

# LaRouche associates railroaded in Roanoke trial; sentences 'barbaric'

The jury in the Roanoke, Virginia trial of three associates of Lyndon LaRouche on concocted charges of "securities fraud," rushed in a verdict of guilty on all counts on Jan. 7. The jury recommended the barbaric sentences of 46 years for Anita Gallagher, 41 years for Paul Gallagher, and 40 years for Larry Hecht. All three were released after posting \$50,000 bail each. A sentencing hearing has been set for Feb. 22. The defendants intend to appeal the outrageous verdict.

The length of the sentences reveal the biased nature of the jury, which deliberated for approximately five hours after a trial which lasted more than two months and was presided over by the notoriously corrupt judge, Clifford R. Weckstein.

But the "Get LaRouche" strike force has failed to reach its objective with these Virginia prosecutions, which was to shut down the LaRouche political movement. Since the commencement of this trial two months ago, the LaRouche movement has increased in strength, catalyzing an anti-war movement and continuing to publish and distribute the literature which is the only voice for the policy alternatives to George Bush's insanity of war and depression.

## LaRouche forecasts upheaval in U.S.

Upon hearing of the verdict, statesman and economist Lyndon LaRouche, the most significant political prisoner in the United States today, had the following comments:

"I have just heard a report of the jury conviction of the defendants, Gallagher, Gallagher, and Hecht in Roanoke, Virginia, and have heard of the jury awarding the customary—for Virginia—barbaric sentences.

"The barbarism of the sentences itself would suggest something wrong with the jury. The fact that the jury, during what passed for *voir dire*, showed itself to be so prejudiced that it should be discharged essentially as a whole, is relevant to the barbarism of the verdict, which speaks for itself.

"It would appear on the surface that there is no justice in the court system of the state of Virginia. But that will change; and that will change providing that we are persistent to bring about the necessary changes.

"The United States is about to go through an upheaval beyond anything in the memory of this century's events. It will be turned upside down; and those who are incumbent, in the sense of holding responsibility for the policies which

are *still* in force on the economic and other fronts, will bear the brunt of public rage. And the atrocities which judge, jury, and prosecutor have concocted in the Commonwealth of Virginia, will be part of those atrocities which will be greeted as the London mobs greeted the famous judge Lord Jeffreys of the Bloody Assizes, who the estimable Macaulay, writing in the *History of England Since the Accession of James II*, described as disappearing into history ahead of the mob in his nightshirt." (See box, page 54.)

## Government misconduct spotlighted

In closing arguments, defense lawyers Gerald Zerkin, Jeffrey Hoffman, and Donald Randolph accused the government of running a political prosecution against the defendants. Zerkin illustrated this by asking the jury: In a normal case, does the FBI destroy documents after a federal judge has ordered him to return them to the defendants? Does the U.S. government make a habit of conducting illegal involuntary bankruptcies? When the government goes to arrest Michael Milken or some other Wall Street broker on securities fraud, do they normally take along 400 armed men, helicopters, fixed-wing aircraft, and bomb disposal units? Zerkin told the jury that the prosecution is cynical. They want you to think that people wouldn't risk their money to better their country, he said.

Defense attorney Hoffman attacked the fraud of prosecutor John Russell and the task force's case. He ripped apart their case, witness by witness, beginning with the eight imposters (relatives of lenders and not the lenders themselves were allowed to testify), through the perjured testimony of C.D. Bryant, Chris Curtis, and Wayne Hintz, the latter two ex-members of the LaRouche movement.

Defense attorney Randolph presented a review of the affirmative case. He told the jury to keep in mind the Book of Matthew about Peter denying Christ, when they consider the testimony of those supporters who had made political loans but now, under pressure, called them "investments." He challenged the jurors to consider the evidence and stand up to the peer pressure they are under not to acquit a "LaRouchie."

In his closing remarks, prosecutor Russell told the jury that the defense had exploited civil rights leader Amelia Boynton Robinson, a board member of the Schiller Institute

## Jeffreys fled to prison to escape mob

The George Lord Jeffreys of the Bloody Assizes to which LaRouche refers was England's Chief Justice and then the Lord Chancellor during the period 1683 to 1689, best known for his bloody rulings following the defeat of Monmouth at the Battle of Sedgemoor in 1685. Of the peasants who supported Monmouth in his rebellion against King Charles II, somewhere between 300 and 350 were hung, 800 were deported, and many more whipped and imprisoned by the presiding Jeffreys. Drunken and debauched, Jeffreys meted out "justice" with yelling and swearing and packed juries.

Perhaps the most shocking rulings were those which condemned two women to death—Alice Lisle, the widow

of an anti-Crown conspirator, who was beheaded, and the elderly Elizabeth Taunton, who was burned alive. Both were accused of having aided fugitives following Monmouth's defeat. The populace was also disgusted with the fact that those sentenced to hang were left unburied, tarred, and hanging from gibbets all around the towns.

Jeffreys held sway for three more years, but the worm had begun to turn in late 1688, with the trial of seven bishops who were defying an order from King James II. At that point, although Jeffreys carried out his normal packing of the jury and the judges were fixed, the railroad was not carried out. The jury voted "not guilty," to the roar of applause of the citizenry, who had packed into the courthouse.

Sir George ultimately escaped the wrath of the mob, only by expressing his preference to be imprisoned in the Tower of London at the time of the takeover of William of Orange. After several months of the usual treatment, he died there—before he could be executed.

founded by Helga LaRouche, who testified for the defense. Upon hearing of Russell's comments, Mrs. Boynton Robinson said, "Is that so? I could tell him a thing or two. Nobody uses me."

### The corrupt Weckstein

Throughout the trial, the corruption of Weckstein has been blatant. On various legal and evidentiary matters, he has consistently ruled with defiance to the Constitution and on the side of the prosecution. The extent to which outrageous political bias motivates his decisions was indicated by one little example at the close of trial.

In response to a defense request to keep out the memoranda of prosecution witness Wayne Hintz, or in the alternative to redact them, taking out prejudicial material, Weckstein made a gratuitous comment on the record, that during the Mike Billington trial, he had allowed the liberal redacting of the Hintz memos, and he later regretted it because, he claimed, the prosecution was unduly hampered. Billington, another LaRouche associate also charged on concocted "securities" violations, was sentenced a year ago to 77 years.

### Nation of Islam condemns injustice

Among the many national and international observers to attend the trial, was a delegation from the Minister Louis Farrakhan-led Nation of Islam, which observed the judicial proceedings on Dec. 14. After viewing the proceedings, Dr. Alim Muhammad, national spokesman for Minister Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam, said, "It is clear that a vast miscarriage of justice is taking place in a remote corner in the state of Virginia and that pre-arranged legal chicanery to

prevent all the facts from being known is taking place, which prevents the possibility of justice."

Dr. Muhammad added, "The scene in the Salem [County] courtroom is that of a kangaroo court, very familiar to black victims of America's injustice system for a very long time, where the innocent are punished so that the guilty might go free."

## Roanoke 'justice' like East German brand

by Anno Hellenbroich

*The author was recently a candidate for the first all-German Parliament from Berlin, and is, among other things, an expert on the infamous secret police and "justice" system of the former communist dictatorship of East Germany. He wrote his impressions of the Weckstein court for a German newspaper, after returning from a visit to Roanoke in mid-December.*

The trial in Roanoke, Virginia against three more associates of Lyndon LaRouche, who are accused of alleged financial crimes, is drawing to a close after 10 weeks. Despite the insane way in which the trial was conducted by Judge