

Delegate Harold James' Endorsement of LaRouche Inspires Fight To Save the Party

by Nancy Spannaus

"I take my hat off to you, Rep. James, to show such courage—*coeur*, "heart" in French; *courage*; "heart-strength"—and surely you have that strength. . . . So, I give you all the kudos, and all the praise that's due to you. And let's push out there, and let's have everybody vote April 27. Let's pull our neighbors, cousins, in-laws, everything else."

Such is the most welcome response, among many, to Rep. Harold James's (D-Phila) April 7 endorsement of Democratic Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, now sweeping through the Philadelphia area and beyond. James's bold move is serving as the planting of a guidon, around which to rally the forgotten men and women of the United States, in order to save the Democratic Party, and the nation, from the disastrous course set by the Cheney Administration.

Rep. James held a press conference in the Scottish Rite Tower Building on Monday morning, April 12, a location within the 186th Legislative District in South Philadelphia which he represents, to broadcast his endorsement for LaRouche in the April 27 Democratic Presidential primary. The conference was attended by a number of local political officials and ministers, as well as members of the LaRouche Youth Movement, who are currently engaged in an all-out effort to mobilize the vote.

Although only one reporter attended the press conference, the *Philadelphia Tribune*, the oldest and largest-circulation black newspaper in Philadelphia, followed up by conducting an exclusive interview with Rep. James. That interview then appeared as the banner headline in the paper's April 13 edition, complete with a large photo of LaRouche, and a smaller one of James, under the headline "Unexpected Endorsement: State Rep: 'LaRouche is the best candidate.'" The publication has already caused shockwaves throughout the city.

The *Tribune* quotes James: "I don't think the Democrats want controversy; but, in dealing with issues, we have to take bold steps, that are not addressed by the mainstream."

"I've been a Democrat and I'm going to continue to be a Democrat," James added. "But [the party] still takes our vote for granted. I think there's always going to be backlash when people have the courage to take leadership in addressing issues. But truth always wins over might."

After noting some of the controversy James's move has unleashed, the article concludes: "James said he isn't fearful

of ruffling feathers within the Democratic Party and that he hopes any ill feelings about his support of LaRouche in the upcoming primary will not prevent the greater goal from being accomplished."

James concluded, "By allowing LaRouche to have some delegates at the national convention, all members of the Democratic Party will 'raise issues and concerns and come together to defeat [President George] Bush and [Vice President] Cheney.'" "

A Democratic Party Rotten-ripe

As someone who has collaborated with LaRouche over the last 10 years, and been in the Pennsylvania legislature for 16 years, Rep. James knows very well what he is doing in stepping forward for LaRouche at this point. In pressing the drive to win delegates for LaRouche to the Democratic National Convention, he is going up against the *diktat* of the Democratic National Committee crowd around Terry McAuliffe, and their dirty moneybags, who have decreed that LaRouche and his delegates will not be recognized.

Yet Rep. James also recognizes that the Democratic Party, as currently organized, is not representing his constituency, which is primarily comprised of the "forgotten men and women," as FDR phrased it. He sees a vote for LaRouche as the only means by which his constituents can get their voices heard within the precincts of an otherwise suburban, money-oriented Democratic Party.

It is no secret, to friend and foe alike, that LaRouche's supporters represent the traditional FDR coalition within the population. This is not only evident by LaRouche's policy proposals on the economy—which start off by recognizing the reality of the depression—but also by the stunning breadth of his support. The \$7.5 million which the LaRouche campaign has raised (independent of matching funds received), comes from individuals who averaged individual itemized contributions of less than \$200 a piece, with the highest average, in the upcoming primary states, being only \$231. This contrasts with Senator Kerry's average, which, with few exceptions, hovers around \$800 or more.

