

# European Parliament calls for abolition of death penalty in U.S.

*The European Parliament denounced the recent executions in the United States and called for the abolition of the death penalty, in a resolution passed by a great majority of the assembly in Strasbourg, France on June 11. The motion was initiated by a faction of conservatives.*

*The resolution expresses the shock felt in Europe over the "increasing number of executions over the recent period," the execution of mentally retarded prisoners and those whose guilt is not proven, and the fact that there are now 2,500 people on death row.*

*The resolution was translated from the German by EIR.*

The European Parliament,

A. deeply concerned about the recent growing number

of executions in the United States of North America,

B. shocked at the execution of Robert Alton Harris on April 21, 1992, who had spent 14 years on death row in the San Quentin prison in California,

C. shocked at the execution in the electric chair of Nollis Nee Martin on May 12, 1992 in Tallahassee, [Florida] after rejection of his appeal by the Supreme Court, whereby his appeal was based on the claim that the prisoner could not be held responsible for his actions, due to insanity,

D. further shocked at the execution of Roger Coleman on May 21, 1992 in Greensville, [Virginia] whose guilt has been put into serious doubt by many leading American figures,

E. in recognition of the fact that Kenneth Richey, a citizen of the European Community, was convicted by a court in

## LaRouche: Law has been separated from truth

*Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche addressed the following statement on June 14 to the European Parliament after learning of its strong stand against judicial barbarism represented by capital punishment in the United States. In the wake of winning the North Dakota primary, LaRouche vowed to go into the Democratic National Convention campaigning for an economic recovery program, and on the issue of the death penalty—from the standpoint that he lays out here.*

I wish to congratulate the European Parliament, both for its resolution on behalf of general abolition of the death penalty and also for the very useful frankness of the Parliament in describing the unwholesome condition which exists in the United States presently.

I would wish to call to the attention of the Parliament, that in my view, although I think it necessary to campaign for the abolition of the death penalty as such, that we must focus upon a particularly nasty feature (which has not escaped the attention of the Parliament) of present U.S. practice: That is, it is the ugly, shocking reality that, in

the United States, leading institutions, such as federal courts and prosecutors, are currently arguing in many locations that actual innocence—or what is called in U.S. practice "colorable claims" to innocence—should not be considered a reason for delaying the execution of a condemned prisoner.

This tendency, which threatens to become hegemonic in U.S. jurisprudence at this time, indicates that the United States has reached a point, at which law is being separated in the most radical way from all considerations of truth and falsehood, right and wrong, good and evil. This threatens to impose upon the United States, internally and in its foreign affairs, a radical positivist misconception of law which, at least in form, is more evil and more degenerate than the worst expressions of abuse of law under the former Nazi regime in Germany.

Not only do we have to be concerned with criminal justice matters, but we have to recognize that the same state of mind which disregards the claims of innocence of a prisoner facing execution is also the axiomatic basis for frequent disregard of other expressions of the natural rights of persons: Economic justice and social justice are being discarded in U.S. domestic relations, and also in foreign policy relations, with the same abandon and disregard for truth and justice, of right and wrong, which is expressed in the horrifying spectacle of the execution of Roger Keith Coleman in the Commonwealth of Virginia.