

process by which the core constituencies are usually mobilized.

Again, LaRouche moved into the vacuum, facilitating Ad Hoc Democratic Platform Hearings that occurred in Washington, D.C. on June 22. A dozen Democratic legislators from across the nation were joined by former U.S. Senator and Democratic Presidential nominee Eugene McCarthy to take testimony from those whom the DNC had refused to hear. The testimony was so compelling that LaRouche committed his campaign to producing and circulating 1 million copies of the complete proceedings prior to the August convention.

The Gore apparatus was embarrassed into a hurried attempt to conduct some sort of hearings themselves, and finally, the official Democratic Platform Committee met in Cleveland, for a poorly publicized and tightly controlled “platform hearing.”

Despite their efforts, a dramatic and open revolt against the Gore-dictated Platform, and against its explicit rejection of the traditional constituencies that comprise the base of the party, burst into the public arena. Prominent Democratic elected officials, including several members of Congress, local elected officials, including Cleveland’s Mayor and City Council, a powerful delegation from California, led by State Sen. Tom Hayden, and labor leaders representing some of the nation’s largest unions, announced they had formed a “Progressive Democratic Caucus,” which represented, they said, “the democratic wing of the Democratic Party.” The Gore thugs moved ruthlessly to quash the dissenters.

Ultimately, the Gore-dominated Platform Committee produced a platform that they boasted meant the official death of the Democratic Party as the Party of FDR and JFK. Gore’s chief campaign policy adviser Elaine Karmarck bragged that they had drafted a platform “that will attract Independents and Republicans.” Unfortunately, it didn’t attract Democrats. As Democrats travelled to Los Angeles for the National Convention, they learned that for the first time in Democratic Party history, there would be no open microphone on the Convention floor; the DNC had issued a decree banning floor demonstrations; there was no debate to be conducted on the floor on any issue, including on the Democratic Platform. The convention was held in an area that was cordoned off and could only be accessed by bus. Every delegate bus had two Los Angeles sheriff’s deputies on board. Hotels housing convention delegates were told they had to sign a contract with the DNC to rent no meeting rooms during the Convention period without prior approval by the DNC.

The scripting of the nomination of Al Gore was something between a Nazi Party Nuremberg rally and a bizarre coronation that would turn the Democratic Party of FDR into a second Republican Party. And, although the author has less direct knowledge of the Republicans’ gathering, the public coverage of the event would attest to the fact that it was pretty much the same routine.

Primaries Were Rigged Against LaRouche

by Bruce Director

Nothing demonstrates more clearly the corruption of the Presidential election of 2000, than the all-out effort by the political establishment, to obstruct and suppress Lyndon H. LaRouche’s campaign for the Democratic nomination. By taking every conceivable measure to block LaRouche’s campaign, the establishment ensured that no serious issues were ever discussed, and that no alternative to Al Gore emerged in the Democratic Party. Many foreign observers were struck by the fact that Bush and Gore, the anointed unelectables, were able never to mention the global economic and financial crisis under way — a crisis which neither of them is competent to understand or deal with.

