

Support grows for campaign to exonerate Lyndon LaRouche

by Marianna Wertz

The question of exoneration for Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., the world's foremost physical economist, founder of *EIR*, and currently a candidate for the Democratic nomination for President, has now become a burning question in America and around the world—one which can no longer be swept under the rug. A political prisoner of George Bush for five years, LaRouche was railroaded into jail in 1989 and is now serving a 10-year parole term. Undaunted, LaRouche has put the issue of his exoneration at the forefront of his Presidential campaign, and is receiving an unprecedented 10-13% of the vote in two- and three-way races with President Clinton nationwide.

The support for LaRouche's exoneration has exploded since the call first went out from the Schiller Institute in early 1994, just after LaRouche was released from prison. As of March 28, 1996, a total of 651 state legislators, from 50 states—nearly 10% of the nation's state legislators—have endorsed an Open Letter to President Clinton calling for LaRouche's exoneration. The Open Letter, which has been published several times as a paid advertisement in the *Washington Post*, *Roll Call*, and other press, identifies LaRouche as a "political prisoner," and says 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."

Also signing that Open Letter are hundreds of sitting and former parliamentarians from around the world; former Presidents of Argentina and Panama; 29 former U.S. Congressmen; more than 300 elected municipal officials in the United States, including 75 mayors of cities; hundreds of civil rights leaders; dozens of Catholic, Protestant, Muslim, and Jewish religious leaders; and legal professionals from every part of the globe.

The evidence

The case for the exoneration of LaRouche and his co-defendants is outlined in detail in a 15-page booklet titled, "Summary of Relevant Evidence On the Record Demonstrating the Innocence of Lyndon LaRouche and Co-Defendants," first issued by LaRouche's campaign committee, the Committee to Reverse The Accelerating Global Economic and Strategic Crisis: A LaRouche Exploratory Committee, in

March 1994. Two years later, LaRouche's supporters have distributed more than 11 million of the booklets throughout the nation.

Why, then, with such worldwide support for his exoneration, has this not happened? LaRouche himself addressed the question in his Martin Luther King Day speech in Arlington, Virginia on Jan. 15, which was broadcast as the first national half-hour prime-time television spot of his Presidential campaign, on Jan. 27. LaRouche opened the speech by discussing his innocence and explaining why his exoneration is so important, not just for himself, but for the nation. "I'm saying, tonight, as I do on other occasions, some things that are 'very heavy,' I believe the expression is. And, when I say things that are heavy, you have certain funny people around the United States and elsewhere, who say, 'Pay no attention to him. He's been convicted of this or that,' and so forth.

"Well, in short, it's necessary to emphasize, that neither I nor any of my associates have anything of which to be ashamed. We committed no crime. The government records, the testimony of government witnesses, the testimony of government agents, clarifies that there was no crime committed by us, but was committed by a section of the government, on the initiative of Henry Kissinger, and with the complicity, largely, of George Bush, plus a bunch of crooks in the Justice Department, especially its Criminal Division, who have to be cleaned out. And no one yet has the guts to do so. I would propose that I do. . . .

"We were convicted for only one reason: because in 1982, some people behind Henry Kissinger decided I was becoming too powerful in the world. And they said, 'Get rid of him.' And, as a result of that, in January of 1983, a National Security operation was set up to try to put us out of business."

In the question period, LaRouche was asked to explain why he has still not been exonerated, despite the support he has. "In many respects, I'm a potential folk hero; and some people around Washington are afraid of that," he replied. "They're afraid, that if I were to be officially exonerated, that I'd become a national folk hero. Because the operations against me and my friends are more extensive than in any other case of fraud run through the Justice Department in the recent period. That could blow the country out. That would mean cleaning out a whole section of the Justice Department,

whole other sections of the federal bureaucracy. It would be the *end* of Henry Kissinger and his influence; it would be the end of George Bush.”

State leaders endorse the call

Despite significant attempts to slander LaRouche as an “extremist” and to black out any mention of his Presidential campaign by the major news media, nearly 10% of American state legislators, 651 from all 50 states, the vast majority of them currently serving, have called for LaRouche’s exoneration, though they do not necessarily support his Presidential campaign.

