

Prominent among the many endorsers are the following individuals (titles for identification only):

Argentina

Dr. Arturo Frondizi, former President of Argentina

Colombia

Msgr. Carlos Sánchez, Episcopal Vicar of the Sacred Host of the Archdiocese of Bogotá

Dr. Jorge Mario Eastman, president of the Andean Parliament

Jorge Carrillo, former labor minister, former president CUT (national labor federation)

Sen. Hernán Mota Mota (UP)

Mexico

Congressman Ricardo Valero, former deputy foreign minister, member of the Chamber of Deputies (PRD)

Dr. Alfredo Jalife, secretary, World Maronite Catholic Union (Reformed)

Venezuela

Congressman Rafael Guerra Ramos, chairman, Human Rights Committee, Chamber of Deputies (MAS)

Fr. Jesús María Olazo, director of Human Rights, Office of the Attorney General

Members of the European Parliament

The Hon. Emilio Colombo, Italy, former prime minister of Italy (DC)

The Hon. Roberto Barzanti, Italy, vice president of the European Parliament (PDS)

The Hon. Claude Cheysson, France, former foreign minister (PS)

The Hon. Carlos María Bru-Puron, Spain, president of the Spanish Council of the European Movement; vice president of the European Parliament's Committee on Institutional Affairs (PSOE)

The Hon. Gerard Caudron, France, mayor of Villeneuve d'Ascq (PS)

The Hon. Peter Crampton, Great Britain, vice president of the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee (LP)

Other Europeans

Prof. Dr. Hans-Richard Klecatsky, Austria, former minister of justice

Prof. Dr. Friedrich August von der Heydte, Germany, international law expert

Msgr. Andrea Gemma, Italy, Bishop of Isernia

Bishop Searby Booth-Clibborn, England, Anglican bishop of Manchester

Reinhold Adebahr, Germany, Lutheran superintendent in Sondershausen

Democratic Convention Notes

In New York City, finish demolition

by Webster Tarpley

Dr. Josef Goebbels, who was Hitler's propaganda minister, staged the famous Nazi Party rallies in the stadium at Nuremberg without the benefit of television. This year's Democratic National Convention at Madison Square Garden in New York City was conducted as a Nuremberg party rally before the cameras, staged as pure politics-for-television by party boss Ron Brown and his henchmen. Carville and Stephanopoulos, the two resident image-mongers of the Clinton campaign, having studied the fabled photo opportunities of Michael Deaver and the Reagan regime, agreed with Democratic Party chairman Ron Brown that it would be better to suppress any residual political debate in favor of a homogenized media spectacle designed to "project" the Clinton-Gore tandem.

This media strategy mirrored the Clinton-Gore intent of completing the demolition of the Democratic Party into a pale shadow of the Republicans, with full support for the Gulf war aggression, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), stealing everyone's Social Security, right-to-work union busting, sly racist appeals, and the death penalty. Two Confederate yuppies on the ticket meant that, as old Jimmy Carter explained, the only geography that mattered to Clinton-Gore was suburbia, since that was where people still bothered to vote. To assure ratification of the Clinton-Gore line, the party's traditional black constituency was mortified, through a series of ritual humiliations administered to Jesse Jackson, while the remaining labor forces were dragooned by their AFL-CIA goon controllers. The resulting neo-Nuremberg choreography offered up Southern fried fascism, which Clinton and Gore hoped would be more appealing than Bush's stodgy administrative variety. If Clinton and Gore got elected, they might succeed in reconvening something calling itself "Democratic Party" four years hence, but only as a lifeless automaton of big bucks and patronage; if Clinton and Gore went down to defeat, then the Democratic Party, already moribund, was a dead duck, with perspectives of regionalism and neo-secessionism lurking around the corner.

Fight against the death penalty

The one issue on which the Southern fried fascist crowd was challenged was that of the death penalty. After initial

Clinton-Gore of the party

returns showed him a winner in the North Dakota primary in early June, Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche had pointed to the death penalty issue, especially in the wake of the gutting of the right of *habeas corpus* by the Rehnquist Supreme Court, Virginia Attorney General Mary Sue Terry, and their ilk, as the issue that Democrats would have to respond to if the party were to have any future. During the debates on the Democratic platform, a minority plank emerged which urged the party to repudiate the death penalty and work for its repeal.

The floor leader of the anti-death penalty forces was Robert J. Fitrakis of Columbus, Ohio. Fitrakis is the publisher of *The Free Press*, a monthly political journal circulating in left-wing Democratic circles. Fitrakis had been embroiled in a controversy with Ohio Gov. George Voinovich because of Voinovich's attempt to re-impose the death sentence on seven persons whose lives had been spared through commutation by outgoing Gov. Richard Celeste. Fitrakis was a platform delegate for the campaign of Jerry Brown, and is currently a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives in Ohio's 12th district.

