

Gore's Theft of LaRouche Vote Provokes a Backlash

by Michele Steinberg

On June 9, in Little Rock, Arkansas, two delegates for Democratic Party Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche took one of the most important actions for freedom in the United States since the great victories of the civil rights movement in the 1960s. Led by Rev. Robert L. Aycock and Erma Jennings, the LaRouche delegates filed their slate of delegate-candidates to be elected as part of the Arkansas delegation to the Democratic National Convention. The delegates represent more than 53,000 Democrats who voted LaRouche in the Arkansas Democratic primary on May 20, and gave him 22% of the vote. But, as reported by *EIR* last week, Al Gore has *stolen* the LaRouche votes, and claimed all of Arkansas's 48 delegates for himself.

The Arkansas case is only one illustration of Gore's desperate behavior, which has turned the U.S. election into a fascist charade, which has international voices and loyal Democrats expressing their disgust with the unelectable Gore.

At the center of the controversy is Gore's stealing of LaRouche delegates and votes in Arkansas, Michigan, and Virginia. In the primary elections, LaRouche received over 20% of the vote in Michigan and 22% in Arkansas. In Virginia, members of the LaRouche wing of the Democratic Party ran as delegates to the state convention as the "uncommitted" slate (after Democratic Party officials announced that they would obey Democratic National Committee [DNC] orders not to seat *any* LaRouche delegates to the state or national convention), and won more than 90 delegates to the state convention. The Gore campaign went into high gear to force the bureaucrats who run the Virginia Democratic Party like a plantation, to disqualify the "uncommitted" slate.

Gore's crime is not directed against the delegates alone. It disenfranchises the more than 30% of registered, voting Democrats, who want their voice heard in opposition to Gore.

In Virginia, more than 30% of the Democrats were disenfranchised—their votes were discarded!

Worldwide Outrage against Gore, DNC

The good news is that an international outcry is building around the LaRouche case.

On June 6, the Brazilian daily *Monitor Mercantil* ridiculed both Gore's stealing of LaRouche's delegates and the threats that the United States has made against Peru for allegedly running "undemocratic elections."

The article, entitled, "Glass Roof," stated:

"At the same time that it poses as the champion of democracy, attacking the irregularities which marked the election of Alberto Fujimori to his third term as President of Peru, the U.S. government faces domestic challenges. The campaign staff of the Democratic Party Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche requested that the Organization of the American States (OAS) and its Inter-American Human Rights Commission take measures to prevent the corruption of the electoral process in the United States. LaRouche complains that, despite having obtained 53,280 votes (22% of the total) in the primary election in Arkansas, as against 194,171 for Vice President Al Gore, the party's state leadership announced the transfer of the 6-10 delegates which were his right, by the criteria of proportionality, to Gore."

The OAS has accepted the LaRouche campaign's demand for an investigation into the vote fraud in the U.S. Democratic Party. In addition, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has replied to the campaign, LaRouche's Committee for a New Bretton Woods, following a formal request for investigation: "We have received your 1 June 2000 Supplement to the 24 April 2000 complaint and Request for Investigation and considered them seriously, as

reflected in two recent meetings with your representatives in Warsaw. We provided them with advice on how they might proceed within the OSCE context, as the ODIHR does not have a mandate to investigate electoral complaints.” In order to get a mandate to proceed, eight member governments of the OSCE, or the executive committee of the OSCE, comprised of Austria, Norway, and Romania, must demand an investigation.

The Arkansas vote theft draws local attention, as well. On June 9, the day of the Little Rock press conference by the LaRouche delegates, the *Benton County Daily Record* in north Arkansas published an accurate account of the Gore campaign moves to steal the LaRouche votes and delegate seats.

“Democratic Presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, an economist and frequent Presidential candidate, certainly won about 22% of the vote in the Arkansas Democratic primary May 23—some 53,280. But how many delegates that showing should permit him to get is a matter of dispute,” the paper wrote.

