
LaRouche in Talladega

The Immortal Talent Of Martin Luther King

Lyndon LaRouche keynoted the Jan. 19 Martin Luther King Prayer Breakfast on Jan. 19, sponsored by the Talladega County (Alabama) Democratic Conference. City Councilman Rev. Horace Patterson, introduced the first speaker, civil rights heroine Amelia Boynton Robinson, the vice chairman of the Schiller Institute, who in turn introduced LaRouche.

Patterson: Before I present this gifted lady, I want to emphasize that she has been a civil rights activist . . . [which] involves some tiring, tiresome work. You get tired; and when you get tired, strength is often zapped, because you not only have to deal with ignorance, you have to deal with stupidity. You can fix ignorance with knowledge. But it's hard to fix stupidity. It's hard to fix stupidity. And so often, in the arena of civil rights, you have to sometimes even fight with the people you're trying to help. And this, of course, makes this lady so unique.

It is also a thankless task, from time to time. Many times, those who give of themselves, find themselves unappreciated. She was one of those people who made it possible for Dr. Martin Luther King to do the kinds of things he did. Many people who were there, understand. When it was time to register folk to vote, many times, many of us would go into their homes, and it was the first time they had ever registered to vote: And you have to promise—, you'd say, "I'll take of care of the baby, if you'll go down and register. I'll wash your clothes." I'm serious! "I'll cut your grass. I'll do anything, if you will go down, and vote." And so often, the people who did these kinds of things were never fully appreciated. Dr. King understood it, and therefore he mentioned it, when he received his Nobel Prize.

This whole work, also, is a threatening work. It is very, very dangerous work. Because the evil we face, is systemic. It is an old evil. And many times, it is dressed up in new clothing. But, it's still the same old stuff.

And therefore, as we look at realities of civil rights activism, and we look at the hurdles that must be crossed, it makes this lady so unique. Mrs. Amelia Robinson was one of the persons who marched at the Edmund Pettus Bridge, on March 7, 1965. She was beaten so badly, they thought she was dead. It was a horrible, horrible day. I can speak to that: I was a young, 17-year-old kid, at that time. And I have such respect for those adults, who went through the *horror*, the horror of that hour—and yet, maintained a sweet and blessed spirit.

From the 1930s, Mrs. Robinson and her husband involved themselves in the fights for voting rights and property ownership, throughout the state of Alabama. During the 1960s, in her home in Selma, and her office, she often invited the King leadership team, Dr. King himself. And many times, they put together strategies that worked. In 1964, she was the first African-American female, but also the first female, who ran on the Democratic ticket for Congress.

Today, Mrs. Robinson is a leading member and vice chairman of the Schiller Institute, founded by Lyndon LaRouche and Helga Zepp-LaRouche in 1984. In April and May of 1990, Mrs. Robinson spent five weeks touring East and West Germany with the Schiller Institute, where she addressed thousands and thousands of German citizens about the lessons from the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. On July 21, 1990, Mrs. Robinson was awarded the Martin Luther King, Jr., Freedom Medal, honoring her lifelong commitment to human rights and civil rights.

Today—in her nineties! in her nineties! And I want to talk to her, before she leaves here: Whatever she's been drinking, I want a bottle of it!—Today, in her nineties, Mrs. Robinson is still a vibrant, charismatic leader, touring the nation, and speaking for the Schiller Institute, on behalf of the principles of civil rights and activism.

Would you be kind enough to give a warm, Talladega County welcome to Mrs. Amelia Robinson?

Amelia Boynton Robinson: 'Footprints on the Sand of Time'

That's a beautiful tribute. But, that tribute makes me realize, that I still have a lot to do! God is not through with me, yet. And, I will be here. I happen to be in the B class. I never was supposed to be a very smart person—I'm in the B class. So, I'm going to be here! And, I hope, I will be here, to see every one of you become a registered voter, and use your vote, in order that we can destroy the evils that we have in our country.

And I believe that Martin is looking down now, Martin Luther King, who, to me, was just "Martin," because I'm old enough for his mother. And when he came to Selma, people rejected him.

I believed we could make a type of plan, that we are going in different places, and we are going to get people to realize that a vote-less people is a *hope*-less people. And the only way that we are going to be able to get our rights, is to get the ballot.

