

Theorist of the weird in a Democrat's guise

By Lucy Keyser
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Lyndon Hermyle LaRouche Jr. has said the Nazi Holocaust was nothing more than a Zionist hoax since it was the Jews who brought Adolf Hitler to power.

He has alleged that Queen Elizabeth II runs a worldwide drug-smuggling operation. He says that his followers beat up and hospitalized members of Communist Party U.S.A. when it rejected his offer to merge the party with one of his organizations.

In his autobiography, Mr. LaRouche says: "My principal accomplishment is that of being, by a large margin of advantage, the leading economist of the 20th century."

Mr. LaRouche, to the chagrin of Democratic Party regulars, is on a roll. Two of his followers won nomi-

nation for lieutenant governor and secretary of state, leaving regular Illinois Democrats scrambling to find a way to recast their slate in the coming general election.

Nationwide, 149 LaRouche candidates are running for the House of Representatives, 14 for the Senate, six for governor and 618 for other offices.

The Illinois election, besides drawing attention to the two state candidates, has cast a spotlight on Mr. LaRouche and how, through the last quarter century, he has been regarded as a political chameleon.

Mr. LaRouche's past, says Warren Hamerman, the chairman of Mr. LaRouche's latest political cult, the National Democratic Policy Committee, is something Mr. LaRouche is proud of.

"The left says he's right, the right

says he's left," said Mr. Hamerman. "But Lyndon LaRouche is a remarkably consistent individual on policies."

An economist and prolific author, Mr. LaRouche, now 63, has had a unique political career marked by ties to radical groups on both the extreme right and left. His followers, to the dismay of the Democratic Party, are now trying to find credibility as Democratic primary candidates.

The LaRouche movement, while regarded as something less than an organized political party, is believed to be comprised of several thousand followers who regularly seek to find their way onto electoral ballots.

In the March 19 Illinois primary, LaRouche followers Mark J. Fairchild, 28, and Janice Hart, 31, won races for lieutenant governor and secretary of state, respectively, defeating the hand-picked favorites of Democratic gubernatorial nominee Adlai E. Stevenson III.

Mr. Stevenson said "these candidates are not Democrats . . . we have to purge ourselves of them. We have to get them off the ticket."

But he couldn't. Mr. Stevenson announced yesterday that he was getting off their ticket, and will run as an independent.

Mrs. Hart, who compared herself to a hell-raising Joan of Arc, promised to "put every drug pusher behind bars" and, to do that, she said she would "roll those tanks down State Street," the main drug haven in Chicago.

Her colleague, Mr. Fairchild, calls for universal testing for AIDS and quarantines for carriers of the deadly virus.

Those positions represent only the tip of the LaRouche message to America — a view of the political scene that critics say is warped by attempts to harass opponents and create a climate of fear.

"He's on the fringe of American politics where cults merge with paranoia and doctrine can be best understood in terms of pathology," according to Mid-Atlantic Research Associates Inc. (MARA), a private intelligence-gathering service.

MARA said that Mr. LaRouche has tried to gain a wider audience for "his bizarre theories and fanaticism" by running for president, raising and spending millions of dollars in the process.

Just as he sabotaged the electoral process in the Democratic primary in Illinois, so Mr. LaRouche has sabotaged legitimate debate. He has become adept at mixing fact and malicious fantasy so skillfully that he sometimes succeeds with attacks on legitimate conservatives. He constantly targets these conservatives, typically accusing them of being secretly employed by the KGB, so that casual or unsophisticated readers or

listeners cannot distinguish between the real and the wrong.

"LaRouche represents the kook branch of American politics," said Terry Michael, spokesman for the Democratic National Committee. He said Mr. LaRouche has been "falsely portraying himself as affiliated with the national Democratic Party."

Mr. Hamerman asks Democrats to welcome LaRouche candidates into their fold to "focus on the issues that dominate the world of reality for the voters and to initiate a discussion on these issues."

Instead, Democratic National

Committee Chairman Paul G. Kirk has warned state party officials to screen candidates for LaRouche ties, because Mr. LaRouche's National Democratic Policy Committee is in no way affiliated with the DNC.

"The Illinois results indicate we must take additional steps to educate voters about extremist candidates whose views, once known, would be rejected by legitimate Democrats," Mr. Kirk said.

"The best way to explode their chances for success is to let them speak for themselves," said Ann Lewis, national director for Americans for Democratic Action, which this week is sending its members a list of quotes from Mr. LaRouche showing his "irrational" philosophy.

The LaRouche message charges that former Vice President Walter Mondale was a KGB mole and former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is an agent of Soviet influence. LaRouche followers have gone so far as to kill the household pets of a reporter who wrote critically about the movement.

Still, Mr. Hamerman insists, "We have to restore open debate on the issues. Not slander, not innuendo, not personality, but what are the issues that are facing the nation and where do people stand."

MARA reported that Mr. LaRouche's political movement uses several constant tactics to achieve his ends: "character assassination . . . when LaRouche feels there is some advantage to him by discrediting them; multiple fronts . . . to mute the evidence of LaRouche control; and penetration of target groups either to gather information or to attempt to disrupt the group."

"The LaRouche political saga has been marked by repeated attempts

to penetrate other totalitarian groups of the 'international socialist' and 'national socialist' varieties in