

Movement to topple KKK-masonic monument growing rapidly

by Anton Chaitkin

District of Columbia Councilman William P. Lightfoot has introduced a resolution calling on the U.S. President to take down a statue in Washington honoring the Ku Klux Klan's chief founder and strategist, Confederate general and Scottish Rite masonic leader Albert Pike.

A majority of the D.C. Council, the mayor of Washington, D.C., "shadow Senator" Florence Pendleton, many D.C. community organizations, and a growing number of civil rights activists nationally have now individually endorsed the removal of this 91-year-old KKK monument from Washington's Judiciary Square.

A series of spirited protest rallies at the Pike memorial, and the distribution of hundreds of thousands of leaflets by the political movement affiliated with statesman Lyndon LaRouche, have spurred a public outcry against the statue as a symbol of the "Confederate justice" now reappearing in the United States. Press coverage featured the rally speeches of Rev. James L. Bevel, 1960s coordinator of Direct Action for Dr. Martin Luther King and vice presidential running mate with LaRouche. This campaign helped mobilize churches and neighborhoods to defeat the ballot referendum on Nov. 3, sponsored by the racist Sen. Richard Shelby (D-Ala.), which would have brought back capital punishment in the District of Columbia.

On Oct. 28, six days before the election, the *Washington Post* ran Courtland Milloy's poetic column entitled "Fitting Symbol for Spirit of Hate Behind Death Penalty." "The statue of Albert Pike seems to have come alive on its perch at Judiciary Square," Milloy wrote. He galvanized the city for the fight against Shelby's death penalty proposal by declaring war on the statue and the legacy of Pike, the "supreme grand commander, chief justice and co-founder of the KKK."

'An insult to all humanity'

Councilman Lightfoot filed his "Albert Pike, Ku Klux Klan Memorial Statue, Removal Resolution of 1992" on Oct. 22. Calling Pike the "Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction Sovereign Commander and chief founder of the post-Civil War Ku Klux Klan," it declares:

"A memorial statue of Albert Pike stands . . . on public land of the United States, and is maintained at the public expense of United States taxpayers;

"Albert Pike was a chief founder and strategist of the Ku Klux Klan in the years following the Civil War, the 'Chief Judiciary Officer' of the Ku Klux Klan and the 'Grand Dragon' of the Ku Klux Klan in Arkansas;

"The United State Congress on April 4 and 5, 1898, authorized [placing of the statue] . . . being falsely informed only that Albert Pike was a leader of white freemasons in the southern states, and 'a distinguished citizen of the United States, an able lawyer and statesman, an accomplished poet, and a brave soldier';

"The Massachusetts-born Albert Pike was a brigadier general of the Confederate Army, when troops under his command committed atrocities and war crimes against United States soldiers, causing a protest from the United States against the Confederate Army; whereupon Pike was relieved of his command and placed under arrest by the Confederate Army;

"Albert Pike was indicted for treason against the United States and fled prosecution by escaping to the territory of Great Britain;

"The *News Quarterly*, a publication of the Prince Hall freemasons [i.e., African-American masons], in its Spring 1992 edition reprinted the most famous poem of the Ku Klux Klan, attributed to Albert Pike, called 'Death's Brigade,' which is a terrorist threat against African-Americans and all loyal citizens, and the said Prince Hall publication denounced the said statue of Ku Klux Klan leader Albert Pike as 'an affront' to the predominantly African-American population of the District of Columbia;

"The Ku Klux Klan was an instrument of mass murder, terrorism, judicial barbarism; false imprisonment, kidnapping and torture, designed to re-enslave newly freed African Americans, and to prevent the establishment of modern industrial, labor, and living conditions in the southern states; and

"A statue representing a 'Confederate-style justice' should not symbolically stand guard over Judiciary Square at a time when the rights and living conditions of ordinary American citizens are under severe attack, and it is an outrage, affront, and insult to the people of Washington, and to all humanity who may look to the capital of the United States as the seat of justice and freedom."

Councilman Lightfoot appeared two days later in a blistering attack on the statue on Washington's Fox-Broadcasting affiliate evening news. The camera zoomed in on the words "poet" and "soldier" engraved on the pedestal, while the announcer read off the words "poet" and "brave soldier" from the Lightfoot resolution. Then the newsman read "chief judiciary officer of the Ku Klux Klan . . . Ku Klux Klan!?!—wait a minute, what's *he* doing here?"

