

## Editorial

### *The Precious Elder Generation*

Our loss in the death, on Aug. 26, of America's great teacher and singer of poetry and music, William Warfield, reminds us again how precious are those, the best men and women of his generation. They learned to live with a commitment to the truth, and to the special beauty and dignity of human life, which Americans of subsequent generations compromised, and which the best youth of today are seeking to rediscover in this national crisis.

William Warfield was known worldwide, since the end of World War II, as an ambassador of the embattled best qualities of America; he was, as his friend Dennis Speed wrote in a tribute just published in *New Federalist*, a man who "knew Beauty, not as a goal, but a place where he resided," and where he knew all human beings could reside. His fame as a baritone, as an interpreter of Classical song and Spirituals, and as one of the most sought-after teachers of song and poetry in America, came from the same quality of beauty and truth which made him—effortlessly and without changing his outlook and activities—a leader to especially the younger activists of Lyndon LaRouche's movement in recent years.

Thinking of that sublime quality of William Warfield, it was impossible not to hear the extraordinary words of another great and precious man of his generation—Pope John Paul II—only a few days before Bill Warfield's death. The Pope, speaking to the 23rd Meeting for Friendship among Peoples in Rimini, Italy, took as his provocative subject the unity of Beauty and Truth.

"In this world of ours," the Pope said, "thought tends often to insist that truth should be extraneous, as such, to the world of art. Beauty is supposed even to concern sentiment alone, and to represent a sweet evasion from the iron laws ruling the world. But is it really so?"

"Nature, things, persons, are truly able to astonish us through their beauty. . . . Such a reflection brought Greek thought to insist that Philosophy is born out of Wonder, never decoupled by the charm of Beauty. Even what escapes the sensible world has its intimate

beauty, which strikes the spirit and opens it to admiration. Think of the power of spiritual attraction exercised by an act of justice, by a jest of forgiveness, by the sacrifice for a great ideal lived with joy and generosity.

"In the Beautiful," the Pope continued, "Truth reveals itself and attracts through the unmistakable charm which emanates from great values. Thus, Sentiment and Reason find themselves radically united by a call to the person as a whole.

"Beauty possesses a pedagogical power of its own in effectively introducing to the knowledge of Truth."

Lyndon LaRouche, whose own 80th birthday will be celebrated very soon, had been scheduled to get together with William Warfield to work with a group of young students in California, just at the time of Warfield's death, as Dennis Speed reported. LaRouche had written to the great singer just before, "We must make such matters clearer to those who, being of the post-war generations, because of the circumstances in which they lived until now, tend to be foolish." And he proposed again to his friend and contemporary that issue of Beauty and Truth: "Those discoveries of universal principle which uplift the human condition, are immortal, since the original act of discovery lives afresh in the imagination of each person who recreates that act of discovery in his, or her own, sovereign creative powers of mind. By bringing the greatest discoveries of science and art to life today, we hear the joy expressed by those long past, whose immortal dreams reach us, and move us today.

"We must persuade those assembled on this occasion, and others as far as we can reach, to learn this lesson. It is important to master the art, but it is sublime to inform and enlighten the soul."

The lesson for so many people who wish to make a difference with their lives—especially now, in these times—and who look at a wonderful figure like Bill Warfield and think, "Am I capable of creating Beauty like that?" is that the question to start with is, "Am I willing to stand up and tell the Truth?"