

Nationwide meetings press 'new violence' initiative

by Michele Steinberg

On April 8, hundreds of citizens gathered in New York City, Los Angeles, Detroit, Washington, D.C., and Henrietta, New York in town meetings linked by an Internet webcast, to hear Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche, and to discuss LaRouche's urgent call to form a Commission on the New Violence. In New York, where the central town meeting started with an organizing discussion attended by 175 people, LaRouche's Northeast campaign coordinator, Dennis Speed, opened the webcast, saying: "This evening we're going to be discussing a topic about which everyone in the United States, and frankly, also around the world, is quite concerned: the epidemic of violence, of what we refer to as a 'new violence,' that has engulfed the United States."

Joining Speed and LaRouche, who addressed the New York meeting via live satellite video, was a panel of leaders: Jeffrey Steinberg, the co-author of *Dope, Inc.*, and an editor of *EIR*; Minister Charles Quinn Muhammad, the former head of the Nation of Islam in Jackson, Mississippi, and his wife, Sister Esther Quinn Muhammad, former head of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Mississippi; Dr. Kildare Clarke, assistant medical director of King's County Hospital in Brooklyn, New York; Matthew Fogg, chief inspector deputy, U.S. Marshals, and founder of the Congress against Racism and Corruption in Law Enforcement; and State Rep. Harold James (D-Philadelphia), former head of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus, and a former policeman.

Each of these leaders made a contribution to the discussion of the "new violence." Minister Muhammad and Sister Muhammad presented evidence on the case of their son, Andre Jones Muhammad. In 1992, Andre was murdered by a lynching, while in the custody of Mississippi police. His death was ruled a "suicide," but the physical evidence showed that the young man had been lynched, and brought *back* into the jail, and hung in a dingy shower by his shoelaces. As they

investigated their son's case, they brought to light some 47 other cases of hangings in Mississippi jails during 1987-92. Only the determination of Minister Muhammad and his wife, forced these cases into the open. Government inquiries were a fraud and cover-up.

LaRouche and the panelists addressed issues such as the Andre Jones Muhammad case, in a dialogue that laid the basis for a national movement to get at the root causes of the "new violence."

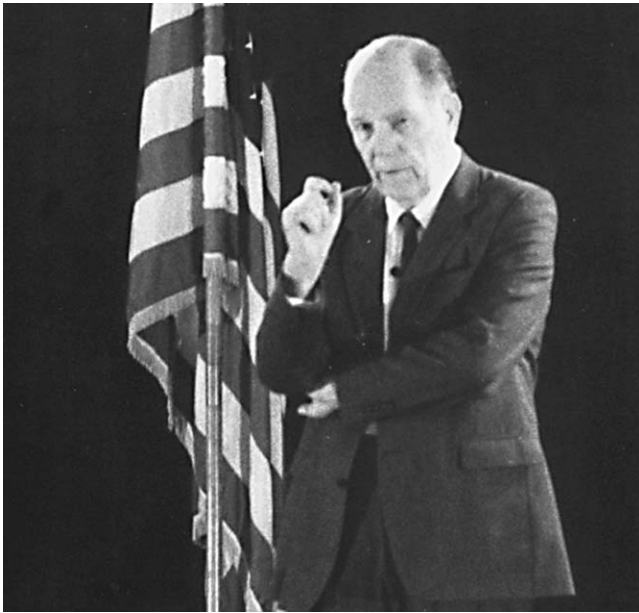
Many of the attendees at these town meetings are themselves elected officials, former elected officials, community leaders, and parents. They are veterans of many civil rights battles, and some, including leaders of the Haitian community in New York, were especially drawn out in the aftermath of the Amadou Diallo verdict, and the March killing of unarmed New York security guard Patrick Dorismond, who was gunned down by New York City police.

New York: a microcosm

The meeting took place at a time when New York is polarized—racially and economically—due, in part, to the antics of Mayor Rudy "Benito" Giuliani, who has been called a modern-day Mussolini, imposing "order" in a city about to explode in an economic and financial crisis.

Giuliani is in the national limelight, as the probable opponent against Hillary Clinton in the November Senate race. He is also a self-anointed leader of the Bush/GOP "Conservative Revolution."

Giuliani got national attention earlier this year when he issued an edict, ordering homeless people to work, or be thrown out of homeless shelters—in the dead of winter. The jobs Giuliani had planned for the homeless, including the severely ill and mentally ill, would have been taken away from municipal, county, and state workers, along the lines of the 1996 "welfare reform" slave-labor plan pushed through



Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. addresses a town meeting in Philadelphia on March 31. He has issued a call for the formation of a Commission on the New Violence.

by House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) and Vice President Al Gore.

(Indeed, even on the day of the town meeting, a scandal was being reported on New York's WCBS radio that city welfare agencies were distributing applications to welfare recipients for "scab," i.e., strike-breaking, labor at the Burns International Security company, whose union was threatening to strike. The welfare agency claimed it had "no idea" how the leaflets got inserted into the welfare packets.)

But Giuliani is *most* notorious for his outrageous handling of the recent police killing of Dorismond. After Dorismond was dead, Giuliani held a press conference to "expose" Dorismond's arrest record and justify the killing. Giuliani never revealed that the "record" was from 20 years ago, when Dorismond was a juvenile, and that it had been ordered "sealed" by the court from public disclosure. The police, insisted Giuliani, were right to "fear" this man.

The widespread outrage over Dorismond's death, and Giuliani's behavior, was so great that more than 5,000 people attended his funeral; more than 3,000 had attended the wake.