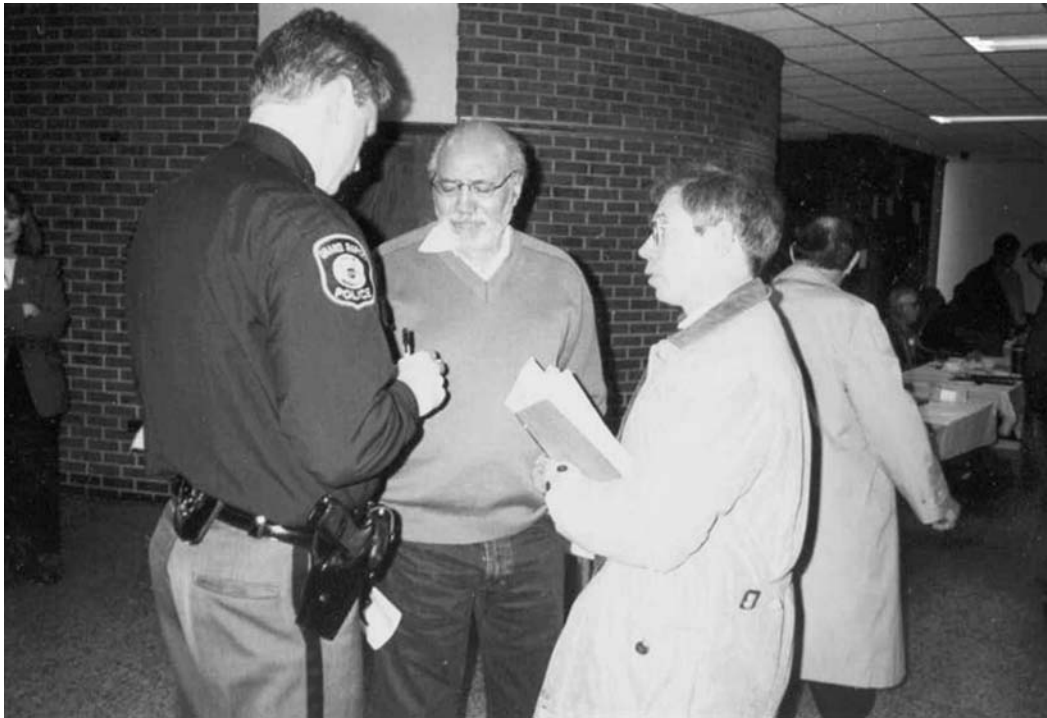
The measures taken against LaRouche were extensive, and included: orchestration of a systematic media blackout of LaRouche’s campaign; the disregarding of votes cast for LaRouche in Democratic primary elections; and a concerted effort by Gore campaign partisans to obstruct LaRouche’s access to the ballot in many states.

Media Blackout

Despite the fact that LaRouche was the only candidate for the Democratic nomination, besides Vice President Gore and Sen. Bill Bradley, to qualify for Federal matching funds, the national news media gave LaRouche virtually no national news coverage. Editors, reporters, and other representatives of the major news organizations told LaRouche campaign officials, that the official policy of their organizations is “not to cover LaRouche.” Typical was a recent conversation between a *Los Angeles Times* executive and a visiting German journalist. The *Times* executive told the journalist, who was looking for news coverage of LaRouche’s campaign, “You should be in an insane asylum.” This media blackout was crucial in *blacking out the real economy as an issue for debate in the election* — as Americans are now realizing to their dismay, with inflation raging and markets cracking up.

With Gore and Bradley both lying about the “unprecedented economic prosperity,” the traditional base of the Democratic Party was, in effect, left with no voice, leading to the lowest primary-election voter turnout in history.

The top-down coordination of the media blackout is demonstrated clearly by the exclusion of LaRouche from the televised debates. All the Gore-Bradley debates were sponsored by major news organizations which had full control over who was allowed to participate. By any objective criteria,



Police were called by the Michigan Democrats, to bar LaRouche Democrats from entering the caucuses. Here, one trooper takes the names of two LaRouche supporters outside the caucus.

LaRouche should have been included. He was the only candidate other than Gore and Bradley to have been certified for matching funds. He achieved ballot status in almost every primary election, and had demonstrable campaign organizations throughout the primaries. He received, as he had already in 1996, hundreds of thousands of primary votes—more votes, for example, than either Alan Keyes or Pat Buchanan or Orrin Hatch on the Republican side, all of whom were featured in the debates.

Federal law requires that debate sponsors use objective criteria to determine debate participants. LaRouche's campaign made formal requests to the sponsors of every debate, and each and every request was denied. Follow-up complaints to the Federal Election Commission went unanswered. The debates came and went without LaRouche's participation. Had LaRouche been included in even one of the Gore-Bradley debates, the entire election campaign would have taken a different turn.

Obstruction of LaRouche's Access to the Ballot

The current shenanigans in Florida are nothing compared to the systematic efforts by state officials, in complicity with Democratic Party officials and the news media, to keep the voters from even having a chance to vote for LaRouche. A few examples illustrate the point.

