

Toppling D.C. statue will be victory for LaRouche

by Mel Klenetsky

As the Nov. 3 election nears, the presidential campaign of Lyndon H. LaRouche has focused international attention on a statue which sits in Judiciary Square in Washington, D.C. The statue is of Albert Pike, a Confederate general, who was a leader in the Scottish Rite Freemasons. Pike was also a founder and chief judicial officer of the Ku Klux Klan.

On a nationally televised broadcast, scheduled to air on Oct. 25 on ABC and on WOR cable on Nov. 1, the LaRouche-Bevel campaign discusses the importance of the Pike statue in relation to the demise of American foreign and domestic policy from the standpoint of the capitulation of American policy to the British geopolitical and colonial dogmas. British colonial policy in the 18th and 19th centuries was the cause of the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. LaRouche argues that that policy, carried forward into the 20th century, was the cause of World Wars I and II. British geopolitics, he maintains, and its efforts to destroy economic development, led to two world wars.

In the televised address, LaRouche likens the spread of famine, depression, and wars in Europe to the same degenerate British geopolitical policies that led to World War I. "The worst depression of this century is in full swing," LaRouche states. "We have spreading wars in the Balkans, Transcaucasus, Central Asia. And we're at the verge of a movement to a change of government which might be a hardline development around Moscow in the very near future. This all is the result of the horrible mismanagement of the post-1989 period, by the U.S. and British governments, chiefly."

Root out the Pike legacy

LaRouche concludes by warning Americans that voting for the lesser of two evils at this point in history has monumental consequences. LaRouche concludes his broadcast:

"Thus, the legacy of this statue of the racist, treasonous, satanic Albert Pike, still influences the domestic and foreign policy-shaping of Washington, D.C. If we do not root out of our republic the treason, the corruption, the degeneracy which Albert Pike and his collaborators and followers represent, there is no chance that the United States will prevail as a nation, either in its domestic affairs or in its foreign affairs.

"Unless we act now, to reject all lesser evils which compromise with what this statue symbolizes, there is no hope that the United States will escape the kind of Hell which world famine, world disease, spreading war, and economic depression generally, portend."

LaRouche and his running mate, the Rev. James Bevel, have been campaigning to bring the statue down and to defeat a ballot referendum that calls for instituting the death penalty in the District. Reverend Bevel was a colleague and top lieutenant of Dr. Martin Luther King and the director of non-violent political action for King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). In the 1960s, Bevel led the Birmingham Desegregation Movement and the famous Children's March, the Selma Right to Vote fight, and the Chicago Open Housing campaign. As the director of the Mobilization against the Vietnam War, Bevel was key in bringing the civil rights movement into the opposition against the Vietnam War.

Bevel sees the bringing down of the statue and the defeat of the death penalty resolution as two crucial ingredients in awakening the civil rights movement to the realities of the present day. Bevel, speaking to 150 Baptist ministers at a luncheon honoring Pastor Pointer, Sr., the head of the Baptist Convention for Washington, D.C., told the audience that they have to do three things. "We're going to have to lead the people and take to the streets," Bevel said, "and that means defeating the death penalty, bringing the Klan statue

down, and getting the vote out for myself and LaRouche.” Pastor Pointer urged the ministers to follow Bevel’s lead.

In a Cable News Network (CNN) interview on Oct. 22, a reporter asked Bevel what he thought Dr. King would think about his running with LaRouche. Bevel said he thought King would be working with the ticket, because what King stood for was applying the principles of the U.S. Constitution to all citizens, giving them the right to creative development, work in technology, and so forth, which is exactly what LaRouche’s 8 million jobs creation program involves.

Bevel and LaRouche see their efforts in terms of reforging the civil rights movement on even broader terms. Their campaign material describes it as follows: “The LaRouche-Bevel campaign calls on all Americans to finish the work begun by the original civil rights movement, by scrapping the disastrous neo-malthusian, post-industrial policies which have destroyed the United States in the 28 years since the assassination of JFK, and replacing them with the American System of economics, which created the U.S.A. industrial powerhouse during the administrations of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.”

