

Pennsylvania Primary Inspires Fight To Bring In LaRouche

by Phil Valenti and Nancy Spannaus

The City of Philadelphia was polarized and politicized as never before, going into the April 27 Democratic Presidential primary, around the key strategic issues of how to get out of the Iraq war and the economic depression. More than 60 members of the LaRouche Youth Movement organized door to door, with the LaRouche Doctrine on Southwest Asia, and 250,000 copies of a pamphlet on LaRouche's intervention in Harrisburg circulated in the state. Pennsylvanians were bombarded intensely with a radio ad campaign featuring LaRouche's solutions. The depth of the organizing effort was reflected in the massive circulation, and viewing, of a DVD of LaRouche's famous January 2004 "Talladega" speech on the Immortality of Martin Luther King, which conveyed LaRouche's own King-like quality of leadership.

While the population was engaged by the LaRouche in dialogue over the crucial leadership role of the candidate, the endorsement of LaRouche for President by Pennsylvania State Rep. Harold James (D-Phila) directly challenged the Democratic Party's corrupt decision to try to exclude the only FDR Democrat from the political process. James' refusal to back down an inch from his support of LaRouche, in the face of intense harassment and threats of dire political consequences, defined a standard of political courage required to defeat the fascist apparatus represented by Dick Cheney and his dummy George W. Bush in November, and to rebuild the Democratic Party out of the pathetic "me-tooism" now controlling the Kerry campaign.

Yet, in contrast to the on-the-ground dominance of the LaRouche campaign in Philadelphia, unofficial results credit LaRouche with about 22,000 votes statewide, or 2.8%, and 4,500 votes in Philadelphia, or 3.5%, with some city wards and many divisions reporting from 10% up to 43% for LaRouche. In at least one division, LaRouche even outpolled Kerry.



LaRouche Youth rallied near Philadelphia's City Hall on April 14; their non-stop mobilization in April produced LaRouche votes of 10-40% in districts of the Philadelphia area. Counterorganizing against a LaRouche vote, by both Democratic and Republican operatives and the major media, held his statewide vote to 3%, but the momentum to bring LaRouche in, to counteract the stumbling Kerry candidacy, is growing.

Who's On the Ballot?

Democratic Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche will be on the ballot in 11 primaries over the next six weeks, as the campaign for the Democratic Presidential nomination enters its final phase before the party's July 26-29 National Convention in Boston. LaRouche will be on the Democratic primary ballot in Indiana on May 4; Nebraska and West Virginia on May 11; Arkansas, Oregon, and Kentucky on May 18; Idaho on May 25; Alabama and South Dakota on June 1; and Montana and New Jersey on June 8.

Here are each of those state's ballots:

Indiana, May 4

Kerry, Kucinich, LaRouche, Dean, Edwards, Clark

Nebraska, May 11

Kerry, Kucinich, LaRouche, Dean, Edwards, Sharpton

West Virginia, May 11

Kerry, Kucinich, LaRouche, Dean, Edwards, Clark, Lieberman

Arkansas, May 18

Kerry, Kucinich, LaRouche, Dean, Edwards, Clark, Lieberman

Kentucky, May 18

Kerry, Kucinich, LaRouche, Dean, Edwards, Clark, Lieberman, Sharpton

Oregon, May 18

Kerry, Kucinich, LaRouche

Idaho, May 25

Kerry, Kucinich, LaRouche, Sharpton

Alabama, June 1

Kerry, Kucinich, LaRouche

South Dakota, June 1

Kerry, Kucinich, LaRouche

Montana, June 8

Kerry, Kucinich, LaRouche

New Jersey, June 8

Kerry, Kucinich, LaRouche, George H. Ballard

Democratic Failure

The candidate made the following statement on the vote on election night: "This [result] is an hysterical effort coming from the highest level of the Establishment, which bridges both parties, to prevent any significant vote for me, anywhere. . . . This is coming especially from the Democratic Party, from supporters of Kerry, but also from the common opponents of both Kerry and me. This is coming from the top, and they are all united in saying that I will be excluded from the count by all means, and at all costs.

"The only thing that will crack this—and it will crack it big—is the financial collapse. This will demoralize them, and it will break their back. . . . Don't worry about the vote. Count it, but don't worry about it. The enemy is doing everything possible, every trick in the book, to discourage the vote. And this will probably continue, until the actual—and presently imminent—collapse of the financial system takes place."

Representative James, who had taken a prominent role in mobilizing the vote, called for the mobilization to continue: "Democrats need to continue to use the vehicle and momentum of the LaRouche campaign, to get the attention of the Democratic National Committee, by sending the message to vote for LaRouche."

Representative James, a 16-year veteran of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives—running for his ninth con-

secutive term this year—had campaigned directly in defiance of the Democratic National Committee, blasting it for "continuing to take many of its leading constituency groups for granted. . . . Our concerns, at this point, are not being adequately represented by the Kerry campaign. We must remedy this problem, so that we can mobilize a massive turnout of the Democratic Party base, and remove the Bush/Cheney Administration from power this November," James emphasized.