In several U.S. states, access to the ballot is determined by state officials, who unilaterally choose for whom the electorate will have a chance to vote. In many cases, these officials made their decision on the basis of news media support for the candidate. This created the "Catch-22," whereby the news

media blacked LaRouche out, and this was used as a pretext for excluding LaRouche from the ballot. It effectively put the decision of who would appear on the ballot, into the hands of executives of private news organizations, rather than voters and petitioners. Despite the fact that LaRouche had wide recognition and support among the American electorate, voters in some states were denied the opportunity to vote for him; in more states, potential supporters of LaRouche were unaware that he was on the ballot, until they actually stepped into the voting booth.

In states where officials denied LaRouche a place on the ballot, his supporters obtained signatures of registered voters on petitions, to get him on the ballot. In several cases, local officials 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 even to verify most of the signatures. Voters from several counties in Tennessee challenged this obstruction in state court. After a lengthy and costly legal battle, Tennessee officials finally admitted they were wrong, and placed LaRouche's name on the ballot.

In Connecticut, the Secretary of State refused LaRouche a place on the Democratic primary ballot, citing the news media as her authority. LaRouche's supporters then obtained more than 8,500 signatures of registered voters, to qualify him for the primary. State law required 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



Michigan Democrats at their Party Caucus. The Michigan Democratic Party, on orders from the Democratic National Committee, excluded LaRouche voters and delegates from the selection of state delegates, despite the fact that LaRouche had won the Democratic Party primary one month earlier.

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. Connecticut Democrats were prevented from voting for LaRouche.

In Michigan, the Secretary of State refused to place LaRouche on the ballot, under pressure from state and national Democratic Party officials, and 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 had announced it would not recognize the result of the state-sponsored election, deciding to hold a private caucus instead. Democratic Party officials then excluded LaRouche supporters from participating in these caucuses.

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

In Utah, Democratic Party officials refused to provide LaRouche with the documents he needed to file with state officials, in order to appear on the ballot in that state's primary.

The Return to Jim Crow

LaRouche has identified the takeover of the Republican and Democratic parties by the racist "Southern Strategy," first

adopted by the Nixon and Rockefeller Republicans in reaction to the Voting Rights and Civil Rights Acts of the 1960s. Nothing exemplifies this more clearly, than the spectacle of the DNC arguing in Federal court for the nullification of the Voting Rights Act!

The DNC's attack on the Voting Rights Act of 1965 began during the 1996 Presidential election. At that time, LaRouche won enough support in Democratic primaries and caucuses to be entitled to delegates to the Democratic National Convention from Virginia and Louisiana. Then-Democratic National Committee Chairman Don Fowler, a "Southern Strategy Dixiecrat" from South Carolina, ordered the state parties in Virginia and Louisiana to disregard LaRouche's votes. Fowler argued that the Democratic Party was akin to a "private club" that could exclude anyone it wanted. What was particularly noxious about Fowler's decree, was that it was based on the same racist reasoning, under which the pro-segregationist Democrats excluded African-Americans for nearly a century.

LaRouche and voters from those and other states sued Fowler, the DNC, and several state parties for violations of the Voting Rights Act. As if to underscore the DNC's now-adopted racist practices, the DNC was represented in court by John C. Keeney, Jr. His father, Jack Keeney, Sr., was the Justice Department official who ran the notorious "Operation Fruhmenschen" that targeted African-American elected officials for political prosecutions.

The case, *LaRouche v. Fowler*, dragged through the courts into the 2000 election cycle, as the new DNC chairman, Joe Andrew, reiterated Fowler's edict. In August 1999, a hearing was held before a special three-judge panel in Washington, D.C. chaired by Judge David Sentelle, a "Southern Strategy"

Republican partisan from North Carolina. At the hearing, Keeney argued that the Voting Rights Act should be declared unconstitutional, instead of being applied to the Democratic Party. Keeney cited as authorities, racist U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia and his sidekicks Justice Clarence Thomas and Chief Justice William Rehnquist. All three have advocated the abolition of the Voting Rights Act.