In Pennsylvania itself, as of the February Federal Election Commission report, LaRouche had almost four times the number of individual itemized contributions as Senator



A major Philadelphia newspaper reports the spread of support for Lyndon LaRouche's Presidential campaign in Pennsylvania, whose primary is scheduled for April 27. The Pennsylvania fight aims to prevent a Kerry "me-too" campaign pushed by bankers like Felix Rohatyn, and to represent the "forgotten men and women" of the Democratic Party at its National Convention in July.

Kerry: 2774 versus 675. The two are fairly well matched in terms of absolute money raised, with LaRouche having raised \$420,926, to Kerry's \$469,854. As for the average contribution, LaRouche's was \$151.74, as compared to \$696.08 for Kerry.

As leading Democrats in Pennsylvania know, these figures reflect a political reality, including the ability of the LaRouche wing of the party to mobilize from among the base of the party around crucial political issues. This was nowhere more evident than in the November 2003 Philadelphia mayoral election, where Rep. James asked LaRouche to intervene, in order to mobilize against John Ashcroft's police-state attack against Democratic Mayor John Street. In the course of a week-long intensive street deployment, the LaRouche Youth movement turned Philadelphia upside down, and turned the backlash against the FBI, into a landslide victory for Street, beyond all pollsters' expectations.

Conversely, it is obvious to any thinking political person that the Democratic Party, without the LaRouche wing, does not have that in-depth mobilization capability. In fact, as LaRouche himself has stressed in his recent comments, the Democratic Party is virtually dooming itself to defeat in the 2004 general elections, if it does not bring LaRouche into the party process.

In 2000, the DNC shot itself in the head by seizing LaRouche's vote in Arkansas for Gore, and subsequently, lawfully, losing the general election to Bush. If the DNC moves to try to deny LaRouche his lawfully won delegates in Pennsylvania, it would represent an even more obviously suicidal move—which could result in an upheaval in the party, with unpredictable consequences.

Mobilization In Depth

Over the next week and a half into the April 27 primary, the City of Philadelphia, in particular, and Pennsylvania as a whole, is going to undergo an earthquake of activity by the LaRouche Youth Movement, joined by those galvanized into action by Rep. Harold James. Already, South Philadelphia is a cauldron of political organizing, as youth organizers go door to door, and shops begin to sport Vote LaRouche posters in

their windows. One of the leading items being circulated is a pamphlet containing the transcript of LaRouche's March 29 event in Harrisburg, the state capital.

Already, Philadelphia's largest radio station, KYW, and the major African-American radio stations, are running dozens of one-minute ads, calling for citizens to vote for LaRouche. The campaign is alternating between ads featuring James's endorsement, and those featuring statements by LaRouche on how to get out of the current crisis.

In one of his two ads, Representative James says: "This is State Representative Harold James. To defeat Bush, we need a strong grass roots mobilization of the Democratic Party. This means we need delegates to the Democratic National Convention that will fight for the issues that are most vital to the African-American community, to other minorities, to labor, and others. That's why I am endorsing Democrat Lyndon LaRouche for President in the April 27 primary election. LaRouche led the fight for justice for black elected officials and others harassed by the Justice Department. He mobilized to defeat Attorney General Ashcroft's abusive police-state tactics against Mayor Street. He has organized forces world-wide against genocide in Africa. Lyndon LaRouche is a man we can rely upon to fight for our interests. Make your vote count. Send a message. Join me, Rep. Harold James, in voting for Democrat Lyndon LaRouche for President on April 27."

Rep. James reports that he is already receiving offers of radio talk shows, and many, many inquiries from residents who are intrigued, if not activated, by his bold move to endorse LaRouche.

As the political pace intensifies, and the word of James's action reaches around the country, there is little doubt that Representative James's endorsement will become a rallying point for Democrats around the nation, who want to see peace, prosperity, and the tradition of FDR and Martin Luther King restored as the basis for policymaking in the Democratic Party. The goal is to open up the party, for the desperately needed policy debate between LaRouche and Senator Kerry, in order to shape the Democratic Party as an instrument to revive the Constitutional principles of the United States.