In his remarks to the town meeting, Speed disclosed that Dorismond, while not a "member" of the LaRouche movement per se, had been a political contact of the New Jersey office of *New Federalist*, the weekly newspaper of the LaRouche movement. Speed explained that the roots of the Amadou Diallo killing by police on Feb. 4, 1999, could be seen in the history of the years of injustice against LaRouche, and other members of the LaRouche movement who had been railroaded into prison. In the treatment of LaRouche, said Speed, you see "how it is that Amadou Diallo, the unarmed, gainfully employed New York man, who did not smoke or

drink, who was entering his own home, ended up with 19 bullets in him."

When news broke on Feb. 28, of a six-year-old shooting his classmate in Michigan, on the heels of the acquittal of Diallo's killers, said Speed, people began to understand that the United States has reached the point of no return.

Speed announced that in the near future, the town meetings would be followed by a founding meeting of the commission, involving representatives of all 50 states, because there is no community that is unaffected by the new violence.

Speed also announced that the commission will have task forces that will conduct in-depth investigations in four areas: law enforcement, including investigation of the escalation of killings by police, and the problems that the police face; legislation, recommending what laws should be passed, what hearings should be held, and whether and what kind of laws should exist relative to the video industry; medical matters, including the fraudulent theory of genetic roots of violence, and the drugging of 6 million American children with psychiatric drugs such as Ritalin; and culture—what is the "new violence" that is producing Nintendo killers, through drug use, video games, and worship of violence and death through movies, music, and Internet traffic.

A spark to the tinder

In response to LaRouche's call, attendees thanked him over and over for his courage and wisdom in convening the discussion of this commission through his campaign. He opened his address with a shocker.

"Well, I've heard from my wife [Helga Zepp-LaRouche, founder of the Schiller Institute], who is on post in Germany," said LaRouche, "that during the past three days, the leading German tabloid, one of the largest circulation newsprint publications in the world, *Bildzeitung*, has been featuring a story about a boy of about 15 years of age, in Spain, who asked his parents to assist him in purchasing a Samurai sword. The parents refused, suspecting that there was something awry. . . . Shortly thereafter, the boy beheaded both his parents. This is exemplary of what's going on."

"Typical of this 'new violence' are two things," LaRouche continued. "One is the separation of children, the estrangement of children, from their parents. Now, many of us know the factors which were involved in causing this. We have a breakdown over the past three decades or so, of the quality of education. . . . We have at the same time a dependency among the lower 80% of income brackets in particular, of more incomes per household. The result is, we've produced the phenomenon of latchkey children, more and more, at all levels in society. If parents have a child who is not a latchkey child, the children with whom that child is associated during the day, are usually latchkey children.

"We have a crisis in housing, as in parts of New York City, of overcrowding, at great cost. We have this around the country. These conditions are hellholes for children. The schools have become hellholes for children. . . .

“Somebody [then] introduces into this situation the chemistry of violence, such as these Samurai tradition-modelled Nintendo games, on television, and bought through game stores, which teach children how to kill! Now, what you’ve created is the effect of a forest fire. You’ve put into society, you’ve created a potential among children, estrangement, distance between parents and children, this kind of thing—the use of the 911 number to cause children to turn against their parents, the fostering of these values in the schools by teachers, more and more of them, the wide-scale use of drugs such as Ritalin among children. . . . This has calculable effects.

“Then we have the same thing at a different level. We have, in the case of the New York Police Department, we know, as in other police departments, there’s a military-style training going on. . . . They are essentially programmed killers. Because they have been trained to shoot and kill, by military-style methods, through Nintendo-game-style training. And that’s what you get, for example, in the Diallo case, in New York City.”

Councilwoman Linda Guevara from Huntington, California, at the Los Angeles town meeting, asked what we can do through the commission. (Guevara’s son had been beaten by police until he was unrecognizable.)

LaRouche answered that we must address the *conscience* of leaders, from the President on down. Unlike most other

politicians, and even well-meaning citizens who look for one-dimensional explanations for the avalanche of violence, LaRouche showed that the phenomenon is rooted in the ongoing economic disintegration, *and* it is international. “We have the same thing in Germany. The same thing in France. You have the same thing going on in a different form, in other parts of the Americas. . . . This is a global concern—of a new kind of culture, spreading around the world, which is a culture of violence, of *new violence*,” he said.

“Why don’t we talk about the problems, the real problems, which are hitting hard at families?” asked LaRouche. “Look at the growth of the homeless; look at the quasi-homeless; look at the effect of rising rental costs, and availability of housing, as compared with income, as you go down the ladder in the lower 80% of income brackets.

“*These are real problems*. . . . Consider these problems as the *tinder*. Consider the spread of new violence by Nintendo-type methods and other methods, as *the spark*. Somebody’s putting a spark in the tinder. We’re getting a nucleation of new violence as a result of combining the tinder of social decay, social disruption, with the spark—the inflammation—of this infection with the new violence by way of television and so-forth, the Nintendo games. . . . [If] we do not restore the connection between parents and children, as a viable connection, *we do not have a next generation for this nation.*”

Video-Game Violence Turns Children Into Killers

A 14-year-old boy who had never shot a gun before, shot eight classmates with eight bullets. Police were stunned. How could he do it?

The boy was *trained*, by his addiction to video-game violence. From “Pokémon” to “Doom,” America’s children are being turned into monsters, who kill “for the fun of it.”

Schiller Institute founder Helga Zepp-LaRouche, in this 1 hour and 40 minute video, **The Mark of the Beast**, exposes the evil which is hitting everybody’s hometown—and to which most parents remain oblivious. She traces the decline of American culture since World War II, and links the insane strategic and economic policies of the financier oligarchy and its war-planners, to the mass brainwashing of youth by video and TV violence.

Speech to Schiller Institute conference, Feb. 20, 2000.

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