

ers of popular television and other news media to get access to the most qualified candidate on the scene, Lyndon LaRouche. This includes LaRouche's exclusion from media-sponsored political debates. Add to this the dirty tricks of the Gore-linked Democratic Party faction against LaRouche, and the idea that there are "free elections" in the United States is absurd.

Given the unpredictable nature of the world crisis, of course, there is no reason to believe that the results of the primaries, or even the results of the party conventions, will actually determine who will become President of the United States. During the year 2000, the world will likely face a dramatic depression collapse, a hyperinflationary blowout, and/or an accelerating series of war crises. Such developments will send the virtual reality of the American "economic boom" and other idiocies up in smoke, and wake up the self-deluded U.S. electorate. The question of leadership will be taken much more seriously, and it's anybody's guess what will happen.

The revolt against the establishment candidates in New Hampshire is only the beginning of what we can expect to be a long campaign of surprises. And those who have their grounding in the real economic and political crises shaping world politics, will keep their eyes on the LaRouche Democratic Presidential campaign.

The rigging of the U.S. election

The following was released by Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche's campaign committee, the Committee for a New Bretton Woods, on Jan. 24.

The American political establishment's efforts to obstruct the candidacy of Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. for President of the United States, has turned the U.S. election into a mockery of all internationally recognized standards for free and fair elections in a democracy. Since announcing his candidacy for the Democratic Party's nomination, LaRouche and his supporters have been subjected to a string of illegalities and totalitarian measures, reminiscent of those deplorable practices used to disenfranchise African-Americans throughout most of the past century. Now, those practices have been extended throughout the country, disenfranchising as much as 80% of the American electorate, and effectively replacing the U.S. elections with a privatized process controlled by a small clique of Party apparatchiks, news organizations, and corrupt state and Federal officials.

A review of only some of the abuses perpetrated against LaRouche's campaign, is enough to demonstrate the mendacity of America's claim to free and fair elections. In light of the U.S. State Department's continuous complaints about human rights violations in China and other countries, the following review of the status of the U.S. election process shows the extreme hypocrisy of those State Department pronouncements.

1. Effective disenfranchisement of LaRouche's voters

LaRouche has already qualified to appear on the Democratic Party primary ballots in 25 states, and efforts are under way to qualify in as many as 20 more. Democratic National Committee Chairman Joe Andrew has already announced his intention to disregard any and all votes cast for LaRouche in these elections! Andrew has declared that the U.S. Democratic Party is a "private club" that can exclude anyone it wants. As such, regardless of how many Democrats vote for LaRouche in these public elections, Andrew intends to exclude anyone who supports LaRouche from being a delegate to the Democratic National Convention, where the Party's nominee will be chosen.

This was exactly the same method used to exclude blacks from voting in Democratic Party primaries from the 1880s until the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965. In those "bad old days," the Democratic Party organizations in many states tried to exempt themselves from Federal laws against discrimination, by claiming to be private clubs with all-white membership. These all-white clubs would hold a "private" election, whose winners were the ones to ultimately gain public office, regardless of the outcome of the official public election.

In 1996, Andrew's predecessor, Donald Fowler, did the same thing. LaRouche and disenfranchised voters from several states sued for violations of the Voting Rights Act. That suit is currently pending before the U.S. Supreme Court.

2. Exclusion of LaRouche from nationally televised debates and media blackout

Despite the fact that LaRouche is one of only three candidates for the Democratic nomination who has qualified for Federal Campaign Matching Funds, has campaign organization in all 50 states, and has wide recognition nationally, he has been systematically excluded from all televised debates with his only two rivals, Vice President Al Gore and Senator Bill Bradley. These debates are sponsored by major news organizations. U.S. Federal law requires these organizations to use "objective criteria" to determine whom to include in these debates. By any objective criteria, LaRouche should be included, and the voters should have the opportunity to compare LaRouche's thinking to those of his opponents. Fearing that LaRouche's presence in these debates would present

the American electorate with a choice not acceptable to the establishment, the news organizations sponsoring the debates have simply decided not to invite him, without giving a reason. Complaints have been filed with the Federal Election Commission, but under their guidelines, the FEC will take no action until after the election.

