

There is little doubt, that as more and more Democrats from around the nation rally around LaRouche's candidacy and mobilize themselves to derail the current DNC leadership's "New Democrat" racism, the fight will intensify.

Meanwhile, as the nation enters this next round of primaries, in which LaRouche is the sole opponent and alternative to Al Gore, LaRouche continues to focus his efforts on forcing the American people to face the reality of the strategic crises and financial collapse, and to prepare them to adopt the necessary shifts in policy for an emergency financial reorganization of the U.S. and the global economy. As LaRouche repeats at the end of his most recent TV broadcast, "The only question is when Americans will stop acting like fools." The fact is, it couldn't happen a moment too soon.

U.S. Supreme Court upholds DNC attack on Voting Rights Act

At the request of the Democratic National Committee, the U.S. Supreme Court on March 27 let stand a lower court ruling gutting the Voting Rights Act of 1965. In its one-sentence ruling, the court affirmed the decision of a three-judge U.S. District Court here in Washington, D.C., that lets the Democratic National Committee (DNC) evade the Voting Rights Act, by claiming it can act as a "private club."

This potentially mortal blow to civil rights, has been brought about solely by the actions of the DNC—which, in defiance of the hard-won struggle for the right to vote, has insisted on its right to return to the days of "Jim Crow" in order to nullify elections and exclude Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche. Democrats wishing to reverse this attack on civil rights, can begin by changing the composition of the Democratic National Committee.

In the March 27 ruling, the Supreme Court ignored an *amicus curiae* (friend of the court) brief filed by former Congressman James Mann on behalf of more than 60 prominent Democratic Party officials, who urged the court to back LaRouche's position.

The case was brought by Lyndon LaRouche and voters from Virginia, Louisiana, Texas, and Arizona, in 1996, after Donald Fowler, then DNC chairman, ordered the state Democratic parties to disregard votes cast for LaRouche in the Presidential primaries and caucuses in those states without first obtaining pre-clearance by the U.S. Department of Justice, as required by the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

To try to save the Voting Rights Act, the crowning achievement of the civil rights movement, from such a vile attack by the DNC, LaRouche and the voters sued in Federal court in Washington.

In August 1999, a three-judge court, led by U.S. Appeals Court Judge David Sentelle, heard the DNC's lawyer, John C. Keeney, Jr. argue that sooner than apply the Voting Rights Act to the DNC, it should be declared unconstitutional. Keeney based his argument on previous dissenting opinions by Supreme Court Justices Antonin Scalia, William Rehnquist, and Clarence Thomas, who have all urged nullification of the Voting Rights Act.

(Keeney is the son of Deputy Assistant Attorney General John C. Keeney, Sr., the notorious "Hooverite" in the DOJ and the architect of the racist "Operation Fruehmensch" program, under which Justice Department prosecutors targeted African-American elected officials for political frameups.)

Several months after the August 1999 arguments, Sentelle, an ally of North Carolina Sen. Jesse Helms (R), adopted Keeney's position, holding that the DNC was exempt from the Voting Rights Act, and could extend that exemption to state Democratic parties acting on DNC orders. Sentelle's ruling flew in the face of decades of civil rights cases that had routinely rejected arguments like Keeney's as nothing more than racist subterfuges.

Following this ruling, LaRouche et al. appealed to the Supreme Court.

'A private club'

It is not surprising that the DNC found on the Supreme Court a majority to agree with its position that the Democratic Party is a private club and as such, not subject to the provisions of the Voting Rights Act. After all, this was the argument raised in the past by the segregationist Democratic Party to justify the all-white "Jaybird" parties, and has been supported on the current Supreme Court by Rehnquist, Scalia, and Thomas.

Besides, this Supreme Court has signalled in many ways its intention to roll back laws which promote the General Welfare. For example: the High Court's Jan. 25 ruling saying, in effect, that the Justice Department must agree to pre-clear under the Voting Rights Act changes in voting procedures, even if the changed procedures have the intent to discriminate against minority voters, as long as the changes leave the present level of discrimination in place, rather than worsening it!

Another example: On the day that it ruled in the LaRouche case, the Supreme Court upheld one of the cruellest provisions of the Welfare Reform Act of 1996, ruling, against the city of Chicago, that there is no violation in throwing all *legal* immigrants off welfare after five years; that no constitutional obligation exists to provide any benefits to legal immigrants.

Meanwhile, the Democratic leadership is committing political suicide. The DNC's current chairman, Joe Andrew, insists on following in Fowler's racist footsteps. If the Democratic Party persists in this "New Democrat" racism, it is guaranteed to lose the White House, and is virtually assured that Democrats will become a dwindling minority in Congress as well.