified, the number of "Gore for President" supporters noticeably diminished.

Just a few days before the commencement of the conference, the NCSL staff announced that former U.S. Senator Bill Bradley, who is also seeking the Democratic Party Presidential nomination, would address the gathering. When LaRouche's campaign committee demanded that LaRouche also be accorded an opportunity to speak, that request was

denied, with an excuse of "logistical considerations." Conference officials did feel compelled to provide the LaRouche campaign with a meeting room. Meanwhile, the major Indianapolis newspaper ran a cartoon ridiculing candidates Gore and Bradley, showing Bradley with long rubbery legs, and Gore with a tree trunk for a torso (an increasingly common depiction).

LaRouche spokeswoman Debra Hanania-Freeman released a statement condemning the inadequacy of the response (see *Documentation*), which was widely circulated among the participating legislators as well as the press. The denial of equal time to LaRouche, especially given that a significant number of both past and current NCSL members have endorsed his candidacy, became a point of heated controversy in several meetings of the group's governing bodies, and many legislators sought out the LaRouche organizers to tell them that they had registered protests with NCSL head Rep. Dan Blue (D-N.C.). Some even tried to persuade the campaign to seek legal recourse.

Although legislators were anxious to talk to the LaRouche organizers and the demand for LaRouche's material was high, most shied away from demands that they publicly endorse Lyndon LaRouche's candidacy now. Ironically, increasing numbers of Democratic legislators confided that they had little affection for Gore's candidacy. Some reported that even President Clinton, whose early anointment of Gore led to a widespread belief that Gore had the nomination tied up, was telling them that "Gore's candidacy is history."

"I'm really looking very closely at Bill Bradley," was an increasingly common refrain among the Democrats—that is, until Bradley spoke. According to the printed agenda, Bradley was to address two plenary sessions of the convention. A shorter Tuesday morning address was to be followed by a longer speech that afternoon. Inexplicably, however, the afternoon speech never occurred. As of this writing, it is not clear whether the decision to limit Bradley's remarks came from the Bradley campaign, or from the NCSL.

Those who did hear Bradley seemed less enthusiastic about his candidacy than they had been before. According to the written text that was released to the press, Bradley professed his undying faith in the magic of the marketplace, and attempted to peddle an increasingly hard-to-sell fantasy about endless gambling profits on the stock market.

One legislator, who had gone into the meeting talking about how he was seriously considering supporting Bradley, came out shaking his head in disgust. "That was the worst

speech I ever heard," he complained. By the end of the day, he had endorsed Lyndon LaRouche's candidacy.

Documentation

Debra Hanania-Freeman, national spokeswoman for Democratic Presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, released this letter to Dan Blue, chairman of the National Conference of State Legislatures, on July 26.

I've been informed that the NCSL has refused to allow Mr. LaRouche the opportunity to address the currently ongoing NCSL convention in Indianapolis.

As you know, Mr. LaRouche announced his candidacy for the Democratic Party nomination in July 1997 and, shortly thereafter, filed his statement of candidacy with the Federal Election Commission in Washington, D.C. Today, the FEC recognizes Mr. LaRouche as one of the three leading contenders for the Democratic nomination, along with Vice President Gore, and former U.S. Sen. Bill Bradley of New York.

Your organization's decision to extend an invitation to Senator Bradley, while denying a similar opportunity to Mr. LaRouche, reeks of the kind of "old boy" political fixing that one might have expected from Tammany Hall. It certainly is not what I expected from a progressive, multi-partisan associ-

ation like the NCSL.

The decision is not only unfair and, possibly illegal, it is also stupid. A worldwide economic depression is already under way. During the coming weeks and months, very few American voters will be able to retain any wishful delusions about the so-called economic recovery. The future of our nation and its people depends on the alacrity with which our leaders respond.

Mr. LaRouche is the leading proponent of a new, just monetary reorganization based on the American System, and, he is the leading opponent of the International Monetary Fund. Ironically, if you take each of the issues that the NCSL has defined as critical, from the crisis in health care, to the demise of America's agricultural production, to the collapse of our urban infrastructure, you will find that Mr. LaRouche has been directing the fight for solutions.

In 1996, Lyndon LaRouche received more than 600,000 votes within a limited number of states. The conditions of crisis now make his potential vote much higher. For many Americans, LaRouche's candidacy may well be the ONLY thing that brings them to the polls.

The NCSL's decision to exclude Mr. LaRouche is a very bad one. Within weeks, your members are likely to find their constituents screaming for solutions, while loudly invoking the "general welfare" clause of the U.S. Constitution. Had Mr. LaRouche been permitted to address the NCSL convention, your members would have been much better equipped to respond.

LaRouche associate Hecht is released on parole

LaRouche associate Laurence Hecht was released on parole on July 13, after serving 5 years, 8 months, and 13 days in the Virginia state prison system. In February 1987, he was charged with the crime of securities fraud, in prosecutions arising out of a joint Federal and multi-state "Get LaRouche" task force, which worked under the direction of Henry Kissinger, FBI Director William Webster, and the highest levels of the Justice Department permanent bureaucracy, to eliminate Lyndon LaRouche as a factor in U.S. and international politics.

Hecht was convicted in January 1991, and sentenced to 33 years. Three of his co-defendants, LaRouche associates Michael Billington, Anita Gallagher, and Paul Gallagher, are still serving time in Virginia prisons, with sentences of 77 years, 39 years, and 34 years, respectively.



Paroled political prisoner Laurence Hecht, shown here with a model of the scientific apparatus developed by Carl Gauss and Wilhelm Weber to measure the Ampère angular force in electrostatics. While in prison, Hecht made a study of the Ampère-Gauss-Weber development of the laws of electrostatics, which was published in the Fall 1996 issue of 21st Century Science & Technology magazine.