Fitrakis had gathered sufficient signatures to get the death penalty plank debated on the convention floor on the night of July 14, but Ron Brown's *apparatchiki* had thrown out some of the signatures, leaving Fitrakis and his friends one signature short. The convention bosses, indeed, had never officially informed Fitrakis that they intended to junk his plank.

On the afternoon of July 13, Fitrakis held a press conference to demand a full floor debate of the death penalty. This was at the old Statler-Hilton Hotel, now a Ramada, across the street from Madison Square Garden. The press conference was a success, despite attempts by the hotel manager to push the press conference out onto the sidewalk of Seventh Avenue. Upstairs in the same building, some of the remaining anti-Clinton delegates were gathering in a meeting room where Ron Brown had announced he would condescend to encounter them. After Fitrakis had finished speaking, some of his audience, including some LaRouche supporters, drifted up to the "minority delegates" gathering.

Ron Brown kept the anti-Clinton delegates waiting for

45 minutes. During that time a Jerry Brown campaign official told the delegates that since Ron Brown was being so conciliatory in deigning to talk to them at all, they were not going to be allowed to get confrontational. If they opened their mouths to assail Ron Brown, he specified, they would be hindered "verbally and physically" from continuing, and they would be surely thrown out. The Jerry Brown delegates, gathered from many a lost battle of the left, were moved to indignation. A group of Hispanic women walked out.

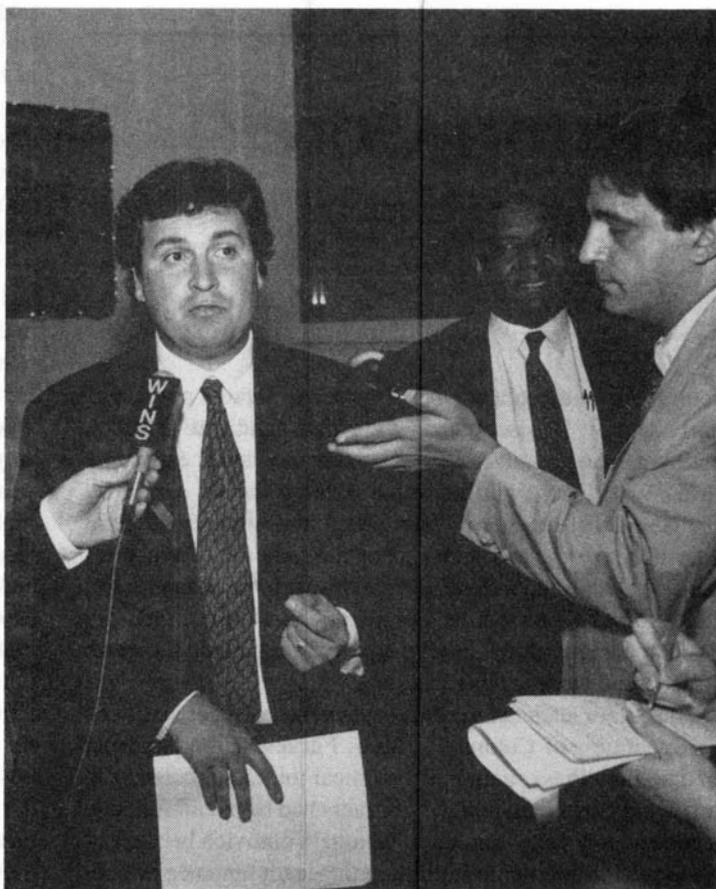
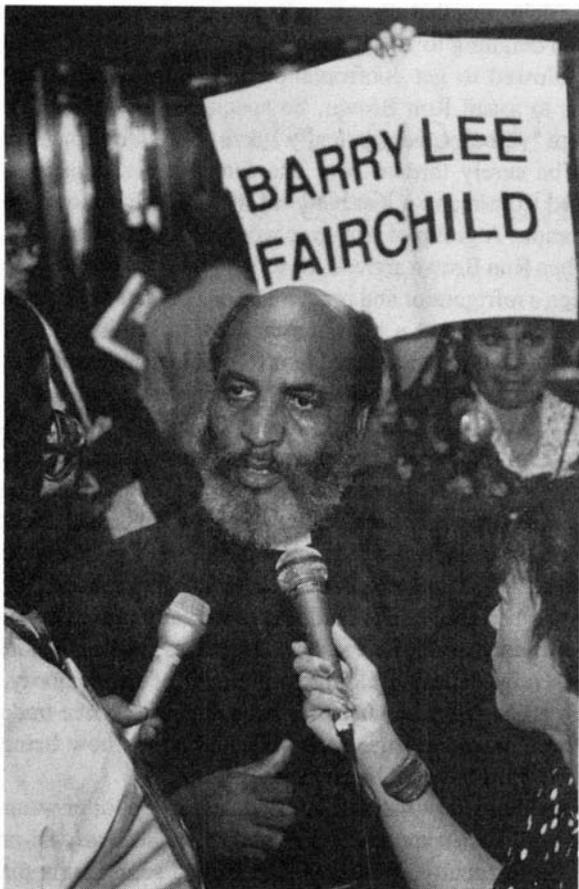
When Ron Brown arrived, he looked like his tiring-house had been a refrigerator and not the Turkish bath of Manhattan in July. He affected a high starched collar reminiscent of portraits of Calvin Coolidge. He offered his usual pabulum: He was practicing the politics of inclusion, he said, but he was in the game to win, and not just to feel good. "That's why you let the Democratic Leadership Council hijack the party," broke in an incensed Jerry Brown supporter. No, replied Ron Brown smoothly, that was not what he had done. "How can you say you're pro-labor if you support free trade and NAFTA?" shot back another delegate. No, replied Mr. Smooth, when the NAFTA bill was brought up in the Democratic National Committee (DNC), he had argued against it, but was now merely yielding to the will of the majority. "That's a lie—your law firm has been supporting free trade for years," countered the antagonist, who was now being pushed toward the door by party goons.

