

LaRouche Continues Drive as Gore Self-Destructs

by Debra Hanania Freeman

When John McCain and George W. Bush appeared at a joint press conference to announce that McCain had agreed to endorse Bush, even though there was clearly little warmth between the two, it raised the obvious question: Would there be a similar “rapprochement” on the Democratic side between Gore and Bradley?

Since former New Jersey Senator Bill Bradley suspended his bid for the Democratic Presidential nomination, there have been no joint public appearances, nor has any private meeting between the two occurred. It is no secret that the two men have always disliked each other, but that dislike intensified into hatred when Bradley became the victim of Gore’s well-known thuggery in the early round of Democratic primaries. Even the *Washington Times* reports, “There has been no public purging of the bad blood he [Bradley] has harbored toward the Vice President, whom he characterized throughout the primaries as a lying, craven political opportunist who cannot be trusted with the Presidency.”

In the wake of McCain’s endorsement of his former opponent, Gore’s campaign rushed out a press release saying that no such event was necessary on the Democratic side, since Bradley had made it clear, when he dropped out of the race, that he was supporting the Vice President. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Eric Hauser, Bradley’s national spokesman, confirmed that Bradley has refused to release the 500 delegates he won prior to suspending his campaign, and noted that Bradley has refrained from urging those who voted for him to switch their allegiance to Gore. Another top Bradley strategist, media consultant Mike Murphy, said, “Bradley still has enough national stature to create huge and horrific problems for Gore. Bill Bradley is important and is being ignored by Gore. And, if Bradley wants to, he could make a lot of trouble. I’m personally shocked that there has not been a lot more attention paid to Gore’s snubbing of Bradley. Gore murdered Bradley, with

bloody fingerprints, yet there’s no penalty.”

Bradley’s name continues to appear on many state primary ballots and he continues to amass even more delegates. In fact, in every primary where Bradley’s name has appeared on the ballot, even though he announced the cessation of his campaign in late March, he has garnered 20-27% of the popular vote—no more, no less than his average vote when he was campaigning actively.

Under Gore’s direction, the Democratic Party has orchestrated its own disintegration, in an attempt to squash any opposition to Gore’s nomination. But there is sure to be a brawl at the Democratic Convention in August, and the fight may break out way before then. Unless a “dark horse” candidate emerges as the party’s nominee, the Democratic Party is heading for disaster in November. Various people are making it clear that they would be available to fill a dark horse role, but all of them are seriously compromised, because they have, thus far, publicly succumbed to Gore’s “Third Way” insanity, and aren’t prepared to deal with the crises facing the nation. That leaves Lyndon LaRouche as the only qualified candidate, and he continues to campaign actively, with a commitment to mobilize that 80% of the U.S. population that will otherwise sit out this election.

Thug Tactics

After driving Bradley out of the race, the Gore apparatus moved to cancel primaries in several states, despite the fact that his nomination is still being challenged by LaRouche. In cancelling primaries, the Democratic Party has not only denied Democratic voters the right to cast their votes for LaRouche, it has even ruled out the traditional option offered Democrats of going to the national nominating convention as “uncommitted.”

In Virginia, state party officials happily acquiesced to Gore’s demand, that Democrats seeking to go to the National

Convention pledged to LaRouche, be barred from participating in that state's delegate selection caucuses. When LaRouche's supporters decided to participate in the caucuses, and seek status as "uncommitted" delegates, the Gore campaign went nuts. In several locales, voters were told that caucuses were cancelled, only to find later that caucuses were convened "in secret." This occurred in Virginia Beach, where the uncommitted slate would have won not only delegates to the State Convention, but to the National Convention. In other places, Gore's goons employed a different tactic. In Hampton, the uncommitted slate filed more delegate candidates than the Gore slate, but neither had a full slate. According to state Democratic Party rules, when there are more delegate seats available than candidates filed to fill them, the local chair may, if he wishes, cancel the caucus. But, when the Hampton Democratic Party tried to do this, the state party and the Gore campaign intervened, pushing the local officials aside, and conducting the caucus themselves. Despite these flagrant violations, the uncommitted slates won significant numbers of delegate seats in both Loudoun County in northern Virginia, and in the Tidewater area.

