

appointed attorneys for their defense. Lacking funds and experience, typically less than three years out of law school, with no prior experience in capital trials, these attorneys frequently commit reversible errors in the defense of their clients. If the condemned person is fortunate, his case will be taken up by an experienced attorney, who will attempt to remedy these errors through *habeas corpus* actions brought in federal courts in order to review errors in the state trial, thus stalling, and usually overturning, the imposition of the death penalty.

Chief Justice William Rehnquist has led a campaign to impose the standards of the infamous speedy-trial "rocket docket" in the Eastern District of Virginia on this process, in order to cut off federal appeals of the state convictions. Rehnquist commissioned a panel of federal judges to study the issue, but found their proposals too lenient. He then took the unusual step of "taking off his robes" and going directly to the floor of the Senate to lobby for his reform proposal.

The amendment, sponsored by Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.), substantially embodied the Rehnquist scheme, and demands that federal *habeas corpus* claims be filed within 60 days of Supreme Court action on direct review, and that final disposition occur within 90 days in federal appeals court and Supreme Court. This is a direct violation of the principles of sovereignty and federalism, since it demands federal action before state *habeas corpus* proceedings (where most of the facts introduced for review are discovered) are exhausted. The "rocket-docket" timetables imposed on the federal proceedings will guarantee that no effective review occurs.

Ritual sacrifice to control crime?

If a television station in San Francisco prevails in a pending lawsuit, it will gain the right to televise executions, thus bringing back the charming Victorian practice of public hangings of pickpockets, thieves, and starving orphans. The ritual sacrifice approach to crime control is all the more disgusting, in light of the abysmal failure of the U.S. criminal justice system, and its authors in the Congress, to even make a dent in the criminality which has been spawned by the rock-drug-sex counterculture.

The United States currently imprisons 407 out of every 100,000 of its citizens—a number greater by a factor of four than any country of Europe, with the possible exception of the Soviet Union, which was estimated to incarcerate approximately 400 persons per 100,000 during the Brezhnev era. Statistics for federal prisons alone (not state and county jails) indicate that this is a recent phenomena in the United States: In 1950, there were 17,000 prisoners in the United States. In 1981, there were 24,000; in 1990, there are 65,000; and by 1993, the Department of Justice plans to double that, bringing over 100,000 people into the prison system. At that point, the United States will be incarcerating a greater portion of its citizens than the communist tyrants in Moscow did at the height of their powers.

LaRouche: Why do you support the death penalty?

Virginia 10th C.D. candidate for the U.S. Congress Lyndon LaRouche released the following statement on July 30. It is circulating as a campaign leaflet with a large picture of a dog on it.

At a time that civilized nations have turned with disgust against the barbaric practice known as capital punishment, the death penalty, the United States is going full tilt, toward barbarism.

You and I know, that most of the politicians, who are supporting the death penalty, are doing so out of pure political opportunism. They don't care how many lives, even innocent ones, they have to fry on Death Row in order to get a few more votes for themselves, and a few more favors for the cronies they hope to bring into office with them. But, you also know, that the reason that these corrupt politicians do that, is because, in large part, the public is so desperate, over the worsening financial situation, so desperate, over the effects of the continued and growing drug traffic, that they're willing to resort to absolutely desperate measures, to take out their anger on someone. They're even willing to go as far as to lynch people, and have no hesitation, therefore, in supporting the death penalty.

But, when we look at that dog's face, looking up at us, and we can imagine the dog saying to us, asking us (perhaps your own dog), "Why do you support the death penalty? Are you hungry?" you recognize that a beast would kill only for food, or for defense, and so forth. And, even the beasts would be shocked at what we do in the name of the death penalty, in the name of law.

That is bestiality.

As the Reagan-Bush administration's farcical "war on drugs" has demonstrated, the FBI and the Department of Justice are supplanting law enforcement with a "scorched-earth" policy ostensibly aimed at the lowest rung of the drug apparatus. But this cynical policy will never have even its purported effect, so long as the people who run the drug apparatus, and international bankers who manage the drug cartel, and the Oliver North networks which trade and transport the drugs, protected by the same U.S. administration which is pushing the Omnibus Crime Bill.

Crime is not the target of this bill; the target is *you*, and those who might help you reverse the descent into barbarism.