

Editorial

They shall not prevail

There are two grave issues of injustice in the LaRouche case. The first is the Stalin and Hitler style "show trial" by which the conviction of statesman and economist Lyndon LaRouche and his six associates was railroaded through the Alexandria federal court.

The second is the unprecedented sentence to death in jail, or life imprisonment—which is what a 15-year term for a 66-year-old man means—to which Judge Albert Bryan condemned LaRouche on Jan. 27. Bryan among other things refused to allow LaRouche to undergo an eye operation before his incarceration; and if he becomes blind in jail, the chances of killing him there increase further.

On the trial itself, we quote from one of many statements of outrage from around the world, the Jan. 30 editorial printed in the *Daily Nation* of Barbados.

"The free world may have to rethink its attitude to press censorship and repression in places like Nicaragua, South Africa, and the Soviet Union. Oddly, it is a United States court (in Alexandria, Virginia) which, by condemning editor Lyndon H. LaRouche and six writers to prison in highly controversial circumstances, will cast dark shadows on that model democracy.

"Until judgment was passed on those contributors to *Executive Intelligence Review* last Friday, few people would have believed the U.S. federal system capable of denying defendants the use of evidence which its newspapers ordinarily have no difficulty obtaining or publishing. It counts for nothing that Mr. LaRouche has vigorously supported America's finest cultural traditions, been in close contact with world leaders or warned about an AIDS epidemic long before its widespread lethal impact.

"It is hardly accidental that other news media have drawn a veil of silence on what insiders suspect is a result engineered by a foreign government.

"In due course the American public will discover whether it was in their country's best interests to heed *EIR's* persistent warnings and revelations about that nation's enemies abroad—and their penetration of sensitive areas at home.

"Critics will wonder whether *EIR's* outspokenness was really on trial, and not, as claimed, its fiscal trustworthiness. To prosecute on grounds of intention to default on payments after denying any opportunity to settle accounts, would seem much the same as applying a technicality to achieve a hidden agenda. . . .

"The Soviet Union is not so shy. It makes no secret of its interest in having *EIR* silenced.

"Imprisonment is not the end. It is precisely such confinement which assured the elimination of other people whose lives *EIR* believed threatened for opposing America's enemies. . . ."

On the second point, a 1986 study by the Federal Judicial Center in Washington reviews punishments given to individuals convicted of tax fraud, and mail fraud. The relevant sections of the study show clearly that Judge Bryan's sentence for LaRouche of 15 years and \$13,000 in fines was meant to send a political message internationally about what happens to anti-Establishment leaders.

The study reviews individuals convicted of tax felony, and finds that of 730 cases, seven individuals received only a fine, 356 got probation, and 367 received imprisonment. Not a single individual got a sentence of more than four years, in a total of 166 cases.

In the convictions for mail and wire fraud, out of 1,584 cases, 890 were given probation, three fines only, and 661 prison terms. No prison term was longer than seven years. Of those who, like Lyndon LaRouche, had never been convicted of anything before, only one individual of 236 got a six-year term. Most were given under three years.

One thing is clear: The Establishment means to have LaRouche out of the way forever. As the *Nation* editorial suggested, they intend that *EIR* shall be silenced, so that America "might be destroyed by the combined machinations of clever parasites, avowed adversaries and acquiescent politicians, not to mention those Satanic cults now resurgent in several states." That is the deeper reason why the Alexandria verdict and sentence cannot be allowed to stand.