

A Confederate Coalition of The Damned in Washington?

by Jeffrey Steinberg

At the National Press Club in Washington on Jan. 11, 1995, following the Newt Gingrich-led Republican takeover of the House and Senate, Sen. Edward Kennedy (Mass.) warned his fellow Democrats: “Democrats must be more than warmed-over Republicans. The last thing this country needs is two Republican parties. If we fall for our opponents’ tactics, . . . we will have only ourselves to blame.”

Five years later, the Al Gore Presidential campaign has transformed the Democratic Party, at the top, into a carbon-copy of the GOP of Richard Nixon’s infamous 1968 “Southern Strategy”: a party that has abandoned the FDR coalition of minorities, trade unionists, farmers, and entrepreneurs, and, instead, pursues the votes of those in the upper 30% income brackets, and of Southern racists.

As a leading Democratic Party campaign veteran told *Washington Post* columnist Robert Novak, who reported it on Dec. 7, Gore ran “the worst Presidential campaign I have seen in my lifetime—yes, even worse than Dukakis. It’s the candidate. He’s horrible. How could he lose Tennessee? How could he lose West Virginia? I will not go through this again in four years.”

A more appropriate question would have been: How could he lose Arkansas? In the June Democratic primary election in Arkansas, Lyndon LaRouche garnered more than 53,000 votes, or 22% of the total. The Gore campaign, in cahoots with the racist cabal that has been running the Democratic National Committee (DNC) since the mid-1990s chairmanship of Donald Fowler, deprived LaRouche of his legitimately elected delegates to the nominating convention in Los Angeles—giving those delegates, instead, to Gore. This act of brazen disenfranchisement of core Democratic voters came back to haunt Gore on Election Day: He lost Arkansas, the home state of President Bill Clinton, by 50,000 votes! Had Gore won Arkansas, he would have been elected President—regardless of the outcome in Florida.

Racist to the Core

To disenfranchise the LaRouche voters in Arkansas (similar Gore/DNC “Stop LaRouche” efforts were also run in Virginia and Michigan) required the overturning of the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and it was DNC attorney John Keeney, Jr. who appeared before the U.S. Court of Appeals to argue for that rollback of one of the greatest pieces of civil rights legislation in American history.

Keeney is the son of the senior career official in the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, John Keeney, who presided over “Operation Fruehmenschen,” the 20-year DOJ/FBI campaign that targetted elected African-American officials for judicial railroading, jailing, and financial ruin.

It was the same Keeney Department of Justice Criminal Division that figured prominently in securing the early AFL-CIO endorsement for Gore, by threatening to prosecute scores of top labor officials on a variety of corruption and organized crime charges. *EIR* cannot prove that these labor leaders were given the explicit choice of backing Gore or going to jail, but short of that, the message was clear.

Even as the back-and-forth court battles continue in Florida, evidence has continued to surface of racist actions by *both* the Bush and Gore campaigns, to assure that African-American and other minority voters were denied their legal right to vote.

On Dec. 7, Cedric Muhammad wrote on the BlackElectorate.com website, that the Gore campaign has not lifted a finger to protest the disenfranchising of thousands of black voters in Duval County, Florida and other areas, even though their votes would have secured Gore the Presidency. “Black leaders are not just disappointed in Al Gore’s missing-in-action status in Duval County,” Muhammad wrote, “but by his lack of support for Black voting rights throughout the state of Florida.” Muhammad reported that leaders of the Congressional Black Caucus say that “Gore is as much interested in