King lieutenants endorse LaRouche

In a dramatic development, Rev. Hosea Williams and scores of leaders of the civil rights movement have endorsed the LaRouche-Bevel ticket. These leaders were among the top lieutenants of Martin Luther King. Reverend Williams was the field director for the SCLC, the St. Augustine Movement director, and a Selma March coordinator. Williams and Bevel were in every key battle of the King movement.

From the 1965 Selma Right to Vote campaign, Amelia Boynton Robinson, the 1990 recipient of the Martin Luther King Freedom Medal, and the Rev. Richard Boone, campaign co-director of the Selma Project and coordinator in the Chicago Open Housing fight, have endorsed the ticket.

Also on board are many from the 1963 Birmingham Desegregation Movement and the Children’s Campaign. These include Thomas Wrenn, chairman of the Civil Rights Activist Committee, and Joseph Dickson, who is the publisher of the *Birmingham World* newspaper in Birmingham, Alabama.

Others endorsing the LaRouche-Bevel ticket include Clinton Roberson, the president of the African-American Lawyers Association in Washington, D.C.; Dr. James Mock, chairman of the political science department at Austin Peay State University in Tennessee and one of the key leaders of the 1968 Poor People’s Campaign; the Rev. Ronald Vail, president of the SCLC in St. Louis and Social Justice Commissioner of the National Baptist Convention for St. Louis, Missouri; and the Rev. Thomas Brown, the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) Southern Campus Coordinator in the 1960s and currently the Indiana state vice president of the SCLC.

Two key civil rights-labor leaders giving their endorsements include James Barnett, the chairman of the Coalition

of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) for Northwest Alabama; and Annie Coleman, president of ILWU #2 and vice president of the Northern California CBTU.

Elsewhere, endorsers include the Rev. Wade Watts, past state president of the Oklahoma National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); the Rev. Robert Jones, president of the SCLC Richmond, Virginia chapter; and the Rev. Floyd Rose, who is the former editor of the *Macon Reporter*, an activist in the Macon, Georgia Movement, and the former president of the Toledo, Ohio NAACP. The list goes on.

Resolution introduced

Bevel and LaRouche mark the success of their campaign in not only reforging the civil rights movement but in getting certain actions accomplished, such as removing the Pike statue. On Oct. 22, Washington, D.C. Councilman William Lightfoot introduced a resolution which is a request that the President of the United States remove the Pike statue. The resolution notes that Albert Pike was a Confederate general, a grand commander of the Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction, and a chief founder of the post-Civil War Ku Klux Klan.

The resolution notes how the Ku Klux Klan has been an instrument of mass murder, terrorism, judicial barbarism, false imprisonment, kidnaping, and torture designed to re-enslave newly freed African-Americans, and to prevent the establishment of modern industrial, labor, and living conditions in the southern states.

The resolution also notes that a statue representing “Confederate-style justice” should not symbolically stand guard over Judiciary Square at a time when the rights of ordinary American citizens are under severe attack. The resolution further notes that it is an outrage, affront, and insult to the people of Washington and all peoples who look to the capital as the seat of justice and freedom.

This resolution was introduced after the LaRouche-Bevel ticket had distributed hundred of thousands of leaflets, held ongoing demonstrations in front of the statue, and organized hundreds of people to endorse a statement calling for its removal. To date, Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly; Councilman Lightfoot; Councilmen John Ray, Harry Thomas, and H.R. Crawford; former Attorney General Ramsey Clark; entertainer Dick Gregory; film director Spike Lee; former Congress on Racial Equality (CORE) head James Farmer; former chairman of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party Lawrence Guyot; Vel Phillips, former secretary of state of Wisconsin; and scores of other prominent people from around the country have signed the statement.

The outcome of the election is uncertain; the nonlinear situation is epitomized by the effort of Ross Perot. The emergence of the LaRouche-Bevel movement can prove to be a permanent, dramatic change of the face of American politics. At the very least, the LaRouche-Bevel forces are confident that the Pike statue will soon be removed.