

LaRouche Turns Democrats' Sights on Cheney

by Nancy Spannaus

Perhaps the sharpest image of the phase-shift which has occurred in the Democratic Party since the California Recall election of October 2003, is the implosion of the Howard Dean campaign. A close second, is the manner in which all the "major" candidates—John Kerry and Dean included—and Democratic Senators have now begun to train their sights on Vice President Dick Cheney.

These developments can only be understood from the standpoint of the effective interventions by the LaRouche campaign, led by the LaRouche Youth Movement, over the course of the last few months. By reviewing LaRouche's principled, hard-hitting thrust against the Vice President, and on behalf of a paradigm shift back toward the general welfare policies of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, one can begin to understand the process which will lead to even more dramatic phase-shifts in the future—shifts that will result in the Democratic nomination fight coming down to LaRouche versus Kerry.

California to New Hampshire

As LaRouche spokeswoman Debra Freeman pointed out in a release issued Jan. 29, "At the outset of this campaign, the Democratic Party simply refused to put up any serious fight against Bush and the Cheneyacs. When Dick Cheney and his friends put up the 'beast-man' Arnold Schwarzenegger to challenge the duly-elected Democratic Governor of California, Lyndon LaRouche and Bill Clinton were the only Democrats of national stature who were truly willing to enter the fray. In fact, the national party, under the guidance of the Democratic National Committee, actively worked to sabotage efforts to defeat Schwarzenegger, and seemed well on the way to throwing the national Presidential campaign to the GOP."

Under these conditions, the LaRouche campaign forged ahead against opposition from Democrats and Republicans

alike. The LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) achieved a proof of principle by turning the California Recall vote against Schwarzenegger in those areas where it had the resources to deploy heavily—particularly Los Angeles County, and the Oakland area. As the news of this reality shook up the Democratic Party nationally, LaRouche was asked to send his Youth Movement into Philadelphia, to do battle against Attorney General John Ashcroft's assault on Democratic Mayor John Street, in the Nov. 5 elections. There, the youth achieved an even more stunning success—turning a close election into a landslide for Mayor Street.

Democratic Party officialdom, under the tight control of organized crime-tainted figures such as Terry McAuliffe, was not swayed, of course. The Democratic National Committee remained adamant against the inclusion of LaRouche in campaign events, and used its blackmail leverage to prevent others from doing so.

True to form, and principle, the LaRouche campaign escalated with a new in-depth exposé of synarchist beast-man Cheney, and a combined mass-action-in-the-streets and media campaign in the nation's capital. The several-week campaign, featuring marches and sound-cars, and a huge flatbed "freedom truck" full of youth singing civil rights songs, transformed Washington's population, as the necessity to remove Cheney became a ubiquitous point of discussion. Despite the official primary results being "fouled up beyond all recognition"—through, among other things, the use of unconstitutional electronic voting machines—the basis for an expanded fight was laid.

Following the Jan. 13 D.C. primary, the LaRouche Youth Movement redeployed to New Hampshire, while the candidate himself made a campaign tour of Alabama and Mississippi. The impact of these forays was reflected in short order. In New Hampshire, the LYM presence, with hard-hitting insistence upon the need to get rid of preventive nuclear war

champion Dick Cheney, soon began to create a running dialogue between the youth and the Kerry campaign, on the strategic requirements of a Democratic Presidential candidate in this crisis. Kerry's public attacks on the Vice President, on a number of Sunday talkshows on Jan. 25, visibly demonstrated that he had gotten the message. Kerry's shift, combined with Howard Dean's self-destruct reaction to his loss in Iowa, played a significant role in Kerry's stunning victory in the New Hampshire primary.

Meanwhile, LaRouche's tour through the Deep South, highlighted by his speech at the Martin Luther King Prayer Breakfast in Talladega, Alabama on Jan. 19, struck a deep chord within the African-American constituency, which has long understood that LaRouche is the only figure in the Democratic Party who represents their interests, but has remained passive under the pressure from the DNC and related interests. For more than a decade, LaRouche has been clearly understood among a growing fraction of African-American leaders as the heir to the tradition of Martin Luther King. Now, numbers of leaders from that constituency have decided that they are willing to fight to put forward his candidacy.

As LaRouche spokeswoman Freeman put it, "Increasingly, however, there is a faction inside the Democratic Party that is finally bucking the DNC, and has realized that it must fight to win this election and defeat the Bush-Cheney axis. Increasingly, Democratic Party organizations, as well as what are traditionally Democratic Party-linked constituency groups, are acting in outright defiance of the DNC, and including LaRouche in candidates' events."

Transformations To Come

LaRouche has made clear that his campaign will continue to be focussed on creating phase-shifts such as that on the Cheney question. The next big shift, he anticipates, will be around the reality of the economic collapse, and the FDR-styled measures which are required to deal with it. Until inevitable dramatic events on the economic and financial front make it impossible for the population—and the candidates—to ignore this reality, LaRouche does not expect to see a breakthrough in terms of getting his votes counted.

The immediate process will see the Democratic field winnow out, of course. Dean has compounded the damage he did to himself in exposing his flakiness, by bringing in a new campaign manager from the camp of Al "Loser" Gore. This is just a bump on the road to Dean leaving the race altogether. Also headed for the exits is Democratic Leadership Council maven Joe Lieberman, who responded to his 9% result in New Hampshire by holding a press conference declaring that rumors that he's leaving the race are totally untrue. This was read by the cognoscenti as an indication that he will soon be gone, probably followed by the flaky Wesley Clark, the general whom America's veterans have abandoned in favor of anti-Vietnam War veteran John Kerry.

The shifts have just begun. Look for surprises.