During dramatic film footage of anti-communists pulling down a huge statue of a tyrant, the newsman pointed out that as the recent revolutions in eastern Europe "have shown us, a statue is not necessarily forever."

Clinton challenged

Arkansas news media gave wide coverage to *EIR* historical reporter Anton Chaitkin's press conference in Little Rock, Arkansas on Oct. 15 featuring his request to presidential candidate Bill Clinton for aid in pulling down the KKK-Pike statue in Washington.

Television reports and newspapers throughout Arkansas quoted the charge that Pike was a "Satan-worshiping degenerate," whose KKK murdered tens of thousands of people, and whose legacy of "Confederate justice" rules our country's courts today. A spokesman for the Clinton campaign responded to reporters that the request to remove the statue "would be reviewed."

The Associated Press procured a rebuttal from Walter Lee Brown representing the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, the organization which erected the Pike statue on federal park land in 1901. Brown "said Pike, like many during the mid-1800s, was racist and didn't believe blacks should have the right to vote. But Pike was also a humanitarian, lawyer, scholar, poet, schoolteacher, and newspaper editor. . . . Brown said . . . he hasn't been able to find reliable evidence that Pike was heavily involved in the Klan."

In an Oct. 12 interview with *EIR*, noted southern historian Shelby Foote defended the KKK and said it would be "an outrage" to take down Albert Pike's statue. Foote, a commentator on the popular PBS TV series on the Civil War, claimed Pike's role in the Klan was "irrelevant," and that the KKK must not be considered "criminal," but only the "natural reaction of the southern people to the invasion of the northerners."

KKK historians revealed Pike's role

Foote's viewpoint, that the KKK *represents the southern people historically*, and that the Klan's terrorist murder of African-Americans was "regrettable" but "only natural" and "understandable," has become the established dogma of academic historians.

The LaRouche movement's challenge to this dogma spotlights Confederate-KKK leader Albert Pike, not as a "southern gentleman," but as a Boston representative of the opium- and slave-running families, an occultist, and criminal swin-

dlar—in short, a Scottish Rite mason.

The first popular book revealing Pike's role as chief judicial officer and principal founder of the KKK was published in 1905, four years after the Scottish Rite erected the Pike memorial. Historian Walter Fleming's *Ku Klux Klan: Its Origin, Growth and Disbandment* took its information from surviving organizers of the 1860s-70s KKK, principally Scottish Rite masons under Pike's personal command.

Fleming's book was not a "slander" or "hatchet job" against Albert Pike. It placed the KKK and Pike in the most favorable possible light. The book was a hit among diehard Confederates and Anglo-Saxon "race patriots," and it launched Fleming's career as the dean of southern historians. Fleming became the leading apologist for the KKK, and was the father of the modern historical line that Reconstruction was a corrupt oppression of the South.

Fleming had written earlier that the "disordered conditions of the time caused the Dens [KKK local units] to begin to exercise the duties of a police patrol for regulating the conduct of thieving and impudent Negroes and similar 'loyal' whites." Fleming claimed that the KKK did not burn Negro school buildings "simply from opposition to Negro schools. As a rule the schoolhouses (and churches also) were burned because they were the headquarters of the Union League and the general meeting places for Radical politicians, or because of the character of the teacher." Historian W.E.B. DuBois wrote that Fleming's work was based on "ridicule, contempt or silence for the Negro."

Yet the *National Cyclopaedia of American Biography* calls his 1905 Ku Klux Klan history "an authoritative account of that organization." The *Dictionary of American Biography* says "Fleming covered the Civil War and Reconstruction in the South more fully than any other man. His works are characterized by . . . scholarly objective."

Later KKK histories have followed the Fleming line, as have most book-length Pike biographies. They have said that the Klan was no criminal affair. Thus, the critical spotlight was never focused on the U.S.A.'s national honor paid to "respected Freemason" Albert Pike.

On a popular Washington African-American radio station on election day, simultaneously broadcast live over loudspeakers at rallies at the Pike statue and in front of the U.S. Supreme Court, *EIR*'s Chaitkin contrasted Abraham Lincoln and LaRouche's nationalism, to the bankrupt bankers' dangerous plans for austerity. He asked for the people to help bring down the Pike statue "before the New York bankers, represented by Felix Rohatyn, get a chance to dictate the program of the next administration. Because this statue coming down, will send a shockwave throughout the world. The Scottish Rite of Freemasons, the Southern white Masons, are the representative in the power structure of the New York and London banking system. . . . A shockwave goes out . . . that the population is getting organized, to go with the Lincoln policy and not the Pike policy."