Indeed, the result of the Democratic Party proceeding with its election campaign while excluding LaRouche, is already showing itself to be a nightmare for the party. Presumptive Democratic nominee John Kerry continues to flounder, even as support for President Bush and his disastrous war collapses, in a stunning remake of the losing Gore campaign, or perhaps even that of 1984 loser Walter Mondale. Democratic leaders around the country, not to mention people in other nations, are appalled at Kerry's ability to blow his advantages, by refusing to take on Bush on the war or the economy.

Unless Kerry and the DNC abandon their policy of excluding LaRouche, this disaster is likely only going to get worse. Democrats will stay away from the polls in disgust, at a time when only a mobilization of the broad base of the party among the "forgotten men and women" could bring about a



Pennsylvania State Representative James addresses a campaign meeting April 15 in Philadelphia. His public endorsement and ads for LaRouche drew heavy attacks on him, but energized voters in the city to “make your votes count” by voting for LaRouche.

victory. This abstention has already been foreshadowed in this primary season, as the percentage of Democratic voters participating has steadily collapsed since the early primaries. Rather than building up “excitement” among the voters, John Kerry is following the prescriptions as to how to put them to sleep.

The LaRouche campaign’s combined thrust of international policy intervention, on the one side, and mass organizing through the Youth Movement, on the other, is the only antidote to this recipe for defeat.

The Fight in Philadelphia

The primary campaign in Philadelphia was dominated by the intervention of the LaRouche Youth, and Rep. James’s machine. James’s appeal to Democratic voters to “Send a message: stop taking our votes for granted!” was broadcast almost daily in the last two weeks of the campaign on several radio stations through paid political announcements by LaRouche in 2004. The impact on listeners of James’s enthusiastic call to “make your vote count! Join me in voting for Democrat Lyndon LaRouche,” was second only to that of LaRouche’s own statements, especially one calling Bush “the dumbest President on record.”

James’s message immediately provoked a lively debate in the African-American community, with radio talk-show hosts either saluting James’s boldness, or spreading false rumors about his imminent “expulsion” from the Democratic Party.

As dozens of Democratic committeemen and women, and some ward leaders, began seriously considering James’s call to turn out at least 15% of the vote for LaRouche in the Second Congressional District—in order to send LaRouche delegates to the Democratic national convention, intensive arm-twisting, pressure, and threats escalated behind the scenes. The

anti-LaRouche Establishment’s headaches were multiplied by the campaign’s outreach to hundreds of African-American churches in the city, many of which welcomed LaRouche campaign representatives to make announcements from the pulpit. LaRouche’s leadership role in the Democratic Party was recognized by several insurgent Democratic candidates for the State Legislature, who asked to join Representative James on LaRouche’s “slate.”

Days before the election, the media attacks began, with a long article in the throwaway weekly *Philadelphia City Paper*, widely circulated in the Center City area. After praising James as a “rock-solid ‘man of the people,’ ” author Daryl Gale said he was shocked by James’ endorsement of LaRouche, but he went on to report James’s explanation as “reasoned, well-thought-out and, in typical James style, a thumb in the eye to the powers that be.”

Phila. Inquirer Throws Dung

Next came the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, which weighed in with an attack appearing on its Commentary page on April 23. With malicious and reckless disregard for truth, writer Mitch Sommers lied about LaRouche, and questioned James’s “political judgment.”

“Someone needs to tell Harold James,” Sommers wrote, “that, for all the good he’s done, he crossed a line. I hope voters consider that when they go to the polls.”

Sommers was more frank in messages he posted on the State Political Report website April 14. “If Rep. James doesn’t know who [LaRouche] is, he’s a moron,” wrote Sommers. “And if he does know, he’s either racist scum or this year’s leading entry for the 2004 Tin Foil Hat award. Either way, I hope [House Democratic Leader] Bill DeWeese bitch-slaps him into oblivion.” DeWeese didn’t cooperate, and Sommers’ *Inquirer* article quoted DeWeese characterizing James as a “Prometheus from Philadelphia,” and “a lovely human being.”

After throwing Sommers’ lying nonsense at its readers, like dung tossed at a bride coming out of church, *The Inquirer* was forced to publish James’s defiant reply on primary day, April 27, under the headline “Stand by LaRouche.” The cowardly *Inquirer* cut out the last three sentences of James’s letter, so we include the last paragraph here (the entire text can be found on the larouchein2004 website).

“I find the tone of Mr. Sommers’ commentary to be quite offensive, if not racist. Am I, as an African-American man and political leader, supposed to be too ignorant or uninformed to be able to see through the many lies and slanders that have been circulated about Mr. LaRouche? There were many journalists and commentators who attacked and distorted the character and beliefs of Martin Luther King, Jr. in the 1960s, based upon malicious lies circulated by the racist J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI. Fortunately for America, not everyone was intimidated by those lies then. Let us not be intimidated by lies about LaRouche now, or by attacks on my political judgment.”