

Fight for Voting Rights Michigan Freedom Democrats File Convention Slate

On April 7, a 44-member “Michigan Freedom Democratic slate,” headed by Michigan State Representative Ed Vaughn (D-Detroit), filed delegate forms at the state party headquarters in Lansing to run as LaRouche delegates to the August 2000 Democratic National Convention.

Lyndon LaRouche was the only Democratic candidate on the February 22 Presidential primary ballot in Michigan, and he won with over 12,000 votes. Despite that fact, Michigan Democratic Party Chairman Mark



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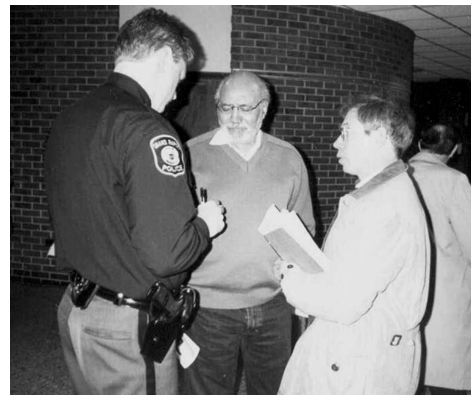
Brewer, in collusion with DNC National Chairman Joe Andrew, refused to include LaRouche’s name on the March 11 Democratic Party caucus ballot.



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Texas Democratic Party caucus meeting, Houston, March 31. Observer Amelia Boynton Robinson listens to election officials with LaRouche campaign workers (left).

A team of international observers, who witnessed the conduct of the March 11 caucuses, reported that the party’s caucus elections were so fraught with irregularities that they violated all international standards for free and fair elections. The observers witnessed a climate of



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Michigan Democratic Party caucus meeting, Detroit, March 11. Left: Election official attempts to bar international observer Prof. Ernst Florian Winter. Above: Police record names of LaRouche campaign workers.

intimidation directed at Democrats who wanted to vote for LaRouche, as well as against LaRouche’s campaign workers. Some of the observers were themselves victims of intimidation in two caucuses. Most shocking to them were two additional actions: First, that neither the ballot nor the vote was secret; and second, that voters who cast their vote for LaRouche did not have their votes counted.

On March 24, some 43 enrolled members of the Michigan Democratic Party and Presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. filed a challenge with Chairman Mark Brewer, demanding that “the results of the March 11, 2000 caucuses be voided, and instead to have delegates to the Democratic National Convention from Michigan be apportioned according to the results of the February 22, 2000 Michigan Democratic Primary.”

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Supreme Court Upholds Attack on Voting Rights

At the request of the Democratic National Committee (DNC), the U.S. Supreme Court on March 27 let stand a lower court ruling gutting the Voting Rights Act of 1965. In its one-sentence ruling, the Court affirmed the decision of a three-judge U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., that lets the Democratic National Committee evade the Voting Rights Act, by claiming it can act as a “private club.”

This potentially mortal blow to Civil Rights, has been brought about solely by the actions of the DNC—which, in defiance of the hard-won struggle for the right to vote, has insisted on its right to return to the days of “Jim Crow” in order to nullify elections and exclude Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche.

In the March 27 ruling, the Supreme Court ignored an *amicus curiae* brief filed by former Congressman James Mann on

behalf of more than 60 prominent Democratic Party officials, who urged the court to back LaRouche’s position.

The case was brought by Lyndon LaRouche and voters from Virginia, Louisiana, Texas, and Arizona, in 1996, after Donald Fowler, then DNC chairman, ordered the state Democratic Parties to disregard votes cast for LaRouche in the Presidential primaries and cau-

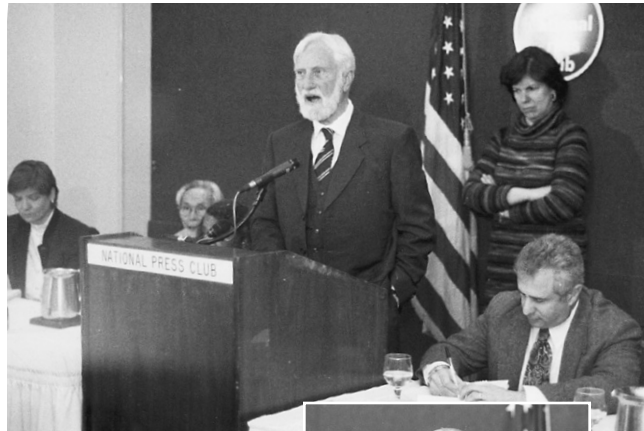
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LaRouche Campaign Files Complaint with OSCE

In late April, Lyndon LaRouche's Committee for a New Bretton Woods filed an official complaint with the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (O.S.C.E.), concerning "gross violations of and interference with free and fair elections in the United States of America."

