

Remembering Allen Salisbury, a fighter for the truth

W. Allen Salisbury, a leader of the International Caucus of Labor Committees (ICLC) and the LaRouche movement for 20 years, died of colon cancer on Sept. 14, 1992. Although only 43 years old at his passing, Salisbury had made lasting contributions to reviving the crucial ideas which are needed to take mankind out of the current Dark Age, and into a new renaissance of human civilization.

Readers of *EIR* in the 1990s may not be immediately familiar with Salisbury and his work. His most recent article in *EIR* was published in April 1990, under the title "If the South Had Won, We'd All Be Slaves." That article served as an introduction to a reprint of Abraham Lincoln's favorite stump speech, entitled "On Discoveries and Inventions," which Salisbury had unearthed during his ground-breaking work during the late 1970s on the real story of the U.S. Civil War.

Salisbury's book, *The American System and the Civil War—America's Battle with Britain, 1860-76*, was published in 1978. Undertaken as a polemical attack against the fraud of Alex Haley's *Roots*, as well as a scholarly treatment of the American System economic policies of the political current which produced Abraham Lincoln, the book launched a devastating attack on free trade and British liberalism. It included extensive quotes from virtually unknown American economists of the 19th century, most prominently Lincoln's economist Henry Carey, which are essential to understanding the real nature of today's battle between oligarchism and republicanism.

Salisbury's work on the 19th-century American System economists provided a solid foundation for the vast amount of historical work on economics which the Labor Committees, and publications like *EIR*, have produced in the subsequent 15 years. It became an integral and vital part of LaRouche's own personal campaign for reviving American System economic policy, not only within the United States, but in the rest of the world.

Using television to educate

To get a vivid understanding of the quality of Salisbury's contribution to the LaRouche movement, the reader can reflect on his major work in the 1980s—the series of half-hour television advertisements put out by the LaRouche presidential campaigns. Working intimately with LaRouche himself, Salisbury was the producer of the shows which both educated

and shook up the electorate.

To these "commercials," Salisbury brought a deep sense of irony and humor, and the ability to give the viewer a vivid, unforgettable set of images to convey the current world situation. The Soviet communist *nomenklatura* will likely never forgive him for his 1984 show on their drive for nuclear superiority; nor will Soviet agent-of-influence Walter Mondale. Henry Kissinger, the chief target of LaRouche's 1984 presidential campaign broadcasts, will likely remember Salisbury unkindly as well, for the treatment the shows gave to him.

The television show which Salisbury, and LaRouche, were most happy with, however, was produced in the spring of 1988. It was entitled "The Woman on Mars," and it addressed the issue of providing a mission for the people of the United States, the mission of colonizing space, especially the planet Mars. The fact that this show was truly a work of art, immediately reflected itself in an outpouring of support from young people who had watched it, young people who had been moved precisely in the way which Salisbury and LaRouche had known they would be.

Salisbury was very happy after this television show, and he went on to produce a couple more that fall, including the historic October 1988 show in which LaRouche projected the collapse of the Soviet Union through its economic collapse, and called for the reunification of the Germans in conjunction with a western policy of "food for peace." By the time the 1992 series of shows was produced, however, Salisbury was too sick to lead the effort. He learned in April 1991 that he had been stricken by cancer, and plunged immediately into an effort to conquer it.

Uplifting people through laughter. . .

Before describing Allen Salisbury's fight for life, it is appropriate to give some sense of where this extraordinary person came from. He was born in Lothian, Maryland. His family testifies to his early development of an infectious laugh, which he retained to the end of his life. They also testify to the fact that he was a fighter, who refused to tolerate degradation of himself, or others.

Salisbury was the first black person to become senior class president in his high school. He went on to become politically active, both in the civil rights and anti-war movements. At the same time, he worked in the advertising busi-

ness, starting in late 1967.

As a creative writer for the Young & Rubicam firm, Salisbury was responsible for many popular commercials, including Eastern's "The wings of man."

In the early 1970s, Salisbury began to work with the LaRouche movement in New York City, and eventually took up major responsibility for the work among ghetto youths, which was organized under the rubric of the Revolutionary Youth Movement (RYM). While this work required considerable capability at self-defense—a skill which Salisbury had acquired to a notable extent—the most important qualification was intellectual guts. Salisbury followed LaRouche's advice: Use your mind the way a boxer uses his fists.

Salisbury's approach to the ghetto youths the LaRouche movement was trying to organize in the early 1970s was described by him in a deposition he gave in 1985, pursuant to a suit taken by LaRouche and several associates against FBI harassment of their work. One part of the deposition went as follows:

Q: What was the purpose of RYM?

Salisbury: Well, the purpose of it was to try and prevent these kids from killing—you know, shooting each other, killing each other, and to try to teach them. That was the purpose of the movement.

Q: How did you try to teach them?

A: What I would do is I would give them classes on economics. That's what I would do. I would give them classes on economics, philosophy, and it worked to an astonishing degree—well, a lot of instances. I would go after the dope thing, which is horrendous, absolutely horrendous in the ghettos, and so forth, and that's what I would do.

Q: How did you think that classes in economics were going to stop gang warfare?

A: That circumstance that they grew up in was much different than the circumstances I grew up in. When a kid grows up—kids five, four years old—every kid can think, regardless of what his circumstances are, and somewhere along the line the guy doesn't see any hope. He forgets how to think. He wants to get involved in turf, and everything else. By reminding an individual that he has the ability to think, to learn, and that that's truly who he is, sometimes can have an enormous impact on a person.

Salisbury became a member of the ICLC executive in the mid-1970s. Later he was a president of the National Anti-Drug Coalition.

. . . and poetry

Salisbury's commitment to arousing that ability to think, in people who otherwise seemed determined not to do so, was also reflected in his other major intellectual contribu-



Allen Salisbury's good humor and infectious laughter permeated his life's work, and uplifted all who knew him.

tion—the resurrection of the work of Edgar Allan Poe. Poe, Salisbury discovered, was not just a writer of strange stories and beautiful poems, as many American children know, much less a drug addict, but he was also an epistemological warrior for the American System of republican thinking and government against the British.

Poe's anti-Aristotelian method of thinking was the focus of Salisbury's work on the 19th-century poet. In his 1981 article on Poe, Salisbury brought out the poet's hilarious attacks on anti-human epistemology, the Baconian inductive method of "creeping," and the Aristotelian deductive method of "crawling." Salisbury was also one of the few individuals whom LaRouche collaborated with in attempting to revive the ability to recite poetry.

The fight against cancer

Allen Salisbury's last major battle was his battle to conquer his cancer. In concert with his wife of 10 years, Pat, he determined to make every effort to defeat the disease. Indeed, his will to live defied all professional predictions, which had given him three months to live.

The loving fight which the two made inspired everyone around them, from friends and colleagues, to the medical professionals who have been increasingly brainwashed into submitting to the culture of death. Appropriately, to his life and his death, his last words were: "Keep fighting."