

FEC scrambles to deny LaRouche new matching funds

The Federal Election Commission is now preparing to join the months-long campaign of Carter, Kennedy, the national television networks and major newspapers, *to disenfranchise all Democratic voters in the state of Michigan.*

The liberal Commission, a pet project of Common Cause, was ostensibly established to root out corruption in federal election campaigns and to prevent big money from determining the outcome of elections by providing federal matching funds. Now, however, the Commission is on the brink of claiming that the 65,000 Democrats who voted in the Michigan Democratic presidential primary, and whose votes are sufficient to make Lyndon H. LaRouche the first presidential candidate in history to requalify for matching funds by winning 20 percent of the votes cast for all candidates, do not exist.

LaRouche won 26.2 percent of all votes cast for candidates. The Michigan Board of Canvassers has already determined not to certify any votes for Jerry Brown since he had already withdrawn from the presidential race. In that case, LaRouche will have won more than 80 percent of the votes cast for all candidates.

Looking for an out

Although sources within the Federal Election Commission report that, with regulation books open, general opinion runs 3 to 2 that there is no way the FEC can avoid requalifying LaRouche for matching funds, the Commissioners themselves, along with their lawyers, are looking for a way out. That way—according to the same sources—is simply to claim that the Michigan primary did not exist, that it “was not a real primary.”

The Commissioners, while apparently not particularly knowledgeable of the law, are in “good” company—right along with the national news media and, in good nonpartisan fashion, the Democratic State Committee. As the accompanying grid of commentary by the press makes clear, an Orwellian “truth is lies” campaign has been launched to disenfranchise the 65,000 voters and to give the Federal Election Commission the

environment they would need to get away with such an outrageous scheme.

LaRouche did more than simply requalify for federal matching funds. He also won more votes in the primary election than were cast for either Carter or Kennedy in the tightly controlled charade of Democratic county caucuses held in the month of April. It is the entire set of circumstances—including the fact that LaRouche’s victory entitles him to a significant chunk of the Michigan delegates to the Democratic National Convention—that has driven LaRouche’s enemies one step beyond their usual disclaimer (also voiced by Henry Kissinger on occasion): “LaRouche doesn’t exist.” Now these same election manipulators are claiming: “65,000 Michigan Democrats don’t exist.”

‘Don’t vote ... ’

The Michigan Democratic State Chairman, Olivia Maynard, also claimed the primary didn’t exist. She issued a press release urging “Don’t vote on May 20th ... ” This statement was characterized by the Michigan State GOP Chairman as “unheard of ... a statement like that just blows my mind.”

Maynard claims that the April county caucuses, where 16,000 Democrats (one half of one percent of all Democratic voters in Michigan) were dragged through the inquisitorial terror of an “election” that forced each voter to put his name and address on the ballot—along with the name of “the candidate of his choice”—were the real elections. Any other election, she avers, is unconstitutional!

Apparently, a CFL spokesman opined, Maynard, Detroit Mayor Coleman Young, and the United Auto Workers political hacks from Solidarity House were unable to line up sufficient paid, cowed voters to permit control of a primary election in a state where almost half a million people have lost their jobs due to Carter economic policies within the last six months. Or, he said, it might be more charitable to assume that Chairman Maynard, heiress to a family fortune gained in a business

that prides itself on its "open shop," felt more confident that her carefully selected 16,000 voters were truly able to "vote their choice" when she was able to check over the ballots later to see who had voted for whom!

Nonetheless, most Michigan Democrats did not let themselves in for that kind of treatment. They stayed at home, planning to register their choice in the May 20 primary election. State Democratic party officials then organized a legal attack on the primary, attempting to cancel it. Repelled in the courts, they turned to the press.

Local press obliged, alternatively advising that the primary was meaningless, voters should stay home; and urging, as the Detroit Free Press did, that voters *must* ensure LaRouche did not get 20 percent by voting for Brown or writing in Carter.

Democrats arriving at the polls were greeted by election officials urging them to write in Carter or Kennedy. Some did—3 percent. The rest, voting either LaRouche or uncommitted, made it clear they wanted a candidate capable of being president.

The results did not sit well with the press, which finds its well laid scheme for running an election to destroy American democracy gone awry. That accounts for the national networks' refusal to recognize the existence of a primary they wish never happened. It is less clear the Federal Election Commission will survive taking the same course.

News . . . or Newspeak?

Before the primary

Press statement of Olivia P. Maynard, Michigan State Democratic Party Chairman:

"Don't vote on May 20 ... Instead write a letter to Governor Milliken saying you want a fair and responsible primary."

Detroit Free Press, May 16:

"Alert: Lyndon LaRouche could win your money: Democrats should write in Carter: ATTENTION: Democrats and independents. This is a full alert. It is not a drill. Please take seriously what you are about to hear. Repeat: This is not a drill. ... Gov. Brown is no longer campaigning for the presidency. Mr. LaRouche is, and he hopes to gain hundreds of thousands of dollars in federal matching funds by winning 20 percent of the vote Tuesday. ... We suggest ... that those who take Democratic ballots Tuesday vote for Gov. Brown or write in their preferred candidate, in order to block the unworthy pretensions of

Mr. LaRouche and save our tax dollars. Writing in a name is not difficult. Officials at the polls can tell you how."

Early news reports

ABC Television News:

"There was no Democratic Party primary in Michigan today."

NBC Television News Special. David Brinkley:

"There was only one Democratic Party primary today, in Oregon ... There was no Democratic primary in Michigan today."

CBS Evening News:

Omitted any mention of the Michigan primary.

NBC Evening News:

Omitted any mention of the Michigan primary.

Associated Press (15 wires were issued):

"There was no Democratic party primary in Michigan."

CBS National News (late edition):

"There was no Democratic primary in Michigan."

Reporter at CBS local affiliate, New York (refused to identify himself):

"Are you sure you heard the anchorman say there was no Democratic primary?" After confirming the anchorman had said it by listening to a tape, the reporter rationalized: "Technically there was a primary, but it does not count, it's a beauty contest. The delegates were already chosen for Kennedy and Carter. ... If you're giving me a lecture on politics in the U.S., don't. We [deal subjectively] with the news every day and we do it rather successfully I think."

Late news reports

CBS-TV News Election Wrap-up:

"In the Democratic primary in Michigan, uncommitted was the clear winner with Jerry Brown getting his share of the votes and Lyndon LaRouche getting some votes."

CBS Network Radio:

"There was a Democratic primary in Michigan, but it was not for delegate selection. The delegates for Kennedy and Carter have already been chosen in caucuses. Neither of them were on the primary ballot. Only Lyndon LaRouche and Jerry Brown were on the ballot. The primary was a beauty contest..."

"And guess who won in Michigan—uncommitted. LaRouche didn't even get enough votes to requalify for matching funds."