

Good Riddance to Lieberman, Soon It Will Be Kerry vs. LaRouche

by Nancy Spannaus

While the Democratic Presidential primaries continue to be a “horse race,” with voters betting on their favorite, a necessary winnowing-out process is ongoing. Most welcome is the withdrawal of Sen. Joe Lieberman (Conn.) following the last round of primaries, and, as of this writing, the handwriting is definitely on the wall for Howard Dean and Wesley Clark. The directionality of the process, which has already shifted toward a serious fight on Iraq war policy and Dick Cheney, is clear: The only serious contenders on the fundamental issues facing the American electorate, are Sen. John Kerry (Mass.) and Lyndon LaRouche.

LaRouche commented on this situation during his Feb. 2 visit to Jefferson City, Missouri. He told the press: “There is now a phase change in the situation in the Presidential campaign. Until this point, the Presidential campaign is fairly characterized as voters looking at the candidates as if they were watching the Super Bowl. The voters are not thinking about themselves, in terms of their choice. They’re simply choosing among their favorite teams and players. . . .

“Now, it’s going to get serious. Most of the candidates

are going to fall away, very soon. Some are already falling away. Lieberman is finished, in effect, as a Democrat. He should probably join the Republican Party—that would clarify things a bit. But, the situation now is, that Kerry is a leading candidate, which is going to finish off some of the others. I will be in as a candidate, all the way through.”

The Losers

With the voters at least beginning to take the war issue seriously, the joke candidates are beginning to fall by the wayside. Despite the significant upswing in voter turnout in these primaries, the numbers were not sufficient to save the likes of Lieberman and Dean.

Lieberman, an early member of the right-wing Democratic Leadership Council (DLC), could have seen the handwriting on the wall a long time ago. He, his Republican warhawk buddy Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), and the DLC, came under concerted attack by LaRouche over a year ago, at the time when that duo was applying significant blackmail against President Bush, in order to assure that he went ahead with the war against Iraq. In a mass pamphlet that circulated heavily in Washington, as well as elsewhere, Lieberman was exposed for his ties to organized crime, through Michael Steinhardt, and to avowed rightwingers such as William F. Buckley and the Cuban exile community in Florida.

Over the course of his benighted Presidential campaign, Lieberman found that he couldn’t compete with the popularity of “war-leader” President Bush, and that Democratic voters were not impressed. Only about a week before the Feb. 3 primaries, the Jewish weekly *Forward* told Joe that he should give it up. Delaware and Arizona were Lieberman’s only shot at a significant showing in the Feb. 3 primaries, and when he came in under 10% in those, he announced his retirement from the race.

In the wake of the Feb. 3 primaries, in which he made no significant vote



Presidential candidate LaRouche said it a year ago—LaRouche Youth at the California State Democratic Convention, March 2003—Sen. Joe Lieberman was the Cheney/Bush defender who wanted to turn the Democrats into a second Republican Party. “Now, it’s going to get serious,” says LaRouche.

LaRouche: 'Super Bowl Tuesday's Results'

This statement by Presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. was released on Feb. 5 by the LaRouche in 2004 campaign committee.

Thumbs Up! Or, Thumbs Down! The Roman Empire, too, had its Super Bowl Sundays and Tuesdays. So, in the course of time, Rome's spectators died in their own arena.

There was the Super Bowl on the day before Groundhog Day, Sunday. Then, there was the Super Fishbowl game on Election Day, Tuesday. On Tuesday, the citizens marched from where they had been sitting as spectators, to take their places as the gladiators dying in the bloody arena below.

Joe Lieberman was among the first to be struck down. Howard Dean limped from the field, mortally bleeding. The *Village Voice* felled Al Sharpton in a single, ugly, crushing blow. Gladiators Clark and Edwards are waiting their turn to go down. The trumpets sound again for the

next event. It warns us, that once the field has been swept of fallen gladiators, the slaughter of the citizens, the general *mélée*, will then begin. It is not time for you to leave, dear citizen; your turn in the arena is next!

So, great empires have died, now as then. The citizens, thinking themselves only spectators, free from harm, play the game of "Thumbs up! Thumbs down!," not suspecting that soon it will be their turn to go. So, Pericles' Athens had its champions in the Peloponnesian Wars; so, the little Athenians, the admirers of those champions, went to the doom which their choices had brought upon them. The Master Croupier laughs: "For the U.S. citizens today, there are more SuperFishbowl Tuesdays still to come."

Do you like to gamble with your vote? Not the one-armed bandit, this time! Touch the computerized screen. The Master Croupier appears, smiling: "Make your choice." You vote, or don't. It makes no difference. The Master Croupier who built and runs the machines, will cast your actual vote for you. In a neat touch of Satanic Irony, the Master Croupier's stage name is "Will"; "Popular Will," that is.

