

Interview: Maria Elena Milton



'I am leading a crusade to defeat Congressman ValuJet'

Maria Elena Milton, the LaRouche Democrat who won an upset victory in the Arizona Fourth Congressional District Democratic primary on Sept. 10, was interviewed by Frank Bell for EIR on Sept. 19. Milton is an Hispanic American mother of four, who, besides winning the Democratic primary, is also a coplaintiff with former Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche in a Voting Rights Act lawsuit against the Democratic National Committee and the Arizona Democratic Party, among others, for their having kept Mr. LaRouche off the Arizona primary ballot. Having defeated the "Jim Crow wing" of the Democratic Party in Arizona, whose head, Sam Coppersmith, did everything he could to defeat her, Milton now faces incumbent Republican John Shadegg, the chairman of Newt Gingrich's GOPAC fundraising outfit, in the Nov. 5 general election. The interview has been excerpted.

EIR: Why did you run against John Shadegg?

Milton: I felt compelled by the evidence that the policies of Newt Gingrich, Shadegg's GOPAC, and the "Contract on America" would lead to mass genocide. I simply could not stand idly by and allow this to happen. I thought, we have to challenge this. We have to do everything in our power to bring this evil contract out into the open and have a clear debate on this.

EIR: Before you got a chance to take on John Shadegg in the general election, you had to win the primary contest. And the Democratic Party officialdom was opposed to you. Why?

Milton: Because of my affiliation with Mr. Lyndon LaRouche. Last year, after attending my very first Labor Day conference [of the LaRouche political movement], when I came back to Phoenix, the first person I called was the chairman of our state party to say, "I want to get involved. I want to mobilize Democrats. We've got to revive the American System of economics as taught by Lyndon LaRouche. Do you know Lyndon LaRouche? He's a genius." The state chairman, Sam Coppersmith, said, "Well, I think he's an extremist." I said, "Let me prove to you he's not."

Next thing I know, he's writing slanders against Mr. LaRouche, he's suing the secretary of state [to keep LaRouche's Presidential campaign off the Arizona ballot] and the LaRouche Presidential campaign committee, which I

was chairing at the time. He effectively prevented Mr. LaRouche from being in the primaries here in Arizona.

EIR: Using "Jim Crow" citations.

Milton: Yes.

EIR: You now have a clear shot at John Shadegg. What is this fellow, other than the congressman from the fourth district in Arizona? He chairs Gingrich's money-laundering machine, doesn't he?

Milton: That's correct. He is a very powerful henchman of Newt Gingrich. As I stated in my victory statement [see *EIR*, Sept. 20], I'm going to mobilize all of the voters and the citizens in this district, of both parties, and independents as well, for a great crusade to destroy this "Contract on America." Having secured the victory, I've now laid the groundwork to go against "Congressman ValuJet," which is how I refer to him.

EIR: Why?

Milton: Because his policies kill people. Not only because he took \$320,000 from the founder of ValuJet [Richard Gilder]. Look at what happened there. Look at the people who died in that crash. He received this blood money to push policies of deregulation and, eventually, to destroy or shut down the FAA [Federal Aviation Administration]. So, Congressman ValuJet, get out of the way, you're not morally fit to serve in office.

EIR: What are the things that you are going to be campaigning on, in a primarily Republican district?

Milton: There are two bombshells that I have for Congressman ValuJet. Number one, is this issue of privatizing Social Security: The fact that he is a major conspirator in the hushing up of this ambush that they're preparing for Grandma after November.

EIR: Can you explain that?

Milton: Congressman Jim Kolbe [R-Ariz.] of Tucson let the cat out of the bag in *Steelabor News* (May-June 1996), when he said that he, Newt Gingrich, and Rep. John Kasich (R-Ohio), had all agreed that, after November, after their big win,

they're going to privatize Social Security. But, he said, we have to keep it hush-hush until then.

Why? Why, if this is such a good idea; why, if you are so excited, keep it a secret? Let's talk about it now. Let's tell Grandma right now that privatization is a fancy word, it's a slick term for stealing. That's how I see it. That's the thing that I'm going to be talking about all over this district. If he's so excited about this, let's put it out on the table.

So that's one bombshell that we are going to drop. The other one is the Republican connection to the number one drug kingpin of the world, George Bush. I call him the Grand Old Pusher of the Republican Party. Bob Dole just came here to Phoenix to visit Joe Arpaio's tent city. Arpaio is the Nazi sheriff of Maricopa County. We had a sign up, when Dole was here [on Sept. 9], that said, "How many hundreds of thousands of men are doing George Bush's time," rotting in our prisons? Today, Sheriff Arpaio had women in chain gangs, for the first time ever in this country, which is despicable in itself. How many of these women in chains are doing George Bush's time?

If these guys are so tough on crime, why go after small fry? Why not go after the big fish? They say that fish stink from the head. Let's go after the head. George Bush established this Contra crack epidemic through the Crips and the Bloods gangs. Now it turns out that the Grand Old Pusher of the

Republican Party was the godfather of the Crips and the Bloods.

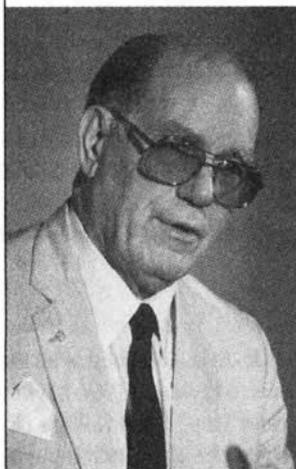
Now, if Gingrich, who is the second most powerful elected official in this country, does not immediately push for Congressional hearings, with a special prosecutor, then how can they say that they are so tough on crime, that they are so moral, that they have all these family values. I will challenge Congressman Valujet on that point, because frankly, I think this is all hypocrisy.

