

## Elected officials call for LaRouche's exoneration

by Marianna Wertz

The March 15 issue of the *Washington Post* carries a prominent, full-page advertisement with the endorsement of 500 government and elected officials from every continent in the world, including 260 current and former state legislators from 43 American states, who are among the thousands of people who have called for the exoneration of statesman and economist Lyndon LaRouche. The \$45,000 ad, an "Open Letter to President Clinton," was paid for by the Schiller Institute, which is leading the drive to win exoneration for LaRouche. The ad appears opposite the Federal Page, which is most widely read by members of Congress and the administration.

The new ad is proof of the growing power of the movement to exonerate LaRouche internationally. In addition to the state legislators, the names of 19 former U.S. congressmen and 164 current and former parliamentarians and congressmen from around the world appear in the ad, more than twice as many as appeared in a similar ad which ran in the *Post* last November.

The Open Letter to the President cites the fact that Lyndon LaRouche was freed on parole after having served five years in federal prison as a political prisoner. But, it continues, "the fact remains that a terrible crime still goes unanswered. Not only was an innocent man framed, convicted, and wrongfully imprisoned for five years, but, it is now clearly the case, documented by six volumes of unchallengeable evidence, consisting chiefly of government documents and admissions of government-led 'task force' officials, that the U.S. government knew at all relevant times, from 1979 to the present day, that Lyndon H. LaRouche and his co-defendants were innocent of the false charges for which they were convicted. This proof, that the government fraudulently charged, convicted, and imprisoned LaRouche and his associates, knowing they were completely innocent, is part of the public

record on file with the Federal appeals court in Richmond, Virginia."

The Letter concludes by demanding that President Clinton, Attorney General Janet Reno, and the appropriate committees of the U.S. Congress "take any and all measures necessary to ensure the full and immediate exoneration of Lyndon LaRouche. The failure to do so does not stain the honor of Lyndon LaRouche, who has paid a terrible price for his innocence, but the honor of the U.S. justice system and Constitution, which, for more than 200 years prior to this dark episode, stood as the symbols of liberty and justice for all."

### Judges cite misconduct

The *Post* ad includes a box, not part of the Open Letter, which cites rulings by three judges rebuking the federal and state governments involved in LaRouche-related prosecutions. In 1988, U.S. District Court Judge Robert Keeton of Boston found "institutional and systemic prosecutorial misconduct" during the trial there of LaRouche and others. In 1989, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Martin V.B. Bostetter found that federal officials had acted in "objective bad faith" and had perpetrated "constructive fraud on the court" when they illegally forced three publishing companies into involuntary bankruptcy as part of the attack on LaRouche and his associates. In a ruling just a month ago vacating the convictions of three associates of LaRouche, New York State Supreme Court Judge Stephen Crane found that the conduct of agents of the New York, Virginia, and federal prosecutions "raises an inference of a conspiracy to lay low these defendants at any cost both here and in Virginia."

### LaRouche needed in crisis

With the ongoing collapse of the global financial system, as LaRouche had repeatedly forecast and warned about, an

increasing number of responsible government officials believe that LaRouche must be exonerated, so that he can freely participate with his unique capabilities in rebuilding the world economy. The government and parliamentary endorsements of the Open Letter attest to this view.

The large number of American state legislators whose names appear in the advertisement is particularly strong testimony to the increased urgency attached to LaRouche's exoneration, given that he was prosecuted in the United States and that there has been an unprecedented level of slander directed against him.

The former U.S. congressmen who signed the Open Letter include the following: Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy, Minn.; Rep. Bert A. Bandstra, Iowa; Rep. Ronald Cameron, Calif.; Rep. William P. Curlin, Jr., Ky.; Rep. William Dannemeyer, Calif.; Rep. John G. Dow, N.Y.; Rep. John Dowdy, Tex.; Rep. Mendel J. Davis, S.C.; Rep. Bob Eckhardt, Tex.; Rep. Carl Elliot, Ala.; Rep. Cornelius Gallagher, N.J.; Rep. Charles A. Hayes, Ill.; Rep. Henry Helstoski, N.J.; Rep. Byron L. Johnson, Colo.; Rep. John A. Lesinski, Mich.; Rep. James R. Mann, S.C.; Rep. Ted Risenhoover, Okla.; Rep. John G. Schmitz, Calif.; and Rep. Patrick Swindall, Ga.

