Who is Lyndon LaRouche and Why is He Doing This to the Democratic Party?

LaRouche’s Followers Threaten the Basic Foundations of Our Society

It is hard to take Lyndon H. LaRouche Jr. seriously, but it can be dangerous to ignore him. That’s the hard lesson of the Illinois primary, where a mix of demagoguery, prejudice, and voter apathy demolished the Democratic Party’s statewide ticket. By winning the Democratic primary two LaRouche followers have gotten their names on the ballot as candidates for lieutenant governor and secretary of state.

LaRouche’s loyalists are entered in an astonishing number of political contests this year. According to the New York Times, they have 146 candidates for the U.S. House, 14 for the U.S. Senate, seven for governor, and more than 600 for state legislative and local party posts in 29 states. Most are running as Democrats. Some are running under the banner of LaRouche’s political front, the National Democratic Policy Committee, a name calculated to confuse voters.

It’s easy to laugh at the LaRouche cult, which swims in its own nightmare world in which conspirators and assassins lurk behind each bush. And it’s easy to assume that LaRouche followers pose no threat to responsible legislators and candidates. But a threat exists—if we sit back and let them win elections.

We need to expose LaRouche candidates and their true colors. Most of their political beliefs are wildly irrational. No matter what issues they’re talking about in their campaigns, their basic philosophy is dangerous, hate-ridden nonsense.

The Queen of England and a cabal of international bankers are determined to kill LaRouche because he designed a “new, gold-based monetary system.”

The list of co-conspirators includes Henry Kissinger, the Rockefeller family, “big-time Zionist mobsters,” and the ubiquitous “British agents.” It embraces the International Red Cross, and such odd bedfellows as the Ku Klux Klan, and B’Nai B’rith’s Anti-Defamation League.

But then not many people took Adolph Hitler seriously when he wrote his twisted manifesto, Mein Kampf.

The AFL-CIO started taking LaRouche seriously more than a decade ago when his storm troopers of the self-styled U.S. Labor Party tried to break up union meetings and distributed obscene leaflets describing local union leaders as “homosexuals” or “perverts.”

That was in his ultra-left period, although left and right have no conventional meaning in the LaRouche political lexicon. Those who challenge him are routinely described as sexual deviants and drug dealers. Personal harassment and threats are the weapons of his followers.

When columnist Mike Royko exposed one of the LaRouche front groups, handbills and posters appeared claiming he had undergone a sex change operation. His assistant found pinned to her apartment door a warning, “We will kill your cat.”

New Hampshire reporter Jon Prescage, who wrote a series of three articles critical of LaRouche for the Manchester Union Leader, could never prove that LaRouche supporters killed his three cats. But a dead cat appeared on his doorstep the day after each of the articles was published.

In another case, reported by the Wall Street Journal, neighbors of a reporter who wrote articles critical of LaRouche received leaflets inviting them to “a gay coming out party” at his house.

When Polly Girvin opposed LaRouche’s proposal to build a “summer camp” for his followers in Loudoun County, Va., where she lived and where the 63-year-old LaRouche has a fortress estate patrolled by armed guard, pamphlets appeared in the county calling her a drug dealer and a Soviet agent.

But the LaRouche movement is not all theater of the absurd.

The innocently named National Democratic Party Committee, the LaRouche political front, fields candidates who speak in a populist political tradition of the evils of banking and the banking system, not of murky assassination plots.

In Illinois, and in scores of states where “LaRouchies” are running in Democratic primaries for offices ranging from school boards to the U.S. Senate, this year’s campaign appeal is an oddball mixture. LaRouche candidates call for repeal of the Gramm-Rudman deficit-reduction law, praise President Reagan’s “Star Wars” strategic defense initiative, and demand universal blood testing and the quaran-
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Tining of everyone with the AIDS virus until a cure is found. Somehow the International Monetary Fund gets blamed for the spread of AIDS.

The stories are legion of the many times LaRouche operatives have masqueraded under false colors to gain access to news sources and political leaders in this country and abroad. Reporters for reputable newspapers have been embarrassed and outraged by persons later linked to LaRouche fronts who assumed their identities.

At airports, well-dressed LaRouche disciples have solicited funds for anti-drug campaigns and for subscriptions to publications such as Fusion, a magazine that promotes nuclear energy.

Some people who thought they were donating to anti-drug campaigns found themselves listed as contributors to one of Larouche’s presidential campaigns, unwittingly helping him to qualify for matching federal funds.

LaRouche’s high-priced Executive Intelligence Review has taken in the unwary, despite such gibberish as this excerpt from an economic treatise by LaRouche:

“Ideal economies, like healthy organisms, are negentropic processes . . . It is the thermodynamic characteristic of negentropic processes, that in a continuous negentropic function, the energy-flux density increases with time. Energy-flux-density signifies a measurement consistent with kilowatts per square meter, of throughput.”

Selective listening . . .

In political campaigns, people often have selective hearing. A farmer pressed for mortgage payments can relate to an attack on the banking system. A parent concerned about drugs hears a young person denounce drug dealers. LaRouche followers aren’t the first to see a world of conspiracies.

The LaRouche follower who won the Democratic Party nomination for Secretary of State in Illinois, Janice A. Hart, was arrested last May on a disorderly conduct charge. She allegedly tried to disrupt a speech by Milwaukee’s Roman Catholic Archbishop Rembert Weakland at a Glencoe, Ill., synagogue. Her incredible explanation was that the archbishop was praising Adolph Hitler.

The early background of LaRouche was covered by the AFL-CIO News in a series of articles in 1982 by Wesley McCune, director of Group Research, and still available in pamphlet form under the title, “Lyndon LaRouche’s Strange Cult.”

LaRouche was born to a Quaker family and joined a communist splinter group in the 1940s. He later aligned himself with a wing of Students for a Democratic Society to launch the National Caucus of Labor Committees, later to become the U.S. Labor Party, with the newspaper New Solidarity as its organ. As he swung across the political spectrum, the tax-exempt Fusion Energy Foundation was to become one of his principal fronts.

Anti-Semitism, disguised in Russian style as anti-Zionism, has been a part of the LaRouche propaganda. When Polish workers rallied to the banner of Solidarnosc, LaRouche was denouncing it and praising the repression of Poland’s military ruler, Gen. Jaruzelski.

On an NBC expose of LaRouche, Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan (D-NY) was asked why the Larouche movement “shouldn’t just be ignored,” since it clearly was miles removed from the nation’s political mainstream.

“They drop little bits of poison into the political bloodstream,” Moynihan replied. “Any lie that is vicious enough, somebody will believe it. Any slander that is cruel enough, somebody will half enjoy it and be tempted to take it in. You have to fight them.”

After the Illinois primary, a lot of people are saying “amen.”

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