

Eye on Washington by Nicholas F. Benton

GOP voter base wants LaRouche, too

If you think the Democratic Party leadership is having a hard time trying to keep its constituency away from Lyndon LaRouche and the National Democratic Policy Committee, take a look at what's going on in the ranks of the Republicans.

A Washington insider operating on Republican fund-raising efforts in this city confirmed that the Illinois primary results in March that propelled two LaRouche Democrats to stunning statewide victories was a genuine reflection of the rebellious mood of Americans—but that mood is not limited to the voters of the Democratic Party alone.

He said that Republican fund-raising efforts nationwide from lists of previously solid contributors are running into an unprecedented level of rage and disgust at the lack of solid leadership in Washington.

He characterized a typical response as, "I've tried the Democrats, and I've tried the Republicans. Now I'm just fed up." He said that this response is often accompanied by threats to vote against the party if it dares to disturb him with one more phone call for money. Particularly noteworthy, he said, was the level of disgust with the "sell-outs" of the Reagan administration in foreign policy—especially regarding South Africa and the Philippines.

The source related that he estimated that the highest percentage of this sentiment was coming from "mid-America," where economic factors hitting the farm and energy sectors are adding to the ferment, but "it is definitely not restricted to any one segment." The Republicans are thus faced with a dilemma. If they nominate a

"moderate" for President in 1988, they will lose this solid base of support that gave them victories in the last two elections, but is already "fed up." However, this base will also be very skeptical of any new "hardline" candidate, given their disappointment with Reagan, while many Republicans would fear a "hardliner" would play into the hands of the Democratic opposition.

This makes the "LaRouche factor" absolutely decisive for who will be President in 1988, this source conceded.

Democrats fear they blew Senate majority

The Democrats, meanwhile, are behaving like "Eeyor," the moping donkey in *Winnie the Pooh*.

The culmination of former Illinois Sen. Adlai Stevenson's stupidity in responding to the primary victories of the two LaRouche candidates has the Democratic leadership here in the capital very depressed—led by Illinois Sen. Allen Dixon. This crowd estimates that Dixon is now threatened with defeat by his no-name Republican opponent. That loss could be just the margin that will keep them from claiming a majority in the Senate in 1986.

As Stevenson has proven by taking himself off the ticket, the tendency to self-destruct rather than fight is a very strong impulse among liberals. All in all, it made for a very unhappy evening at socialite Pamela Harriman's annual "Democrats for the 1980s" bash here April 22. Over 40 Senators were present—but there was more commiserating than celebrating. Two LaRouche supporters stood outside bearing signs reading, "LaRouche is here!" and waving to those going inside, offering free literature. Most who saw it were reduced

to vulgar gesturing. It has still not occurred to any of these creatures that opening up a dialogue to work with the LaRouche movement might solve their electoral woes.

As one seasoned Democratic veteran confided, "All the LaRouche movement needs to do is win in two more primaries this year, and the current leadership will rip apart at the seams." He cited the demoralization and division within the party apparatus, making the party unable to mount an effective anti-LaRouche campaign.

"There is no commitment to principles that people feel are really worth fighting for on the grassroots level of the party where it counts," he said. "There are only the party bureaucrats who are in it for their personal careers, and who are all competing against each other. In this state of affairs, the current leadership cannot hold up against any resolute challenge, either from without or from within, but especially from within the party."

Rep. Jim Wright (D-Tex.), who will replace Tip O'Neill (D-Mass.) as speaker of the house in 1987 only if he can hold onto his seat in Ft. Worth against a challenge by LaRouche Democrat Elizabeth Arnold, reflected the deadening tone of pessimism so characteristic of the incumbent Democratic leaders, in his speech to the Communication Workers of America here April 23.

His sole idea of a solution to the economic depression was the Chrysler company and the massive concessions the union was willing to accept to help bail out the company.

Now, it's unfair to assume that his praise of Chrysler means Wright will be backing Lee Iacocca for President any more than he would be backing Bozo the Clown. They will probably both be running, and Jim Wright certainly won't tip his hand too early now.