EIR: You've got basically six weeks till the election. These are the two things that you're going to go after?

Milton: And one other thing. This is where Mr. LaRouche's method of organizing people is a very exciting tool. Because people are very excited that I don't talk like a politician. I talk like a human being. I go out there and I tell the truth. I name the names and people get electrified. They trust and they know when someone is telling them the truth. So now the rank and file Democratic voter out there is excited that finally, someone is going to defend them, is going to stand by them. I've been out at party meetings, at forums, on the streets, talking with labor, minorities, seniors, and the response that I'm getting is, "Hey, one of our own is willing to go to bat for us." We're going to keep doing this and we're going to keep mobilizing.

Over the course of these next six weeks, we're going to

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form a grassroots citizen army, a crusade that will stop this “Contract on America.” It will have a great spillover effect, not only in Arizona, but all around the country. Because this is the way that citizens have to take over their country. That’s what I hope to be doing over the next six weeks.

EIR: Let’s look at the prospect of your winning, getting into Congress. What is that going to mean?

Milton: I think that Mr. LaRouche has laid out the track fairly well. He has been warning us about the disintegration of the financial markets. At the very same time, a priority for the Congress has to be the cleanup of the top brass of the Justice Department. We find the top brass of the Department of Justice, the same spooks that went after Mr. LaRouche, actually aiding and abetting the Contra thugs, the *narco-trafficants* that set up this whole crack epidemic. I believe this kind of corruption absolutely must go. We have no room to tolerate this nested network in the Department of Justice.

There’s going to be a lot of work and it has to be done in a very timely fashion, because, as Mr. LaRouche has said, the time that you organize for a crash is *before*, not after.

I want to be a part of the national mobilization effort that cleans the house of the whole Gingrich pathology. Once having cleaned that out, I think we can look to organizing the Congress and the Presidency out of the depression, out of the economic collapse that we have been going through for the past 25 years. We simply have to have a total reversal of these policies and begin to implement those major strategies that Mr. LaRouche has outlined.

For example, we’re going to have to nationalize the Federal Reserve. It’s more than bankrupt. It’s now in an advanced state of parasitism. It’s a threat to the lives of everyone. We simply have to shut that thing down in an orderly fashion and create a National Bank with inexpensive credits. We have to re-ignite the engines of industry once again and get the massive infrastructure projects, like the Eurasian land-bridge and projects of that nature, going, as well as rebuilding our own industrial base.

These are the things that I would find very rewarding as an effort, very necessary for the country. I think we will find ourselves very busy with these endeavors.

EIR: It looks like you have a clear road to fight for that.

Milton: Yes, and a goal that I have through this, is that the LaRouche name will be known far and wide. All of the slanders that have been leveled against him will be dispelled. People will come to know who the true LaRouche is, which the media has for many years tried to suppress. That is a goal that will just happen naturally as a result of my campaign.

People just need to look at the track record. Let’s look at the scalp belt of Mr. LaRouche. There hangs the scalp of Ollie North, Governor Ridge, Phil Gramm, but we still have room on that scalp belt for a few more, like Gingrich and George Bush and Congressman Valujet.

Soros finances drive for drug legalization

by Scott Thompson

Financier George Soros has given nearly half a million dollars to promote “medical marijuana” ballot initiatives in California and Arizona. Although the ostensible purpose of these initiatives is to make marijuana available for symptom relief from such diseases as AIDS, glaucoma, and cancer, the cabal of drug legalizers whom Soros is funding has long described the medical use of marijuana as a “foot-in-the-door” for broader drug legalization. On Sept. 11, Presidential Drug Policy Adviser Gen. Barry McCaffrey denounced the initiatives as “dangerous and wrong.”

Soros heads the Soros Fund Management, which oversees an array of multibillion-dollar offshore funds of dubious legality. He has so far contributed \$15 million—1% of his total alms—to groups advocating an array of alternatives to the Clinton administration’s “War on Drugs.” Recently, Soros made a personal donation of \$350,000 to fund a “medical marijuana” ballot initiative in California, and organizers for the initiative admit that they would never have managed to gather the 433,000 signatures needed to get their measure on the ballot, without this contribution. Soros gave another personal donation of \$100,000 for a similar ballot initiative in Arizona. In Arizona, there are other large contributors to pass Proposition 200, including John Norton, a produce millionaire, and former deputy secretary of agriculture in the Reagan administration.

Nadelman and the Lindesmith Center

Coordination with the organizers of the California and Arizona ballot initiatives is being handled on Soros’s behalf by Ethan Nadelman. He is the head of the Open Society Institute’s Lindesmith Center, which takes its name from a British detective who argued for leniency in “victimless crime.” Nadelman is a former Princeton University professor, who has also been a board member of the Drug Policy Foundation. In 1994, Soros, through his Open Society Institute, gave the DPF a three-year, \$10.5 million matching fund grant.

Soros had already given the DPF—which is the leading voice for drug legalization in the United States—\$500,000 since 1992.

Almost a decade ago, at a DPF annual conference, Kevin Zeese, formerly the national director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), now DPF’s vice-president and counsel, slyly boasted that the “medical marijuana” issue could be used as the opening