After all, it is your choice! You propose, but who disposes? Who will win in the end? George or John? The Master Croupier leers: "Me!"

showing, Howard Dean sent an e-mail to his supporters telling them to go all-out to win Wisconsin, or he's finished. Dean wrote: "All that you have worked for these past months is on the line on a single day, in a single state. . . . The entire race has come down to this: we must win Wisconsin. . . . We will get a boost this weekend in Washington, Michigan, and Maine, but our true test will be the Wisconsin primary. A win there will carry us to the big states of March 2 and narrow the field to two candidates. Anything less will put us out of this race."

Behind this declaration is the fact that Dean's support was in fact paper-thin, a creation of the Internet, the media, and the fervent desires of the White House, which had figured that he was the easiest Democrat to beat. Increasingly, it became clear to the voters who had hoped that he was an anti-establishment voice, that Dean was a flake, whose underlying sentiments were for Republican-style budget austerity, but who was too unstable to maintain his image, much less be President.

Gen. "Screw-up" Wesley Clark is also headed for the door. Associated Press reported on Feb. 5 that two Clark campaign officials, who wished to remain anonymous, said that Clark considered dropping out after the Feb. 3 races, despite the fact that he had narrowly prevailed in Oklahoma. Clark's record will not allow him to compete against John Kerry, who has mobilized a network of veterans, and who, unlike Clark, did not make high-profile errors, born of egotism, during his

military service.

That leaves John Edwards, Rep. Dennis Kucinich (Ohio), and Al Sharpton, in addition to LaRouche and Kerry. Of these, only Edwards, who scored a big win in his birth-state of South Carolina on Feb. 3, has the potential broad base of support to be a serious contender into the later primaries.

The Sharpton Factor

As we note in another article in this issue, the candidacy of Al Sharpton is worse than a joke. His function in the Presidential race is basically as a saboteur, and a voting line in which votes for Lyndon LaRouche can be dumped.

With the publication of the *Village Voice* exposé of Feb. 5, Sharpton's days as a candidate may well be numbered. There are reports that his campaign is being hit with a flood of credit card chargebacks, and one conservative watchdog group has called for the Federal Election Commission to withhold his matching funds, which were only achieved with the financial magic of his patron, Republican consultant Roger Stone.

While Sharpton is simply pathetic, the recent exposés should raise more serious questions among serious Democrats about Democratic National Committee (DNC) Chairman Terry McAuliffe, who has consistently excluded the broadly supported LaRouche candidacy (including among prominent African-Americans), in favor of the joke campaign of Sharpton.

The Next Shoe To Drop

LaRouche, who is running a Presidential campaign directed to shifting the direction of national policy now, as well as preparing for the Presidency, will not be leaving the Democratic race. He will be on the ballot in more than two dozen upcoming primaries, and is deploying his Youth Movement, and other supporters, to bring the anti-Cheney fight, and the fight for reversing the post-industrial plague of the last 40 years with an FDR-style program, to the American population.

In addition, the LaRouche campaign is airing half-hour TV broadcasts in targetted areas, including St. Louis, Washington, D.C., and Norfolk, Virginia. More are anticipated in the weeks ahead, going into the March 2 "Super-Tuesday."

There are ongoing signs of a break in the DNC containment on the local level of the party as well, especially among African-Americans. LaRouche was escorted onto the floor of the Missouri Senate by State Sen. Maida Coleman, who introduced him as an "historic individual" who is having a powerful impact on the political scene. Other invitations which reflect this shift are also being issued.

But LaRouche does not expect a major break in the containment of his campaign, until the economic-financial crisis reaches a new breaking point, something which is being anticipated in behind-the-scenes discussions among bankers and policymakers, especially in Eurasia.

In his press conference in St. Louis on Feb. 2, LaRouche outlined the following perspective: "At present, we have two issues before the voters—two crucial issues, which decide everything else. Number one: the war question. Not just Iraq, but the fact that Cheney has committed impeachable offenses, in pushing the United States, through fraud, into a war which should not have happened. But worse than that, that Cheney has a policy of extending this war policy to other nations as targets. Number two, however, the real issue, is the economic crisis. The world is going into the worst depression—worse than we experienced during the 1929-33 period, now. And this issue has to be faced. What is going to happen now, with the recycling of veterans returning from the war in Iraq, and reporting what they've gone through to their families and others, here; and with the economic crisis, the issue is not going to be voting for a candidate, but voting for a candidate in a way which is relevant to their own interests. In other words, it is the voters themselves who are up before the camera, not the candidates. The question is, what are the problems that the people of the United States face, in this period? And how are the candidates relevant to solutions to those problems?"

"So, the agenda's going to change. Where people are voting as spectators up to now—they're going to stop voting as spectators. They're going to begin to vote as people who are in the arena themselves. And it's their problems that have to be solved. Not the problems of which candidate has the best slogans. So, that's what my primary mission is, at this point."