The news media have made a further effort to manipulate the election by implementing a virtual blackout of coverage of LaRouche's campaign, including not reporting the simple fact that LaRouche is on the ballot!

3. Obstruction of LaRouche's access to the ballot

In several U.S. states, access to the ballot is determined by state officials, who dictatorially choose for whom the electorate will have a chance to vote. In many cases, these officials make their decision on the basis of news media support for the candidate. This creates the Catch-22 whereby the news media black LaRouche out, then this is used as a pretext for excluding LaRouche from the ballot. It effectively puts the decision of who will and who will not appear on the ballot, into the hands of executives of private news organizations. Despite the fact that LaRouche has wide recognition and support among the American electorate, voters in many states are denied the opportunity to even vote for LaRouche on the say-so of a few state officials and news organizations.

In states where officials denied LaRouche a place on the ballot, his supporters obtained signatures of registered voters on petitions to get on the ballot. In several cases, local officials have actively obstructed these efforts. In **Tennessee**, the home state of Al Gore, LaRouche supporters submitted over 5,700 signatures when only 2,500 were required. Yet, when these signatures were submitted to local election officials for verification, some of those officials refused to even verify most of the signatures. Voters from several counties in Tennessee have challenged this obstruction in state court.

In **Connecticut**, the Secretary of State refused LaRouche a place on the ballot, citing the news media as her authority. LaRouche's supporters then obtained more than 8,500 signatures of registered voters who want LaRouche's name to appear on the Connecticut Democratic primary ballot. State law requires that these signatures be filed with officials in every town in the state. But, when LaRouche supporters attempted to do so, they were told the officials were not available! This is exactly the tactic used to prevent blacks from registering to vote prior to the passage of the Voting Rights Act.

In **Michigan**, the Secretary of State refused to place LaRouche on the ballot, also citing the news media as his authority. In that case, LaRouche supporters obtained more than 23,000 signatures of registered voters who wanted LaRouche's name on the ballot. After LaRouche was certified

for a place on the Democratic Party ballot, Gore and Bradley withdrew from the race. The state Democratic Party has announced it will not recognize the result of the state-sponsored election, deciding to hold a private caucus instead. Party officials have already announced that LaRouche will be excluded from participation in these private caucuses.

In **Arizona**, the Democratic Party cancelled the state-run public primary after LaRouche filed to be included on the ballot. As in Michigan, Arizona Democrats have decided to hold a private primary in which voting will take place only via the Internet! There will be only one voting location per county, so unless the voter has a computer, he or she may have to travel more than 100 miles to vote. Arizona Democratic officials have also announced that LaRouche will be excluded from this private primary.

In **South Carolina**, a state with one of the most notorious records for discrimination in voting, Democratic officials have refused to even provide LaRouche with the form required to file for that state's primary. When LaRouche's representative, a state-wide union official, attempted to present the necessary documents and filing fee, state party officials refused to accept them, on orders from DNC chairman Andrew.

In **Utah**, Democratic Party officials refused to provide

DO YOU KNOW

- that the American Revolution was fought *against* British "free trade" economics?
- that Washington and Franklin championed Big Government?
- that the Founding Fathers promoted partnership between private industry and central government?

Edited by Nancy Spannaus and Christopher White

READ

The Political Economy of the American Revolution

edited by Nancy Spannaus and Christopher White

Order from:
Ben Franklin Booksellers
P.O. Box 1707
Leesburg, Va 20177
Toll-Free: 1-800-453-4108

\$15.00 plus \$4 shipping and handling

We accept MasterCard, VISA, American Express and Discover.

LaRouche with the documents necessary to file with state officials in order to appear on the ballot in that state's primary.

