

LaRouche: DNC Chair Should Step Down To Save the Party

by Michele Steinberg

On June 16, Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche called for Democratic National Committee (DNC) Chairman Joe Andrew to immediately step down as chairman of the party. LaRouche issued the comments following reports that a lying, slanderous letter by Andrew had been sent out to officially disqualify all of LaRouche's delegates who had been elected in the Presidential primaries.

LaRouche's statement, issued from Germany, where the candidate is engaging in high-level meetings with representatives from many nations, on the nature of the current global financial and strategic crises, said:

"Joe Andrew has shown himself to be a liar, a racist, and a fascist. He should be asked to resign his position as Chair of the DNC. If he is permitted to continue as DNC Chair, the Democratic Party will not only lose the Presidency, but will be dealt a crushing defeat in the Congress. Removing Andrew now is the only way to save the party from a disaster come November. I don't know what the personal motivation behind Joe Andrew's behavior is, but it is irrelevant. His continuing public performance as a liar, a racist, and a fascist is not only unacceptable, it is comparable to that of Adolf Hitler, although one might argue that Hitler may have been smarter."

LaRouche's statement comes just days after seven leading members of the Italian Senate in Rome, called for an official inquiry into the mistreatment of candidate LaRouche and his elected delegates by the Gore machine (see article, p. 77).

The behavior of Andrew reflects the increasing panic and irrationality of the DNC's chosen candidate, Al Gore, Jr., who fired his campaign chairman, former Congressman Tony Coelho, on June 15, the same day that LaRouche's elected delegates began receiving letters nullifying their election.

Panic over LaRouche

The first reports of the letters from Gore lackey Andrew came from Arkansas Democrats who had filed to run as Dem-

ocratic National Convention delegates pledged to LaRouche at the June 24 Arkansas Democratic Convention. These delegates received letters from Arkansas Democratic Chairman Vaughn McQuary on June 15, informing them that they would not be seated at the State Convention, nor would they be permitted to go to the National Convention as delegates pledged to LaRouche, despite the fact that LaRouche polled over 22% of the vote in that state's primary election, thereby entitling him to 22% of the 48 delegates Arkansas will send to the National Convention in August.

Although Arkansas party officials had hinted to the press, that they would disregard the votes of more than 53,000 Arkansas Democrats who cast their votes for LaRouche, the letter from McQuary represents the first official statement that the state party would disregard the state's election code. McQuary writes: "The Democratic Party of Arkansas has received paperwork that you plan to attend the special state convention on June 24, 2000, and that you are planning to participate on behalf of Lyndon H. LaRouche. Please be advised per directive of the Democratic National Committee, delegates pledged to Lyndon LaRouche will not be seated or allowed to participate in the June 24, 2000 special convention."

McQuary's letter is accompanied by a copy of a letter addressed to "State Party Chairs" from DNC Chairman Andrew, in which Andrew orders them to "disregard any votes that might be cast for Mr. LaRouche." The Andrew letter was first issued on Jan. 18, and included what were known to be lies, accusing LaRouche of subscribing to views that "are explicitly racist and anti-Semitic."

Andrew's Jan. 18 edict had already been denounced by more than 1,000 Democratic elected officials, who responded to the slander against LaRouche with "shock and disgust," in an open letter that appeared in newspapers across the nation. The fact that Andrew *reissued* the same lying charges has shocked even more loyal Democrats into questioning Gore's



Arkansas LaRouche delegate The Rev. Robert Aycock (right) filing at Democratic Party headquarters in Little Rock on June 6.

motives, and state of mind.

Andrew's latest mailing states that, should his orders be challenged, and by chance, reach the Credentials Committee of the 2000 Democratic National Convention, he will order the Credentials Committee "to resolve that any such [LaRouche] delegate not be seated at the convention."

At the same time that the Arkansas Democrats were notified that they would be barred from any participation at the convention, Max Dean, a well-known attorney from Flint, Michigan who serves as LaRouche's authorized representative in that state, and who had filed a challenge to the Michigan Party's decision to exclude LaRouche supporters from that state's delegation selection caucuses, despite the fact that LaRouche won the Michigan Democratic primary, received notification from the DNC's Rules and Bylaws Committee that, "after reviewing the challenge, the answer to the challenge," and the Andrew order, "we have determined that there is no genuine issue of material fact between the parties."

The decision, which is signed by committee co-chairs James Roosevelt, Jr. and Carol Khare, maintains that since the DNC chairman holds sole and absolute authority "to determine whether a person is recognized as a candidate for the Democratic nomination for President," the Michigan Democratic Party "appropriately disregarded votes cast for LaRouche during the Michigan caucuses." Finally, it concludes that "any challenge to the delegate selection process brought on [LaRouche's] behalf is without merit and therefore fails to present any genuine issues of material fact."

A spokesman for LaRouche's campaign confirmed that campaign representatives are meeting with attorneys to consider emergency action to stop these continuing violations of state and Federal law. A temporary restraining order may be sought to prevent the June 24 Arkansas Special Convention from going forward.

On June 15, as LaRouche delegates were being illegally

disenfranchised, the unstable Gore dumped his Presidential campaign chairman, Tony Coelho, and announced that he is hiring Commerce Secretary William Daley.

The reported reason was Coelho's "health problems" involving an "inflamed colon," and other maladies. But, forget the official story from the Gore 2000 campaign. *EIR* has published detailed reports of the fact that Coelho is facing criminal investigations that include: 1) a State Department Inspector General's probe into misuse of U.S. Government funds for a private foundation that he established while serving as Ambassador in charge of the U.S. Pavillon at the World Exposition of 1998; 2) two Securities and Exchange Commission investigations into questionable practices in businesses linked to legalized gambling; and, 3) a General Accounting Office investigation, which was requested by a Congressman, into whether Coelho had abused

his position as Democratic co-chair of the U.S. Census Monitoring Board to write a report covering up for his misuse of government funds in the Lisbon Expo '98. It had gotten so bad, reported columnist Robert Novak, that Coelho could not appear on television without being hit with questions that were seriously jeopardizing Gore's election campaign.

Observers in Washington stress that Gore is not making a power play: He's in a panic! He has not held a press conference in months, especially after being confronted at town meetings by LaRouche supporters about stealing LaRouche's delegates. Gore is shutting down all discussion and debate. For example, the DNC has eliminated platform hearings, as part of the fanatical commitment to deliver the nomination to Gore without discussion or dissent. And, in what could trigger a tidal wave of opposition, *all free speech* will be banned at the convention.

A labor-linked Democratic leader reported his shocking discovery to the LaRouche campaign. He was given a tour of the convention site, the Staples Center in Los Angeles, by a honcho from the Convention Committee, and was told that the convention would be totally "wired." This means that there will be no microphones on the floor. Instead, each state will have a computer terminal. Communication between the state delegations and the podium will be conducted by *totally controlled* e-mail, routed through a message center, screened by interns, and then passed on to members of the Gore convention team. Gore's thugs will then decide whether to send it to the podium.

On June 16, reporter Howard Fineman, who had just interviewed Gore on Air Force Two, said, "Replacing one campaign chairman with another won't make any difference. The problem is not the campaign, but the candidate." That's an understatement, about a candidate who spits in the face of 53,000 Democratic voters in just one state, and tells them that their votes *don't count*.