

California Recall Showdown On: LaRouche Forces Out To Defeat It

by Harley Schlanger

With the fate of government in California and the nation at stake in the Oct. 7 vote to recall Gov. Gray Davis, the LaRouche in 2004 campaign is intensifying its efforts to deliver a blow to Vice President Dick Cheney, by defeating the Recall put on the ballot by his corrupt friends and associates. As the last week of September began, the Recall fight was too close to call statewide; reports indicated a shift among college students against the Recall, indicating the LaRouche Youth Movement's impact. "Don't be a sucker again!" LaRouche and his youth movement are telling Californians. "Deregulation was bad; Recall is even worse. Cheney represents the operation which has deployed freak-show specialist Schwarzenegger and Lt. Governor Bustamante. If you want to stop the rape of California, defeat the recall Oct. 7!"

Lyndon LaRouche personally came to California Sept. 10-12, to provide clarity and direction to defend the governor from what LaRouche calls "Cheney's dirty coup." Members of the LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) and other supporters of the Democratic Presidential pre-candidate will have distributed close to a million leaflets and three separate political-exposure and economic-policy pamphlets in the state by Election Day, exposing how Cheney's allies among the financial elite—such as George Shultz and Warren Buffett—and allied political operatives, such as former Governor Pete Wilson, plan to use the Recall to further loot the state, by placing their puppet, Arnold Schwarzenegger, in the office of governor.

After LaRouche's personal intervention, and long after his campaign's mobilization against the recall began, other national Democrats—including Al Gore, Howard Dean, and John Kerry—followed his lead and appeared at the side of Davis. Along with the governor, they have been offering an

accurate though limited picture of what is behind the Recall. They have charged that the it is an escalation, by zealous neo-conservative Republicans, of the same tactics used in the impeachment of Bill Clinton; by the Bush team in Florida to win the 2000 Presidential election; and by right-wing thug Rep. Tom DeLay, to ram through a second redistricting bill in Texas, even though a legal redistricting plan is in place. The Republican goal is to steal elections which they could not win fairly.

Governor Lacks Winning Strategy

While this charge is true, proceeding on this basis undermines the more profound and compelling matter behind the Recall—the way in which the neo-cons intend to destroy the Constitutional principle of an elected, representative government as the defender of the General Welfare. Their goal is to turn California into a privatized, deregulated, post-industrial looting ground, in which government can offer no protection from the rapacious appetite of Wall Street bankers and their fellow pirates in business.

LYM organizers—more than 100 are organizing all-out around the state against the Recall—have been asked frequently what Cheney has to do with the Recall. Isn't the issue, many ask, the way Davis botched electricity deregulation and mishandled the budget? This is the common belief of those who support the Recall, and of many who are undecided. They are victims of the neo-cons who routinely lie and distort (as did Cheney in his infamous Sept. 14 appearance on "Meet the Press"); of dishonest and incompetent press coverage; and of their own wishful delusions. It is also, unfortunately, the result of bad advice given the governor by his paid consultants, who have urged him to show contrition, while promising to be



Former Congressional Black Caucus Chairman Mervyn Dymally (at right of speakers table) has linked up with LaRouche Youth Movement leaders in mobilization meetings against the Recall across California. The LaRouche Youth are having a strong impact on college students' thinking about the Recall, and its part in the national crisis. At left, a discussion of ideas at a Los Angeles campus.

more in touch—leaving the false charges against him substantially unchallenged.

This is a losing strategy, as it fails to tell the real story of who robbed California. The same neo-cons who wrecked the state with deregulation, took over the Recall campaign to blame Davis for its disastrous results, remove him, and ensure there will be no impediments placed in the way of further deregulation.

The electricity crisis of 2001 and the budget crisis of 2003—the two issues cited by those out to remove Davis—have the same causes. Both are results of the radical restructuring of the state's economy, pushed forward by the anti-tax, anti-government revolt since Proposition 13 in 1978. This has worsened the shift of the U.S. economy to a post-industrial economy, which began in the mid-1960s. The most vehement proponents of Recall were behind both of these developments, with Schwarzenegger controller George Shultz playing a leading role.

By 1990, the once-powerful industrial and agricultural base of the state—which had advanced due to the infrastructure projects of FDR's New Deal and similar state projects—had been substantially dismantled. The deep recession then, made worse by Gov. Pete Wilson's mismanagement of the economy, was escaped only by the "high-tech" Information Age bubble.

Return to Sanity

Wilson and his friends from the energy lobby pushed through a bill, in 1996, to deregulate electricity. This reversed the policy of regulation which had been initiated as part of FDR's New Deal, and which had provided the abundant, cheap energy the state's business and industry needed to grow. Today, Wilson is deputy co-chairman of the Schwarzenegger campaign, blaming his own disaster entirely on Davis!

When the 1996 dereg bill went into effect, in late 2000/

early 2001, the state was held hostage by the energy companies, such as Enron, which "gamed" the market to jack the price of electricity so high that even the utility companies could no longer afford it. One of the major utilities was forced into bankruptcy. Davis stepped in, and the state purchased electricity directly, at grossly inflated prices, to keep the lights on.

Several lower-level Enron employees have entered guilty pleas, and are likely to be sentenced to prison for their role in this fraud. Enron lobbyists wrote the 1996 deregulation bill, so its marketers knew exactly how to manipulate the market. Yet Enron CEO Ken Lay, the leading contributor to the Bush-Cheney campaign in 2000, has yet to be charged for his crimes.

During the crisis, Governor Davis asked the White House for relief. Dick Cheney, who was meeting regularly with the crooked executives from Enron during this time, allegedly to formulate national energy policy, told Davis and the people of California he did not want to interfere with "market forces." The state was forced to borrow to pay the prices which had been hiked, illegally. This, combined with the popping of the Silicon Valley "tech" bubble—which cost the state an estimated \$12-\$15 billion in revenue from lost capital gains taxes—opened up the enormous \$38.2-billion budget sinkhole which then fed the anti-Davis, pro-Recall rage.

This story should be told by the governor, as he fights for more than his political life, as a critical line of defense against the gang of Cheneyac bullies which has hijacked national policy.

This story *is* being told by LaRouche and his youth movement. Polls show that the anti-Recall sentiment is growing. Victory in California would be not simply a defeat of Recall and its neo-con supporters, but a step toward sanity for the nation.