Subsequently, Sentelle handed down an opinion that adopted Keeney's arguments completely, holding that the Democratic Party was a private association that was above the Voting Rights Act. Sentelle's ruling was allowed to stand by the U.S. Supreme Court, effectively nullifying the Voting Rights Act.

The DNC's actions infuriated large numbers of Democrats, who over the years held the passage of the Voting Rights Act to be a major accomplishment of the Democratic Party. Over 1,000 Democratic elected officials, party leaders, and activists signed a public call denouncing the DNC's position.

Nevertheless, DNC chairman Andrew used his newly sanctioned "Jim Crow" powers to disregard votes cast for LaRouche in state-run primary elections. Most outrageous was the case of Arkansas, where LaRouche received 53,000 votes against Gore—23% of the total. These votes entitled LaRouche to eight delegates to the Democratic National Convention. In a move which shocked both Democrats and Republicans when it was exposed in the *Arkansas Gazette*, Gore and Andrew ordered Arkansas Democratic officials to deny LaRouche the delegates, and give them to Gore!

Disenfranchisement Charged in Florida

by Michele Steinberg

When Democratic Party Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche battled the racist tactics of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) used to disenfranchise his voters in the 1996 and 2000 campaigns, he established himself as the leader of the effort to defend the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Supported by civil rights leaders such as Amelia Boynton Robinson, one of the heroines of the Voting Rights Act battle, LaRouche was deadly accurate in warning black and minority voters that the Gore campaign and its DNC allies were *disenfranchising* the very base of the Democratic Party that represented the "forgotten man," the lower 80% of family-income brackets, that was the base of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt tradition in the Democratic Party.

Gore and the DNC's campaign against LaRouche (see accompanying article) were a part of the corrupt deal with Wall Street to "anoint" nominees Bush and Gore, not elect

them. Now, complaints are mounting in Florida that show that LaRouche's warning about the Gore/Bush corrupt deal was right.

As of Nov. 22, black and other minority voters are fighting for their political lives, and accusations are mounting that the election was as corrupt as Southern elections prior to passage of the Voting Rights Act.

It is ironic that Gore, who ripped up the Voting Rights Act in the LaRouche case, now finds himself in trouble because, as is likely, the Republicans ripped it up in Florida. But at the same time, the Republican Party is reaping what it has sown in Florida, as thousands of overseas military and other voters have had their absentee ballots disqualified, on technicalities, by high-priced Democratic Party lawyers. Gore is ready to disenfranchise those voters, because they are presumed to be Republican in the majority. In fact, the revelations of voting irregularities, and actual fraud, which are coming out of both the Republican and Democratic sides in Florida, are just the tip of an iceberg of fraud.

Voting Rights Act Complaints

On Nov. 16, U.S. Rep. Corrine Brown (D-Fla.), a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, sent a strongly worded letter to U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, making a formal request for an investigation of violations of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. "I believe that there is substantial evidence that many African-Americans were denied their fundamental right as citizens of the United States," Brown wrote. Her description fits a pattern that has emerged in five counties so far in the state: Duval, Palm Beach, Glades, Broward, and Dade.

On November 11 and 12, in Miami, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and other minority organizations held public hearings where dozens of voters came forward to attest to the fact that they had been prevented from voting by election staff, questioned by police, or subjected to other civil rights violations. On November 17, this testimony was made part of a complaint filed by the NAACP with the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. The complaint included the transcript of public hearings held in Miami, where a panel of lawyers and two court reporters took testimony from voters and election volunteers.

In her November 16 letter, Rep. Brown further elaborated the discrimination. She stated that in Duval County (in her district, which stretches from Orlando to Jacksonville), 27,000 ballots were discarded for various technical reasons, and of those, 42% came from four City Council districts that are "predominantly black areas." While Brown had joined with the Congressional Black Caucus in an earlier complaint about widespread voter discrimination based on race in Florida and other states, she is now calling for a specific probe in Duval County.

"Victims of and witnesses to Election Day irregularities and discriminatory practices at voting precincts have come