

Rangel, Waters Vow To Fight Witchhunt

by Nancy Spannaus

Aug. 9—If President Barack Obama, and the racist coterie around him, thought that senior Congressional Black Caucus members Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.) and Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) were about to roll over and play dead, in the face of the assault by the Administration-backed Ethics mafia, they were once again demonstrating how oblivious they are to reality. Both Rangel and Waters have declared they will not only not resign, but will aggressively fight the charges. And they are building up a chorus of support for their fight.

No one should expect much support from the other members of Congress for the unconstitutional assault on these veteran legislators, who have reputations of strongly advocating for their constituencies, of course. As one knowledgeable Congressional source told *EIR* last week, the White House and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi are running a virtual reign of terror, in collaboration with the FBI, against any lawmaker who might even think of challenging the President's British imperial agenda.

It is these challenges—past, present, and future—that have brought the wrath of Obama and Pelosi down on Rangel and Waters. Not only did both long-term Congressmen support Hillary Clinton's Presidential bid, up to the very last moment, but they both played a vocal role in opposing the Obama Administration's continuation of Bush's pro-Wall Street bailout policy. Waters specifically went against the nomination of tax cheat Timothy Geithner, whom Obama moved from his position as head of the New York Fed to the Treasury; Geithner was part of creating the financial blowout, she argued, so why should he be promoted to Treasury? Rangel demanded that social programs be paid for by taxing Obama's rich friends on Wall Street, has opposed the unconstitutional Deficit Commission, and has loudly objected to funding the no-win Afghan War.

Clearly, the witchhunters fear that, under current mass-strike conditions, Waters and Rangel could become rallying points for opposition to Obama's fascist program.



waters.house.gov

rangel.house.gov/Elbert Garcia

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and her lynch mob at the House Ethics Committee have targetted veteran House members Charlie Rangel and Maxine Waters, in a blatant revival of the FBI's racist Frümenschen witchhunts against African American public officials. Shown: Rangel speaks to constituents in Harlem; Waters receiving an award for her work to prevent homelessness.

the President of these great United States would say something like that,” Rangel declared. “I guess he believes 80 is old.”

LaRouche Rallies Support

Not surprisingly, it was Lyndon LaRouche who stepped forward to rally support for the embattled Congressmen. In a statement issued Aug. 2, he said:

“All patriots who remember the cause of civil rights, will rally behind Congressman Charles Rangel and Congresswoman Maxine Waters. The actions against them, in large part instigated by the unconstitutional “independent panel” called the OCE [Office of Congressional Ethics], are an insult to all who fought the civil rights fight. The fight against this assault is the fight against the legacy of slavery.”

“With this action, Nancy Pelosi has just lost her face. If she were a decent woman, she would submit her resignation now.”

Rangel Answers Obama: No Deal

Rep. Charles Rangel has kept up his offensive against the attack against him on an almost daily basis. After Obama himself came out July 30, to say that he “hoped” Rangel, having reached the age of 80, would retire “with dignity,” Rangel knew the odds were stacked heavily against him.

Speaking to reporters on Aug. 5, Rangel slapped down any notion that he should quit. “I don’t know why

Rangel addressed a Harlem Day gathering at Columbia University that same day, where he explained with passion why he refuses to make a plea bargain, saying, according to *Politico* and the *New York Daily News*, “I have never heard of a case where somebody’s accused of something,” and is asked to plead guilty to make things easier for others, without a hearing of the facts.

He asked the people in the crowd if they were familiar with the concept of “plea bargaining,” adding, “It’s an old Anglo-Saxon procedure that happens in the courts.” He then invoked a hypothetical case in the criminal courts system, in which someone is accused of bank robbery or something similar, and is told, “You don’t have to have any hearing or any trial—if you go through a trial, this judge would give you 20 years. It would cause so much disruption—but, however, if you cut a deal, this judge is prepared to let you walk away with dignity.”

Everyone knew that Rangel was mocking Obama’s words condemning the Congressman’s political career to “death with dignity,” when he told Rangel, two days ago, to quit—or else!

Continuing with his example, Rangel added, “One might say, ‘Counselor, I haven’t done anything wrong.

I didn't even work at the bank.' But the lawyer replies, 'Nobody said you were dishonest. No one said you've done anything wrong—it's just that this is a bad time to be having trials about where you work. We've got to get rid of these things.'"

Rangel added, "They say, 'Well, you're giving us a hard time! You're acting defiant, and so, therefore—you make up your mind, it's your decision.'"

To laughter, he added, "How lucky you are when God tells you that you *don't* have to take a plea. That you can tell them to let the facts speak for themselves. And if you're afraid of the facts, then it means that I can afford to be defiant.

"So you can threaten. But you know when you have the facts and your people and your community behind you, it means that I don't expect to have another bad day since Nov. 30, 1950," when Rangel heroically led 40 American troops to safety, after they were cut off by an enemy attack in Korea.

Outside the luncheon, Rangel seemed amused as reporters peppered him with questions, including asking why he didn't feel the need to resign. "Because I'm running for re-election," he said.

Waters Declares Her Innocence

As of this writing, the House Ethics Committee has just released the official charges—three counts, including using her "influence for personal benefit"—against Waters, who had demanded on Aug. 4 that the Committee schedule her adjudicatory hearing before the November election. Apparently, she had a chance to review the charges over the weekend, before they were made public today.

She has not yet issued a specific response.

But she, and Rangel, are receiving significant support, particularly within the black media and other black professional organizations. Most biting was the op-ed from Danny Bakewell, Sr., chairman of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, a 69-year-old federation of more than 200 black community newspapers. Under the title "If It Sounds Like Racism and Acts Like Racism, Then It Probably Is Racism." Bakewell writes:

"This is America, but you wouldn't think so in light of recent events wherein two high-profile, long serving African American congressman have come under attack. They are being dragged through the mud in a rush to judgment regarding alleged ethics violations....

"Congressman Rangel and Congressman Waters are valuable members of the African American community who have fought valiantly for our community. The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), therefore, urges you to stand behind them....

"Many people want to call this situation something other than what it is, but it is racism at the core. It is daunting, but not surprising that this is the case, but Rep. Rangel and Rep. Waters are far too valuable to our community to give up without a fight!"

The Aug. 6 edition of the *San Francisco Bay View*, a black community paper, took up the challenge by publishing strong statements of support for Waters by Joseph Debro, president of the Bay Area Black Builders, and Len Canty, chairman of the Black Economic Council. Both authors hone in on the role they assert was played by Treasury Secretary Geithner in concocting the charges against Waters.

While there is no question that some Republicans are chortling over the two lawmakers' difficulties, Rangel and Waters would be making a mistake to follow their initial impulse to blame the Republicans for the racist assault, as the accompanying article shows (see p. 30).

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