

The drumbeat for Lyndon LaRouche's exoneration thunders worldwide

by Marianna Wertz

The exoneration of American statesman and economist Lyndon LaRouche was the subject of an international mobilization of hundreds of letters, faxes, phone calls, and telegrams to the U.S. Congress, President Clinton, and Secretary of State Warren Christopher on April 5, which was declared International Exoneration Day by branches of the Schiller Institute around the world. Particularly targeted for this message were the chairmen and ranking minority members of the Senate and House Judiciary committees, on whom the Schiller Institute has called to hold hearings on the issue: Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), Sen. Joseph Biden (D-Del.), Rep. Henry Hyde (R-Ill.), and Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.).

In addition, rallies and demonstrations calling for LaRouche's exoneration were sponsored by Schiller Institute chapters in cities around the world, including Richmond, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Cleveland, Columbus, Philadelphia, Seattle, Houston, Montreal, Berlin, Bonn, and Mexico City.

The drumbeat of support for exonerating LaRouche has been growing increasingly since his release on parole in January 1994, after serving five years as a political prisoner of the Bush administration.

Hundreds of officials join the call

On March 15, the Schiller Institute published a full-page advertisement in the *Washington Post*, the text of which was an Open Letter to President William Clinton calling on him, Attorney General Janet Reno, and the U.S. Congress to "take any and all measures necessary to ensure the full and immediate exoneration of Lyndon LaRouche" (see *EIR*, March 24). The statement carried the endorsement of nearly 500 government and elected officials from around the world, including 19 former U.S. congressmen and more than 250 state legislators from 40 states. Dozens of current and former parliamentarians and congressmen from Europe, Ibero-America, Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Australia also signed the Open Letter, and were among the hundreds of constituency leaders who mobilized letters on April 5 as well.

The subsequent international circulation of that statement, and the effect of the worldwide mobilization on International Exoneration Day, have begun to open the floodgates on the issue of support for LaRouche's exoneration. On April

10, the Schiller Institute announced that an additional 29 elected officials from the Republic of China on Taiwan have endorsed the call for LaRouche's exoneration, including 28 current members of the Legislative Yuan (Congress). The signers represent all three major parties on the island—Kuomintang, Chin Tang, and Ming Jing Tang.

On April 12, the Schiller Institute announced that 20 Ukrainian Members of Parliament signed the statement, after an address by Dennis Small, one of LaRouche's co-defendants and *EIR*'s director of Ibero-American intelligence. Small was invited to Ukraine by members of the Ukrainian Parliament who had visited Washington in March at the invitation of the Schiller Institute (see *EIR* April 14, for the report on the speech by Ukrainian Member of Parliament Natalia Vitrenko).

Congressional hearings

Leading into April 5, the Schiller Institute mobilized a delegation of elected officials from 10 states which descended on Capitol Hill during the week of March 27-31, to demand that the political prosecution of LaRouche and his associates be included in upcoming hearings on misconduct by the Department of Justice (DOJ).

The Senate Judiciary Committee has already begun the process of taking testimony in oversight hearings on DOJ misconduct in the cases of the Waco massacre and the massacre of Randy Weaver's family. The House of Representatives, with the support of Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), plans to take up the same issue after its spring recess, probably in mid-May or slightly later.

The legislators who visited Washington took the position that to limit the hearings to the Weaver and Waco cases, which came to their grisly conclusions under the Clinton administration, would mean that the hearings would become a partisan effort against the Attorney General. Since the misconduct in those cases reflects a pattern going back years, it is that entire pattern—well established under the Bush-Reagan administrations—that must be investigated, and the investigation must include the LaRouche case as well.

"Our position is that these hearings should include the LaRouche case, or they should not take place," emphasized Dr. Debra Hanania-Freeman, the leader of the lobbying effort. "Hearings that exclude DOJ misconduct in targeting

LaRouche and others, like black elected officials, would be fraudulent. The role of the Judiciary Committee is not to destabilize the administration by proceeding in a blatantly partisan way, but to look into the systemic problems in the department.”