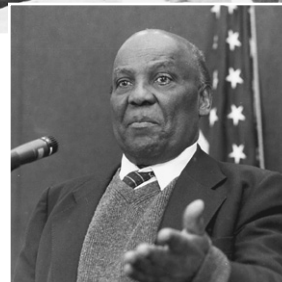
The complaint documents a manifold of violations of the principles of free and fair elections, perpetrated against the LaRouche campaign by officials of the Federal and state governments, the Democratic Party, the establishment news media, and the Federal and state courts in the United States. As outlined in the complaint, these officials have shown utter contempt for the basic principles that the O.S.C.E. expects from its members, including the United States. The abuses directed at the LaRouche campaign have particular significance, in light of the U.S. State Department's recent interference in the elections in Peru, and the O.S.C.E.'s own criticism of elections in countries of Eastern and Central Europe and Asia.

The complaint charges: "(a) Democratic Party officials ordered that votes cast for LaRouche be 'disregarded'; (b) Party officials, using state power granted to them, have prevented LaRouche's name



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from appearing on the ballot in some states; (c) citizens have been denied their right to vote and to seek political office, including elected officials of the Democratic Party; (d) LaRouche's campaign has been denied equal treatment before the law; (e) his supporters and campaign workers have been victims of threats and intimidation; (f) LaRouche and his ideas were not afforded equal access to the media; (g) news media agencies failed to provide impartial information about candidate LaRouche; (h) LaRouche and his supporters have been subjected to *ad*



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Left: International observers, led by former U.N. official Prof. Ernst Florian Winter (podium), report to press on violations at Michigan Democratic caucus meetings, Washington, D.C., March 14. **Inset:** Observer Dr. Godfrey Binaisa, former President of Uganda.

hominem defamatory attacks both by the media and Democratic Party officials; and (i) voters were denied the benefit of full information by the exclusion of LaRouche from public debates."

The conduct of the U.S. Presidential election, with respect to LaRouche, specifically violates provisions of the O.S.C.E.'s "Election Commitments," specifically Section 7, which requires member states, including the U.S.A., to ensure free open participation of candidates in the election process, and a truthful counting of the vote.

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cuses in those states without first obtaining pre-clearance by the U.S. Department of Justice, as required by the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

To try to save the Voting Rights Act, the crowning achievement of the Civil Rights movement, from such a vile attack by the DNC, LaRouche and the voters sued in Federal court in Washington.

In August 1999, a three-judge court, led by U.S. Appeals Court Judge David Sentelle, heard the DNC's lawyer, John C. Keeney, Jr. argue that sooner than apply the Voting Rights Act to the DNC, it should be declared unconstitutional. Keeney based his argument on previous dissenting opinions by Supreme Court Justices Antonin Scalia,

William Rehnquist, and Clarence Thomas, who have all urged nullification of the Voting Rights Act.

Several months after the August 1999 arguments, Sentelle, an ally of North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms, adopted Keeney's position, holding that the DNC was exempt from the Voting Rights Act, and could extend that exemption to state Democratic Parties acting on DNC orders. Sentelle's ruling flew in the face of decades of Civil Rights cases that had routinely rejected arguments like Keeney's as nothing more than racist subterfuges.

Following this ruling, LaRouche *et al.* appealed to the Supreme Court.

The full text of the Supreme Court appeal appears on page 85 of this issue.

Freedom Democrat Slate

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In the meantime, Michigan Democratic supporters of Lyndon LaRouche decided they had no alternative but to follow in the footsteps of Fannie Lou Hamer, who was forced to form the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party in the 1960's.

Asked why it was necessary to file such a slate, Rep. Vaughn said: "What has been done [to LaRouche] is bad for African-Americans and minorities, but also it is bad for the nation, and terrible for the Democratic Party. If we want to be the party of the people, we cannot do it like this." The LaRouche forces "will take the fight all the way to Los Angeles. We have no alternative but to do so."