Included are the leaders of several state legislatures, both Democratic and Republican. For example, in the state of Kansas, both the Senate and House minority leaders, Sen. Gerald L. Karr and Rep. Tom Sawyer, have signed. Two State Senate Presidents Pro Tem have signed: Sen. Dennis P. Bagneris, Jr. of Louisiana and Sen. Lawrence E. Jacobsen of Nevada. The Assistant Speaker of the House in Arkansas, Rep. Ben McGee, has signed. In Missouri, J.B. Banks, the Senate Majority Leader, has signed. In North Dakota, both the House Majority Leader, John Dorso, and the House Minority Leader, Bill Oban, have signed. The Speakers Pro Tem of Tennessee and Mississippi, Rep. Lois M. DeBerry and Rep. Robert Clark, have signed. In Michigan, the Assistant Minority Leader, Minority Caucus Secretary, and two Minority Whips have all signed, as has Rep. Ernest Newton II, Assistant Majority Leader in Connecticut.

NBCSL calls for investigation

In one of the most important developments for the cause of justice, the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL), the nation’s largest organization of African-American elected officials, representing 574 legislators in 44 states, on Dec. 18, 1995, made public a resolution calling for congressional hearings to investigate misconduct by the U.S. Justice Department in three key cases: the case of Lyndon LaRouche; the campaign of harassment and selective and vindictive prosecution conducted against African-American public and elected officials, called “Operation Frühmenschen” (primitive man) by the FBI; and the conduct of the Department of Justice’s Office of Special Investigations (including the cases of John Demjanjuk and former U.N. secretary general and former President of Austria Kurt Waldheim).

This resolution was drafted following a stirring presentation by former Sen. Theo Walker Mitchell (D-S.C.), a leader of the NBCSL since its founding and a signer of the Open Letter calling for LaRouche’s exoneration. Mitchell had been a key participant, together with other NBCSL leaders, in the independent hearings convened by the Schiller Institute on Aug. 31 and Sept. 1, 1995, in Vienna, Virginia, where these four cases of Department of Justice misconduct had been investigated by a panel of legal experts and elected officials (see *EIR*, Oct. 6, 1995).

African-American support

Among the strongest support for exoneration for LaRouche and his associates has been from the African-American community. Familiar with injustice from long personal experience, many black leaders have adopted LaRouche’s cause as their own, particularly because of his strong espousal of civil rights and equal rights for minorities, as well as of economic development and an end to British-International Monetary Fund neo-colonialism in Africa.

Since mid-1995, spokesmen for LaRouche have been invited to address the Black Caucuses of nine state legislatures: Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Mississippi, Georgia, Virginia, Alabama, North Carolina, and South Carolina. In many of these states, and in a few others, the leaders of the Black Caucus have endorsed the call for LaRouche’s exoneration: Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

Endorsers of the Open Letter to President Clinton, calling for LaRouche’s exoneration, include most of the significant African-American political and religious figures in the United States. The following partial list gives a sense of the depth of support for LaRouche’s exoneration in the African-American community: Rosa L. Parks; Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.; Dick Gregory; Rev. Hosea L. Williams; Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker; Dr. Dorothy I. Height, president of the National Council of Negro Women; Amelia Boynton Robinson, board member, Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Non-Violent Social Change, and vice chairman of the Schiller Institute; Rev. James L. Bevel, former Direct Action Coordinator for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and LaRouche’s 1992 vice-presidential running mate; Oscar Eason, Jr., national president, Blacks in Government; S.A. “Shep” Wilburn, Jr., president of the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials; Bishop Roy L.H. Winbush, chairman of the Congress of National Black Churches; George E. Evans, president of the National Caucus of Black School Board Members; Earl C. Rickman, vice president of the National Caucus of Black School Board Members; Dr. Abdul Alim Muhammad, national spokesman for Hon. Louis Farrakhan and minister of health, Nation of Islam; Dr. William A. Jones, founder, National Black Pastors Conference; Mabel B. Haden, president, National Association of Black Women Attorneys; Clinton Roberson, president, African-American Lawyers Association; Sylvia Cox, president, National Association of Black Women Lawyers; Ronald Hampton, president, Afro-American Police Association; William Reed, director of communications, National Newspaper Publishers Association, Black Press of America.

Copies of “Summary of Relevant Evidence On the Record Demonstrating the Innocence of Lyndon LaRouche and Co-Defendants,” are available from The Committee to Reverse The Accelerating Global Economic and Strategic Crisis: A LaRouche Exploratory Committee, at P.O. Box 730, Leesburg, Virginia 22075.