

## Editorial

### *The threat of fascism*

There's been a lot of talk about fascism lately, both praise and condemnation. Some are explicitly promoting what they allege to be a fascist economic "solution" to the chaos and collapse which is overtaking the industrialized West. And some (often the same people) want to send troops into a myriad of nations throughout the world on the excuse that they are run by authoritarian "fascist" military regimes.

This talk is a testament to the degree of moral and social collapse of our civilization. It also points to the fact that there is little understanding today of what fascism actually is.

Fascism is not the rule of the military per se; from that standpoint one would have to condemn the fledgling United States, with its President Gen. George Washington. Nor is it the equivalent of dirigist economic policy which builds bridges and roads—a dirigist economic policy does not have to take sustenance out of the mouths of the population, or establish corps of slave laborers, as fascists did on the pretext of building up a country.

What defines fascism is a commitment to the triumph of the irrational will, the exercise of power for the sake of power, and in the interest of a ruling class of individuals which denies the sanctity of all human lives and is willing to sacrifice whole sections of the human race, in the interest of fulfilling their drive for power. In economics this means subordinating the interests of the individual to that of a class of usurers, of permitting murderous looting against large portions of the population. In law it means rule by arbitrary power.

We in the LaRouche movement have asserted for more than three years now, that the United States was being governed by an administrative fascist regime. Just recently, with the decisions being made by the state and federal court systems on the death penalty, it is becoming painfully obvious that the United States is moving rapidly toward a full-fledged fascist state.

What is fascism in law? It is epitomized by what the Virginia, and federal, courts did in the case of the executed Roger Keith Coleman.

Fascism in law means that the test of reality is not whether something is true or not, but whether procedures have assumed it to be true. That is, the fact that a bureaucratic decision is made, even if the decision is false with respect to all reality, that decision is upheld as if it were truth, and the truth denied, because procedure is placed above reality. That's the essence of Nazi "justice."

But that is the position of the majority of the U.S. Supreme Court today, in the case of the Robert Alton Harris execution in California and a great number of other cases on constitutional rights which have come before the highest court of the land in recent times. That is the opinion of many parts of the criminal justice system throughout the country, and increasingly, in all sections of the federal government.

The Coleman case epitomizes the fascist philosophy with crystal clarity. The U.S. Supreme Court turned down Coleman's appeal in 1991 on the basis that his attorneys had filed it one day too late. The court knew that Coleman had substantial claims to innocence, and that a mass of evidence had been accumulated to be presented to a court of law which would prove that innocence, should a hearing be granted. Yet, fully aware of the existence and nature of such evidence, the court denied him the right to present it.

So, when the federal government permitted the execution of Coleman by the Commonwealth of Virginia, it was saying to the world: This man is innocent. So what? We know it. You know that we know it. We're going to kill him anyway—and what are you going to do about it?

What the federal government is saying is that the fact that an institution of authority has made a decision, according to a prescribed rule, makes that a substitute for truth. There is no longer any right or wrong, only arbitrary authority.

It is that belief—that truth does not exist—which leads to the victory of fascism. The dominance of that belief in our culture as a whole, not just the courts, shows how far toward fascism we as a nation have come.