Gore's minions responded by scheduling an "Emergency Credentials" hearing in Richmond. After a very heated exchange, state party officials, with an arrogant disregard for both the Constitution and their own rules, nullified the results, booted out the "uncommitted" delegates, and replaced them with Gore delegates.

Similar tactics have been employed elsewhere. In Kansas, first the state-sponsored primary was cancelled. Then the Democratic Party-run primary was cancelled. By the time the Kansas Democratic Party got around to holding delegate selection caucuses, fewer than 600 people participated! In Washington, D.C., few voters were even aware that there was a primary election, resulting in the lowest voter participation in District history.

In an effort to squelch all opposition to Gore, the Democratic National Committee (DNC) apparatus in Washington has demoralized voters, but it hasn't done much to help the unelectable Gore. While polls show that the idiot son of former President Bush had the support of 91% of all Republicans, and that number has probably increased somewhat since he received McCain's endorsement, only 71% of Democrats say they will vote for Gore.

Gore's obsession with locking LaRouche and his supporters out of the Democratic Convention stems not only from Gore's personal hatred of LaRouche, but from Gore's abandonment of the Democratic Party's traditional base. It is precisely that base—the 80% of American families who make up the nation's lower income brackets—that LaRouche has the unique ability to bring into the electoral process, and without which the Democrats will not only lose the White House, but be dealt a crushing defeat in both houses of the Congress.

Further evidence of the DNC's drive to destroy the party comes with the DNC Chairman Joe Andrew's failure to host

Democratic Platform Hearings prior to the August Convention. Traditionally, in any Presidential election year, the DNC appoints a Temporary Platform Committee that hosts hearings in major cities in June. Those are usually followed by a round of regional hearings just prior to the National Convention. So far, however, Andrew has failed to even appoint a Temporary Platform Committee!

Gore Fears Debate

One Democratic Party operative in the nation's capital spoke on the condition of anonymity. "Traditionally," he said, "the platform hearings don't mean all that much in reality. But, they are a vehicle by which you can mobilize the base, the traditional constituencies, and give them an opportunity to let off some steam. They say what they need to say, and the higher ups sit there and nod sympathetically. Sure, most of the time they don't deliver much, but it serves to rally the troops. But this year, platform hearings aren't in Gore's interest. His view is that these people will vote for him anyway. What choice do they have? Bush? The guy will kill them and they know it. Gore is the lesser evil. But, platform hearings will only serve to accentuate how far away Gore is from representing the interests of those people. Nobody wants to put a spotlight on that. There won't be any hearings, because those kind of hearings are a liability to the Crown Prince."

Perhaps so. But the fact is that the tactic is destroying the ability of state Democratic parties to mobilize voters, and is producing panic among Democrats who are seeking election or re-election themselves.

The phenomenon was starkly evident in Alabama on May 6-7, when the Alabama New South Coalition hosted its Endorsement Convention in Birmingham. The group's endorsement is normally a highly coveted one in Alabama, among the last states to hold primary elections on June 6. But this year, with the sole exception of a hotly contested race in the state's 7th Congressional District, where racist Dixiecrats and the GOP have formed a dirty alliance in an attempt to unseat incumbent Rep. Earl Hilliard, who has a long history in the state's civil rights struggle, and who has been an unflinching ally of President Clinton, as well as an emerging leader of the Congressional Black Caucus, no congressional candidates even put in an appearance.

Although the organization extended an invitation to Presidential candidates in both parties, only LaRouche sent an official representative (a position the author was happy to serve in). And, while Gore did obtain the official endorsement of the group, no one seemed willing to defend him. Instead, conference participants milled around LaRouche's literature table, asking questions, and leaving with large stacks of literature to distribute before the June 6 primary, where LaRouche is Gore's sole opponent. The Alabama State Legislature has already become the first in the nation to pass a LaRouche-initiated resolution calling for the convening of a New Bretton Woods Conference to address the collapse of the global financial and economic system.