And, when we were small, we used to decide that we were going to make a resolution. And, of course, every year, the resolution was, "I'm not going to tell any more stories—or lies!" But I would like to see you make a resolution on this day: a resolution that, "I am going to become a registered

voter,” if you’re not. Because, if you haven’t voted in two years, you’ve lost. That you are going to exercise your ability as an American citizen, and vote. I would like for you to make that resolution, *this day*, that you’re going to exercise your God-given right, and become a registered voter.

I worked with Dr. King, and I cried when he came to Selma. Because, on the street that my office was on, we had all of the professional African-Americans. Not *one* of them came to him, and said, “Thank you for coming.” “I am glad that you’re here.” “I would like to give you a drink of water.” Or, “I would like for you to come to my house.” Nobody!

Because, you have evil against good. And the people who were evil feared our getting together, because they were successful in dividing and conquering. So, they said, “Don’t have Dr. King to come into Selma”—they even called me—“because he’s a rabble-rouser. He’s an agitator. He’s a Communist!” And most of them didn’t know what Communism was, but that’s what the white folks said, so “we’re not going to have anything to do with him.”

And some of these professional people closed their doors. And the only place he had to go, was to my office, and to the house; so I turned everything over to them. And thank God, out of that came, as you know, not only Resurrection City, but also, March 7, which was known as “Bloody Sunday.”

So, I would like for you to make that resolution, *this day*, that you are going to follow in the footsteps of Dr. King—the *little thing* to register, vote, and become a first-class citizen.

He was rejected. But so was Christ. Mahatma Gandhi was rejected. Kennedy was rejected. Martin Luther King was rejected. But all of them left footprints on the sand of time.

But, you know, God has leaders to take up the helm, and to have somebody to carry it on. And we have, *this day*, a man who is walking in the footsteps of all of these people: a combination of trying to right the wrongs.

Unfortunately, we went to sleep after 1965. In 1967, people got positions, and they fought for it. But, the young generation feels as though it has everything made. We don’t have to do—we can go in any hotel; we can go into any restaurant. We don’t have to sit in the back of the bus. But, you don’t have it made! The evil spirit, like a mold—I don’t know whether you know anything about molds, or not; but, in my grandmother’s home in South Carolina, we would see the ground breaking. We couldn’t see what was under it, but it was something like a mold. And, as it goes along, it breaks the ground. So, you don’t be like the mold. You come up to the top, and break the ground, and break out! Because, self-esteem is something that everybody can have. You *are* your brothers’ keeper, you are God’s child.

God Makes Leaders

And, we know that we have to have leaders. This is something that I would like for each and every one of us to realize: that leaders are not those that feel that, “Well, I want to be a leader tomorrow. And I’m going to lead.” God makes leaders.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. understood his life as a talent, given to him by God to spend wisely, for the benefit of all humanity. Here, he gives his “I’ve been to the mountaintop” speech on April 3, 1968.

And we refine those leaders. Thank God, that we are now at the place where we don’t look at the color of the skin, but the contents of a man’s character, regardless of who he might be.

But, we have to fight hate! And, I am so happy, that the gentleman whom I am standing beside, is a man who will tell anybody: Hate does not help! Hate only destroys the hater!

It used to be a time, that people of color were hated because of the color of their skin. But, hate is like—it’s like a cancer. It starts, sometimes, with just a little pimple. And, if you don’t stop it, it grows. It grows into a sore. Then it takes over the whole body. And that’s what hate has done. It’s not because of the color of a person’s skin that people are hated now, only. It’s gone into our cities, our counties, and even our nation: They *hate!*

And this is *one man*: Talk with him, day or night, wake him up, and he’ll tell you, that love can overcome everything; that we have to love. We have to look at the person’s inside. And I am very proud to say, that this gentleman is a man that I have known for many years. And it’s not because of what

somebody said. Like Martin: When Martin Luther King, before he came into Selma, Martin Luther King was told, “Don’t go into that section.” He was hated. But, he did what he was supposed to have done. And that is, what God had him to do. And then, He took him away. If he were living today, maybe, the rabble-rousers might have killed him mentally, rather than physically. But he did the job, that God had him to do.