“State and national Democratic Party spokesmen have said LaRouche, 77, won’t get any Arkansas delegates to the Democratic National Convention; won’t get delegates to the state Democratic convention; and won’t get delegates to the Democrats’ Arkansas Congressional District caucuses. . . .

“Arkansas’ Democratic Party chairman Vaughn McQuary said that was because Joe Andrews [sic], Democratic [National] Committee chairman, declared LaRouche ineligible to receive delegates. . . .

“Still, LaRouche said Thursday, he won’t be surprised if events force an open convention, giving him a chance at Arkansas delegates, as well as a chance at the party’s Presidential nomination.

“He’s in frequent contact with people—people who ask not to be identified publicly—who are dissatisfied with Gore’s Presidential election prospects, and he believes that a worsening economy is already hastening the day when Democrats will seek another standard-bearer, LaRouche said.”

The article concluded by quoting LaRouche: “‘I would hope for the sake of the country and the Democratic Party to deny Mr. Gore the nomination, because if he is nominated, the Democratic Party is going to take a worse pasting than it did with [Michael] Dukakis as candidate in 1988. He’s a loser. Not only would he lose to Bush, but he would drag down the Democratic Congressional vote considerably . . . and there’s a great deal of fuss inside the Democratic Party about what they’re going to do about this.’”

‘Guys Hate Gore!’

On June 6, the last of the Democratic Party Presidential primaries occurred in New Jersey, Alabama, and New Mexico. In the latter two states, nearly a quarter of all Democrats who turned out to vote, voted *against* Gore. In New Jersey, where Gore was running against LaRouche alone, there is

still an ongoing inquiry into discrepancies in the vote totals. LaRouche was officially given 5% of the vote.

A very uncomfortable Bill Bradley was interviewed by reporters as he left the polling place. While he admitted that he had voted for Al Gore, the former U.S. senator and challenger for the Democratic nomination fudged about whether he would actively support Gore’s election bid. So far, Bradley has refused to release his more than 400 convention delegates.

Gore’s growing unpopularity among Democratic Party core constituents came in the June 7 *Financial Times* of London, which published a column by Gerard Baker, reporting that “guys hate Gore.” Forty percent of voters polled recently, Baker reported, had strong negative feelings about Gore. “Polls indicate that men especially find something objectionable about Mr. Gore. He reminds them of the smart kid in school who always knew all the answers.”

Days earlier, Gore had been exposed on television in his hometown, and campaign headquarters, of Nashville, Tennessee, as a slumlord, who refused to make essential repairs at a home near his ranch that he leased to a family on disability with five children. National newspapers rushed to Carthage, Tennessee, and gave the “Gore the slumlord” story days of coverage.

The Party Is Over!

Gore’s campaign strategy for dealing with his unpopularity is clear: He has not given a press conference in six weeks, and sources close to the Vice President indicate that he was so flustered by questions from LaRouche supporters at several public appearances, that he is going to dodge any uncontrolled media opportunities for the indefinite future. And, several senior Democratic Party officials, including one member of Congress, have confirmed that the Democratic Party nominating convention on Aug. 14-17 is going to be the most controlled affair in history. The Gore forces have reportedly made costly arrangements to have all communications between state delegations handled through laptop computers and e-mail, to assure that no insurgency from the floor to open the convention can get off the ground.

Furthermore, the DNC-Gore combine has unilaterally *cancelled* public hearings on the Democratic Party platform. Such hearings, which traditionally occur throughout the country, serve as a summertime rallying point for the party faithful, and give grass-roots activists a chance to have their voices heard on vital policy matters.

With the DNC taking this suicidal decision, supporters of LaRouche have called platform hearings in Washington, D.C. on June 22, where dozens of party officials are expected to engage in a free-wheeling policy dialogue—the very thing that Gore and company fear the most, and the very thing that may save the Democratic Party and the nation from the Gore-DNC suicide pact. Right now, that suicide pact has folks at the George W. Bush campaign headquarters smiling from ear to ear.