What about the superdelegates, a Brown supporter wanted to know. Then a young black woman demanded an answer on the death penalty. Why was Rob Brown suppressing the minority plank? Was he in favor of executing a mentally impaired black man, as Clinton wanted to execute Barry Lee Fairchild? Ron Brown had no answer; he shut down the meeting and walked out.

Is the Democratic Party a private club?

On July 13 at noon, Fitrakis and his feisty lawyer from Queens, Nick Miglino, went into U.S. District Court in Foley Square and obtained a show cause order from Judge Leonard Sand, requiring the DNC to justify their behavior. Sand, a Republican who has been functioning as the virtual dictator of Yonkers, New York, hastened to add that the show cause order was purely *pro forma*, and did not imply agreement that there was a justiciable issue. Nevertheless, the show cause order was sufficient to capture the attention of the arrogant yuppies staffing the Platform Committee, when it was served on them by Miglino at the New York Hilton later that afternoon. The DNC even attempted to orchestrate a vulgar comedy of errors designed to keep Fitrakis and Miglino waiting in midtown while DNC lawyers proceeded to keep the 4 p.m. Foley Square court date several miles to the south.

But Miglino and Fitrakis were at Foley Square at 4 p.m. Judge Sand was not pleased by their request for injunctive relief under the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution to force the DNC to follow its own rules, and



Left: Rev. James Bevel leads protest of the execution of Bill Clinton's next victim, Barry Lee Fairchild, at Democratic convention. Right: Ohio delegate Robert J. Fitrakis briefs the press on July 13, on his political and legal fight to demand a full floor debate of his minority resolution against the death penalty.

made grumbling reference to laches by Fitrakis and to possible Rule 11 sanctions. He would have liked to throw the entire matter out then and there, but he felt obliged to schedule a further hearing with briefs for the next day at 9 a.m. when, he assured, he would make short shrift of the matter.

The court reconvened the next morning with the DNC arguing that the party and its convention were a private association, despite the \$11 million in taxpayers' money poured into the party coffers for the event by the Federal Election Commission and the further untold millions of largesse from New York taxpayers for police, security, traffic, and other services. The DNC also wanted a full evidentiary hearing on the validity of the signatures. Miglino specified that once the plank had been printed and distributed, debate and a vote could be accomplished in about 20 minutes. But Judge Sand noted that the alleged platform debate had taken place the previous night, and paid tribute to the "finely tuned schedule" of the convention, which brought "prime time television" into play. The judge was now much more conciliatory: Fitrakis had not acted improperly, but there was a question of

laches, and in any case the balance of the equities inclined "overwhelmingly" in favor of the DNC. The request for injunctive relief was therefore rejected. The DNC had its *carte blanche* to flout its own rules in any way it wanted, despite the fact that such party action was indeed state action.

Despite this ruling, and despite the determination of the media to pass over this issue, various minority delegates and LaRouche activists had already succeeded in bringing the death penalty before the convention. On the afternoon of July 13, delegates alighting from special city buses inside the security perimeter were urged to vote for the minority plank by a group of LaRouche supporters bearing signs reading "You don't have to kill to be a Democrat" and positioned a few yards away on the north side of 33rd Street.