Delivering the message

The elected officials who went to deliver the message on exoneration in Washington came from 10 states: Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, and West Virginia. The message they delivered was clear and well-documented. The evidence that the federal prosecution always knew that LaRouche and his co-defendants were innocent is on file in the federal district court in Richmond, Virginia. And there has been testimony from legal experts internationally, documenting the notorious prosecutorial misconduct in the LaRouche case.

The lobbyists cited the latest legal ruling which pointed up the prosecutorial misconduct—the Feb. 16 decision vacating the New York State convictions of three LaRouche associates. In that opinion, New York State Supreme Court Judge Stephen G. Crane found that the conduct of New York and federal government agents “raises an inference of a conspiracy to lay low these defendants at any cost both here and in Virginia.”

The officials also cited other statements testifying to the massive judicial misconduct, which had also appeared as a featured box in the March 15 *Washington Post* advertisement. These included a 1988 ruling by U.S. District Court Judge Robert Keeton of Boston, which found “institutional and systemic prosecutorial misconduct” during the Boston-based federal trial against LaRouche and associates; a 1989 ruling by U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Martin V.B. Bostetter finding that federal officials had acted in “objective bad faith” in bankrupting three companies run by LaRouche associates; and a statement by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark saying that, viewed in context, the LaRouche case “represented a broader range of deliberate cunning and systematic misconduct over a longer period of time utilizing the power of the federal government than any other prosecution by the U.S. government in my time or to my knowledge.”

Ibero-America mobilizes

There was a particularly extensive political mobilization for the International Exoneration Day in Ibero-America, according to the Schiller Institute spokesman. Dennis Small was interviewed live on the morning “Revista 110” television news and commentary program in the Dominican Republic, outlining the case in detail and calling on citizens of that nation to take up the cause as their own. The interviewer, Dr. Julio Hazim, also urged LaRouche’s exoneration, saying that it is very important that LaRouche’s ideas be known and discussed in the Dominican Republic.

LaRouche himself delivered a televised address to the people of the Dominican Republic on April 5, through an eight-minute videotape which was aired every two hours on two national television channels.

In Argentina, officials of the United States embassy in Buenos Aires gave a cordial reception to a delegation of prominent Argentinians who were pressing for the exoneration. The meeting took place on April 6, according to a statement issued by Cong. Antonio Achem, one of the members of the delegation. Significantly, it occurred while former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, an avowed enemy of LaRouche who played an instrumental role in his unjust incarceration, was in Argentina, and shortly after former President George Bush, whose administration railroaded LaRouche into jail, had left the country following a visit to Argentine President Carlos Menem.

In his official statement on the meeting, Congressman Achem gave the following account, beginning with his demand for “the full exoneration of Lyndon LaRouche,” whom he characterized “as a political prisoner of the government” of the United States. Achem, the release said, “was part of a delegation led by the private secretary to former President Arturo Frondizi, Carlos González, which also included, among others, Cong. Orlando Gallo. The delegation was received by the Embassy’s minister-counsellor, Ronald Godard. During the meeting, it was stressed that there is concern because of the accusations against LaRouche, a Democratic Party figure who was a Presidential candidate in 1984 and 1988, against whom charges were brought regarding fundraising for his campaign, which, according to Achem, was deemed a conspiracy against the system ruling the northern nation, [a system] which is being imposed on the countries of the Third World.

“The meeting also served to analyze issues relating to the economic situation, the foreign debt, and the recently approved Patent Law,” Achem stated.

The San Juan legislator said that “during the visit it also came up that we are facing international economic bankruptcy because debtors cannot meet the payments on an illegitimate foreign debt. . . . All of this has been foreseen by LaRouche and this could have been the main reason for his persecution, since he is confronting the structure of financial power within the United States.”

In Mexico City, a press conference on the exoneration issue was well attended, and an address to 700 high-school students and teachers in Guadalajara, in the state of Jalisco, highlighted the large-scale activities in Mexico on April 5. LaRouche is a household name in Mexico in the wake of his accurate forecast of, and proposals to reverse the ongoing economic crisis affecting that nation and all of Ibero-America.

The Schiller Institute has announced plans to run another full-page Open Letter to the President on April 27 in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*.