And I think of people as—let’s say, a school: Here, the teacher comes in, and says, that “I’m going to give an examination today. And I want you to take your papers and pencils out. And we’re going to have an examination.” Okay, in this class, you have Martin Luther King; you have Mahatma Gandhi; you have many other people, including the Kennedys, including Lincoln. You have Lyndon LaRouche—and, because of my age, you’ve got me!

Then, she passes out the examination. Then, she says, “Now, I want you to be sure that you’re quiet, and do your work.” And, as soon as she turns her back, you find, let’s say, Martin Luther King: “Miss Teacher, I’ve finished.”

“Bring your paper up here.” She looks at it. “You have a perfect score. You may pass on.” And he passes off of the scene of this Earth, and God says, “Come up a little higher. You’ve done a good job.”

The Kennedys, 15 minutes afterward, the same thing. “Okay. You’ve got a good score. You may pass.”

But, 40 minutes pass—the time is only 45 minutes—40 minutes pass. Many of the people have finished their examination, and they pass on. Forty-five minutes pass, the bell has rung—and Lyndon LaRouche and I are *still* working!

So, we are here for a purpose. And I am so happy to see a man, that knows no color. He’s color-blind. He is working for people, for the human race. And he realizes that we are our brothers’ keeper, whether we are on this side of the ocean, or the other side. And he realizes, also, unless people throughout the world begin to recognize people, justice, understanding, love, humility, then we have not completed our job.

So, I introduce to some of you, present to others, the man that God has ordained as a leader for people throughout the world: Lyndon H. LaRouche.

Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

Thank you, young lady. Oh, thank you Amelia! She’s very special to us, and to my wife—when I say “we”—my wife, as well. She’s been like a mother to my wife. And she’s been precious.

We have two problems, I think, which should be the basis for reflecting on Martin’s life, today. One, we have a national crisis. Now, I’m not going to mince words; and I’m not going to do any political hacking. But the facts have to be told. This economy is collapsing! The situation, relatively speaking, in terms of basic economic infrastructure, of the United States

today, *is worse than in 1933*, when Roosevelt came into the White House, in March.

That is, you look around you: infrastructure, energy, so forth; the conditions of life of our people, around the world; and don’t look in the big cities, where they put on a façade, and say, “Things are fine.” Look in the communities. For example, Detroit, now, has half the population it used to have. An industrial city is gone. Look around Birmingham, you see how the same thing is reported. It was never rich. But, their sense of loss, of loss, of loss, of this, of that: That’s the situation of the United States.

Then you get an indifference, an indifference to the problems of the United States. We have 48, at least, of the 50 states are bankrupt, hopelessly bankrupt. That is, the states can not possibly raise the tax revenue, without sinking the economy further, to meet the essential obligations of government. This is characteristic of at least 48 states.

And it’s getting worse.

‘We’re in Trouble’

If you look at the cost of living, the increase of the cost of living, as compared to what is officially reported, look at the prices of food in grocery stores, over the past six months, in the United States.

Look at the fact that the U.S. dollar—not long ago, 83 cents would buy a euro; today it takes a \$1.26 or \$1.28 to buy a euro. The U.S. dollar is collapsing in value.

What is increasing, is the amount of money associated with gambling. And the biggest form of gambling is occurring on Wall Street. The money is going to drive up—in a purely speculative way, on side bets on the economy—to drive up the value of stock prices for some companies. And, as soon as some company gets rich, the leaders of the company go to prison, like Enron. Because we have gone from the “steel” business, to the “stealing” business. The nature of the economy.

We’re in trouble. We’re in trouble on a world scale. Since January of 2002, when the present President made an unfortunate speech, in the State of the Union Address, the attitude toward the United States, has fallen rapidly to the lowest I’ve ever seen, among nations all over the world. Throughout Eurasia, throughout the Americas, the United States is despised, where it was still at least respected, or even loved, before. We are in trouble.

And look at the world. The world faces a great crisis. And the United States faces a great crisis, in dealing with the world. The largest concentrations of population of the world are China, for example, at one point, 1.3 billion or more; India over 1 billion; then you have Pakistan, Bangladesh, and the countries of Southeast Asia: This is the greatest concentration of population on this planet. It’s an emerging part of the world. The question is, what’s the relationship of the United States to these people of Asia, who represent, by and large, different