

LaRouche in '92 campaign files for matching funds

by H. Graham Lowry

With the reverberations of the Nov. 15 stock market crash still ringing in George Bush's ears, Lyndon LaRouche's presidential campaign filed for federal matching funds on Nov. 18. If Bush had any real power of imagination, he might now hear the strains of "The World Turned Upside Down," the tune played by the British Army on surrendering to George Washington at Yorktown.

As one of LaRouche's campaign posters reads, he is the only political opponent whom Bush feared enough to put in prison. LaRouche is running for President from the Federal Detention Center in Rochester, Minnesota, where he is serving a 15-year sentence as the victim of what legal experts around the world have described as the biggest frameup of the 20th century. Now, in meeting the test of the Federal Election Commission (FEC) to qualify as a presidential candidate with demonstrable national support, LaRouche's voice will be widely heard, as the only candidate with effective solutions to the worst economic crisis of this century.

Prior to LaRouche's filing, only two candidates had qualified for federal matching funds. To receive the funds, the FEC requires that the candidate raise \$5,000 in each of 20 states, in amounts of \$250 or less from each contributor. LaRouche's Democratic primary campaign committee, Democrats for Economic Recovery—LaRouche in '92, has already met the requirement in 22 states, and has raised \$6,000 or more in 20 of them. Nationwide, more than 1,000 supporters, from 45 states plus Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, have contributed roughly \$250,000 to the campaign so far.

National campaign spokesman Debra Freeman said, when LaRouche's filing was submitted, "In the past, the FEC has used frivolous bureaucratic techniques, investigations, and outright harassment to slow down the process of certi-

fy different campaigns for matching funds. . . . We hope that the FEC will not use such politically motivated tactics this time around."

Campaign blitz of 7 million leaflets

Beginning Nov. 21, the LaRouche campaign set off a political shockwave across the United States, in a simultaneous mobilization of thousands of supporters to distribute 7 million leaflets over a four-day span. Headlined "We Are Going to Save the People and the Nation!" LaRouche's campaign statement outlines the measures required for real economic recovery.

"Number one," LaRouche says, "what we are going to have to do—and you have to have a President who understands it, which no Democratic candidate except myself does—is to declare a national emergency. . . . We are going to nationalize the Federal Reserve, and establish in fact a U.S. National Bank of the type we had under George Washington, and under Presidents James Monroe and John Quincy Adams. This bank is going to issue—with the backing of a Congress terrified by the impact of the depression—credit for massive water projects, massive power development projects, production and distribution, massive transportation improvements, and the general fostering of capital-intensive, power-intensive investment in scientific and technological progress in production by agriculture, by mining, and by industry generally.

"We are going to organize the biggest recovery operation in history, not because we have big egos, but because we have big needs, we have a big U.S. economy in shambles to save, a lot of unemployed and immiserated people, a lot of debts to pay which we cannot at present pay, and responsibilities as a world power to get this planet in order.

“Now, people who aren’t willing to do that, who aren’t willing to bite that bullet, just aren’t in the world of reality.”

LaRouche’s growing influence

While George Bush floats off in a world he claims has entered “a new era of prosperity,” the power of LaRouche’s unique competence and accurate assessments, especially concerning the economic crisis, continues to grow. Responding to the 120-point plunge in the New York stock market Nov. 15, LaRouche recalled in a campaign statement, “I forecast the October 1987 stock market collapse in the spring of 1987. In 1989, in the spring and early summer, I forecast the probability of another financial crack affecting the stock markets to occur at the beginning of the fourth quarter that year, that is the October-early November period.

“This year, in 1991, in the spring and summer, I forecast that we were looking for, first, another October-November period financial crisis coming out of the banking and real estate problems; and later over the course of the summer, I predicted that we would look for the financial crisis probably in the second half of November, because the Bush administration had the means, and would undoubtedly use them, to try to delay the financial crisis by an additional month—and that is essentially what happened.”

While Bush and his minions resort to desperate interventions and chicanery to maintain the chimera of the Dow Jones index, LaRouche continues to zero in on the reality of the crisis. Commenting on “the Great Mudslide of 1991,” LaRouche said Nov. 19: “Yes, the financial markets are collapsing. When Wall Street stock exchanges collapse—and they may be collapsed by the time you hear this—is not really important. The point is, the nation’s financial system—not its stock market—its financial systems are collapsing; and under those conditions, sooner or later, even the stock exchanges have to take note of that reality.

“But so far, the stock exchanges may be taking note of reality, which is rather unusual for them, but George Bush is clinging to his belief in the recovery. This economy, right now, under George Bush, has less chance of recovery than Dracula does tonight at midnight.”

Rivals offer austerity—and worse

The other declared Democratic presidential candidates, LaRouche observes, have all proposed “worse medicine than the sickness.”

In his mass-distributed campaign leaflet, LaRouche states, “I have watched carefully the general character of the policies, rather than the rhetoric, of a number of people who have followed me in enlisting themselves as candidates for the 1992 Democratic presidential nomination, and potential candidate New York Gov. Mario Cuomo. So far what they are saying is entirely a disaster from the standpoint of reality. They are all going toward one form or another of fascism, a kind of reform of the system presented in sugar-coated rheto-

ric, but which is nothing but fascist austerity to save a bankrupt financial system. None of them has so far grasped what must be done.”

Governor Cuomo recently demonstrated that he could butcher the economy with the best of them. In a now-familiar ritual enacted nearly every week in one state capital or another, Cuomo announced Nov. 19 that New York’s projected deficit for fiscal 1992 has doubled, from \$1.8 billion to \$3.6 billion. The new estimate, based on a continuing collapse in tax revenues, amounts to more than 10% of the state budget. Just three weeks before, Cuomo had unveiled an additional \$689 million deficit in the 1991 budget, with only four months left to run. With Mario at the helm, New York State has lost more than 200,000 jobs over the last 12 months.

Cuomo, who has already ordered a special session of the legislature to deal with the current deficit, announced that he *welcomed* the grim news on the 1992 projection, because it would help him bludgeon the legislature into approving additional budget cuts. “It makes it easier,” Cuomo told a press conference Nov. 19. “It means the stress will be greater, the pain will be greater, the cuts will be worse; but you can’t improve that by doling out the bad news in two steps.”

A political tinderbox

The bad news for Cuomo and his fellow austerity pushers is that the victims are showing signs that they have had enough. Harris Wofford’s stunning upset of Richard Thornburgh in Pennsylvania’s Nov. 5 U.S. Senate race was a clear message to that effect—and an explicit rejection of Bush’s policies as well. The unusually active role of organized labor in determining the outcome also sent a message to the Democratic presidential field, and gave further indication of LaRouche’s electoral potential.

The budget-cutters are on a course of inevitable confrontation with an increasingly hostile electorate. Connecticut Gov. Lowell Weicker, whose austerity measures have provoked the largest political demonstrations in the history of the state, remains on a collision course with the state employee unions, as he demands further wage and benefit cuts—and furloughs those who resist without pay. Union leaders have sued the state to stop the cutbacks and unpaid furloughs, citing state labor laws and court precedents prohibiting the use of such measures as coercive tactics.

On Nov. 20, Weicker announced an additional \$175 million budget deficit, and proposed more furloughs and further cuts in aid.

In California, two state employee unions announced Nov. 7 that they are filing suit to stop Gov. Pete Wilson’s unilateral 5% reduction of wages and benefits, while the largest of them all, the 75,000-member California State Employees Association, announced that it would send out strike ballots in December. The CSEA is seeking authorization for job actions in January if Governor Wilson proceeds with more cuts. Wilson is demanding a cool \$351 million in union givebacks.