The incidents cited above, are but a small sample of the way the current U.S. elections are being rigged. This "privatization" of U.S. elections, and the disenfranchisement of so many voters, has produced some of the lowest voter turnouts in the world. Fewer than 50% of eligible voters in the United States vote, and more than 70% have expressed their distrust of the electoral process. In addition, 1 in 50 U.S. adults is prevented from voting, under laws that disenfranchise people who have previous criminal convictions. A disproportionate number of those with criminal convictions are black, thus, nearly 13% of African-American males—nearly 1.4 million people—can't even vote.

It is precisely these disenfranchised, forgotten people, the coalition of minorities, labor, farmers, scientists, and senior citizens, who formed the base of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Democratic Party, who are being galvanized by LaRouche's campaign. That is why the establishment is taking such desperate measures to avoid a fair, free, and open election in the United States of America.

Documentation

Judge orders LaRouche on Tennessee ballot

The following press release was issued by LaRouche's Committee for a New Bretton Woods on Jan. 31.

Election officials in Al Gore's home state were forced to admit this morning, that Democratic Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche had filed sufficient valid signatures to qualify for the March 14 Democratic Presidential primary ballot. The admission comes after a month of stonewalling by officials, who refused to put LaRouche on the ballot as a nationally recognized candidate, and then falsely claimed that LaRouche's petition was 406 short of the requisite 2,500 signatures.

Furthermore, even after some election officials began to acknowledge their negligence, the Tennessee Attorney General's office continued to obstruct LaRouche's access to the ballot. The assistant Attorney General assigned to the case made numerous misrepresentations to LaRouche's attorneys, advised local and state election officials not to cooperate, and otherwise tried to prevent the inevitable placement of LaRouche's name on the Democratic primary ballot. Because of the Attorney General's role in perpetrating this electoral fraud, LaRouche is demanding that the Attorney General be

ordered to pay all costs associated with the case.

Tennessee voters will now have the right to vote for LaRouche even though its Secretary of State Riley Darnell refused to put LaRouche on the ballot as a nationally recognized Presidential candidate, relying on national news media for his criteria to deny LaRouche ballot status. This fits with the national pattern of disenfranchising American voters by controlling the debate and the choice of candidates. As a result, LaRouche supporters had to petition to get access to the Tennessee ballot. This is now the 21st state which has certified LaRouche's name to appear on the Democratic Presidential primary ballot.

Today's hearing in the Davidson County chancery court was short. After Assistant Attorney General Janet Kleinfelter begrudgingly admitted that LaRouche had enough valid signatures, all that was left to do was to ask Chancellor Carol L. McCoy to order the state to put LaRouche's name on the ballot. A written order will be signed and issued requiring Darnell to notify all Tennessee county election administrators to put LaRouche's name on the ballot.

The state's concession was not easily won. LaRouche campaign volunteers have spent the entire month of January auditing the initial county clerks' verification process, which had reported that LaRouche's petition was 406 signatures short of the required 2,500. LaRouche's campaign filed almost 5,700 petition signatures on Dec. 20, 1999—well in excess of the 2,500 signatures required. When the LaRouche campaign learned on Jan. 11—two days before the official certification of the ballot—that Commissioner of Elections Brook Thompson's office believed LaRouche would not have sufficient valid signatures to qualify, suit was filed. The suit was filed against Darnell, Thompson, and three Election Commissioners in Davidson County (Nashville), Knox County (Knoxville), and Hamilton County (Chattanooga), seeking an injunction from printing the ballot without LaRouche's name on it. When campaign representatives first tried to audit the counties' verification procedures, they were denied access to the voter registration list. The campaign then had to purchase the database of registered voters for these counties to conduct its own audit of the verification process. It was revealed through this effort that hundreds of duly registered voters who had signed the petition were not validated through the clerks' checking.

Today's victory in Gore's backyard is a lesson to those who think they can get away with rigging the election process. Americans, when offered an alternative to the media-directed clown show called the Presidential campaign, readily respond to LaRouche. Unlike the big-bucks campaign of the so-called front-runners, LaRouche offers ideas for dealing with the real economic crisis every American faces, as well as the leadership to deal with the cascading regional wars now unleashed across the globe. As his ideas do get out to the public, hundreds of people are stepping up to volunteer and to help change the way things are.