The 260 U.S. state legislators come from 43 states, with heaviest representation, proportionally, from black legislators in the South, many of them veterans of the civil rights movement who see LaRouche's cause as their own. This includes 32 members of the Mississippi legislature, 20 members of the Alabama legislature, and 15 from Tennessee.

Six Virginia legislators also signed the Open Letter, which is significant, as five of LaRouche's leading associates are still political prisoners in Virginia, with decades-long prison terms as a result of the judicial railroad run against LaRouche in that state.

A significant number of state representatives from both parties endorsed the statement out of concern for the danger to constitutional government and the rule of law represented by the LaRouche case and by the increasingly lawless policies of the "Conservative Revolutionaries" in the 104th Congress.

The endorsers list includes three former heads of state and other leading figures, including former Presidents Arturo Frondizi of Argentina and Manuel Solís Palma of Panama; former Prime Minister Dr. Abdelhamid Brahimi of Algeria; RNDr. Josef Miklosko, former Vice-Prime Minister of former Czechoslovakia; Prof. Dr. Hans R. Klecatsky, former Justice Minister of Austria; and Mounir Chafiq, chairman of the Islamic World Organization for Human Rights in Amman, Jordan.

Among the 183 sitting and former parliamentarians and congressmen listed as endorsing the call for exoneration, are these:

- 2 members of the Israeli Knesset (Parliament), including Yael Dayan, the daughter of former Israeli Defense Min-

ister Moshe Dayan

- 6 members of the European Parliament, including Vice President Prof. Alessandro Fontana

- 5 Parliamentarians from Bosnia-Herzegovina

- 4 members of the German Bundestag (Parliament)

- 2 members of the Russian Duma (Parliament)

- 2 members of the Legislative Yuan (Congress) of the Republic of China

- 5 Ukrainian members of Parliament

- 9 members of the Burundi Parliament, and a former Burundi ambassador to the United States

- 15 members of the Brazilian Congress

- 15 members of the Colombian Congress

- 14 members of the Peruvian Congress

- 9 members of the Mexican Congress.

### Issue at Copenhagen summit

Many of the more recent signers of the Open Letter added their names at the United Nations World Summit on Social Development that took place in Copenhagen, Denmark over March 6-12. The Schiller Institute maintained a large presence at the conference, with a prominent display of literature and signs calling for LaRouche's exoneration. Interest in the case was reportedly enormous, particularly from people who work at U.N. missions in New York and from developing nations, where LaRouche is well known for his opposition to IMF-World Bank austerity policies and his support for economic development.

A resolution calling for the exoneration of LaRouche and directed to President Clinton was unanimously adopted by over 100 participants at the Schiller Institute's "Conference on Global Reconstruction" held during the course of the Copenhagen summit.

The resolution states: "We, the participants at the Schiller Institute conference in Stockholm on March 11, 1995, urge you, President William Clinton, to exonerate Lyndon LaRouche. We appreciate the initiative of our guest speaker, His Excellency Godfrey Binaisa, former President of Uganda, to speak out for justice and join him in the international fight for global economic development and against speculation and usury of the International Monetary Fund."

The *Washington Post* ad also lists several leaders of associations of former political prisoners in eastern Europe who signed the Open Letter, including: Djuro Perica, a Croatian MP who is president of the International Association of Former Political Prisoners and Victims of Communism; and Yevgen Proniuk, a Ukrainian MP who chairs the Association of Political Prisoners in Ukraine.

The Schiller Institute plans an expanded ad campaign in the spring, including in the Richmond, Virginia press, because of the continuing imprisonment of LaRouche's associates in that state.

Copies of the ad are available from the Schiller Institute at P.O. Box 20244, Washington, D.C. 20041-0244.