The Clinton camp, alerted to the challenge, dispatched a battalion of college kids with Clinton signs who tried to drown out such politics with the rebel yell. Finally, the police declared the whole north side of 33rd Street between Seventh and Eighth Avenues off limits to those without credentials, but most of the delegates were inside before this could be

enforced. During the following day, placards reading simply: "Barry Lee Fairchild," Clinton's likely next victim, began turning up all around the convention.

On the night of the 14th, the farce of the platform debate was sent across the ghastly electronic podium: four pro-austerity planks from Paul Tsongas, liquidated in little more than half an hour by Gov. Roy Romer of Colorado, who learned his ethics at Yale. There was no mention of the death penalty issue from the podium. But meanwhile, in the aisles of the convention and in the open space before the podium, a demonstration against the death sanction was mounted by Mrs. Sheila Jones of Chicago, a LaRouche supporter who had foiled all of Ron Brown's myrmidons and reached the convention floor. For upwards of five hours, Mrs. Jones defied the Nuremberg logic of the convention by ceaselessly marching, ceaselessly demonstrating against the racist barbarism of the death penalty. At times she was alone, at times she was joined by 20, 40, 100 delegates, some black, many not. Former Mayor Marion Barry of Washington, D.C. greeted her. The Vermont delegation hoisted an anti-death penalty poster onto their standard.

Since the television pool coverage was controlled by an NBC producer, virtually none of this reached even those hardy souls watching the continuous coverage on C-Span. But even the casual viewer might have realized that something unscripted was going on when Mrs. Jones's demonstration reached two vociferous high points: One came during the thuggish speech of Mayor Richard Daley of Chicago. "George Bush told us that he was serious about the death penalty, but he has not delivered," growled Daley, obviously hinting at an attack from the right. The NBC cameras, which normally showed the delegates applauding and cavorting after each line, were glued to Daley, and dared not pan away. But a dull roar was audible even through NBC's highly selective directional microphones: In reality, a militant demonstration against capital punishment was going on under Daley's nose. Later, when congresswoman Nancy Pelosi seemed about to suffer a nervous breakdown at several points during her rapid remarks, it was because Mrs. Jones's forces were once again vociferously protesting in her face.

But, in the end, the cat will mew and the dog will have his day: Clinton, Gore, and Ron Brown had their way, and delivered the probable coup de grace to the agonizing Democratic Party. On July 15, Curtis Wilkie of the *Boston Globe* disclosed the inside strategy of the Confederate yuppie geniuses of the Clinton camp: Clinton's plan, including the Gore nomination, was predicated on a three-way race involving Ross Perot that would make Clinton competitive in the South. With Perot, Clinton expected to have a 50-50 chance of winning, although that would drop to 1-in-5 without Perot. In private meetings, Clinton strategists stressed that "Clinton needs a Perot candidacy that gets 15-16% of the vote in November—not 3% or 30%," Rep. Dennis Eckart (D-Ohio) was saying. But then, on July 16, Perot quit.

State court strikes 'hate crimes' law

by Leo F. Scanlon

The Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) hate crimes statutes have been denounced as an "Orwellian" attack on the free speech protections of the First Amendment, by a Wisconsin Supreme Court ruling. In its decision, issued June 23, one day after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Minnesota hate crime statute, the Wisconsin ruling undercuts the legal support for the "sentencing enhancement" provisions of the ADL-sponsored statutes which are now on the books in 48 other states. The only element of the ADL program left unchallenged is the federal "Hate Crime Statistics Act," which should be scrutinized by Congress in light of this ruling.

The Wisconsin case, *State of Wisconsin v. Todd Mitchell*, involved a black youth who led a gang which attacked a white teenager, beat him unconscious, and stole his tennis shoes. Ironically, the attack was precipitated by a heated discussion among the youths about the movie "Mississippi Burning"—an inflammatory and fraudulent propaganda piece produced on behalf of the ADL by Hollywood to support the hate crimes statutes. Todd Mitchell, one of the older members of the group, asked the others, "Do you all feel hyped up to move on some white people?" Upon sighting the victim, Mitchell urged, "You all want to f— somebody up? There goes a white boy; go get him."

The state charged and convicted Mitchell of aggravated battery, a felony which carried a maximum sentence of two years. The jury found that Mitchell had selected his victim because of his race, thereby being guilty of committing a "hate crime" which increased the potential maximum sentence from two to seven years. The circuit court and the appeals court denied Mitchell's request for relief, and the issue brought before the State Supreme Court was the constitutionality of the sentencing enhancement provisions themselves.

ADL schemes create thought crimes

The Wisconsin law is based on the ADL model statute, which provides for increased penalties for crimes already punishable by law. Despite the fact that in some cases the enhanced punishments can transform a misdemeanor (such as simple battery) into a felony, the ADL claims the statutes do not create new crimes, but merely use a sentencing procedure to punish bigotry.