

many community programs, testified that he had followed these cases over the years. It was his opinion that the sense of the community was that these sentences were way too harsh for these defendants. Green called the sentences unjust when compared to violent offenders.

After the Reverend Green testified, Weckstein, in a condescending tone, told the community civil rights leader that he was "long aware of the years long and exemplary work you've done in this community, but I don't remember seeing you at any of the hearings during this trial."

In answer to a followup question from Flannery, Green responded to Weckstein, "I have talked to people in the community in which I live. The sense of the community is that these sentences are very unjustified."

The real crime

The real issue in the drama was none of the above. It was in the way Russell raised the "cult" issue to say that, not only should there be no sentence reduction, but that the judge should mete out the maximum sentence.

Russell even went so far as to argue that while he personally has the capacity for mercy, there should be none in this case, because none of the defendants came to the witness stand to recant their political and philosophical beliefs, all but saying that the issue had become the fact that they refused to break with the LaRouche movement even after their trial and conviction.

Gerald Zerkin, the attorney for Laurence Hecht, countered Russell's inflammatory words with the reasoned observation that he rejected the notion that "all of this is explicable because these are members of a cult, the view which reared its head today to the level of vengeance. Cults are groups which shut themselves off from society. These are not people who are isolated from the world. They are immersed in the world. This is not a monolithic organization with no difference of opinion. These are people with a shared philosophical belief and a serious commitment to those beliefs. But that's not what our society wants. Our society looks askance at people who spend their time working for causes they believe in. Especially when the ideas are not mainstream. That's what's frightening here. These people are being demonized as if they don't have a human side."

Russell, displaying the disregard for truth which he has displayed throughout the prosecutions of LaRouche's associates, responded with the fact-free argument that these are not first-time *offenders*, they are only first-time *convicted*. Since 1984, he said, they set upon a course of conduct in which a lot of people lost money, and have refused to recant their beliefs and conduct.

The ultimate defeat for Weckstein and Russell, and their controllers, is that the four political leaders displayed such extraordinary heroism as they were led out of the courtroom proudly, knowing their role in history, and determined to reverse this injustice.

How could this happen in America?

by Ana M. Mendoza-Phau

The Anti-Defamation League's judge, Clifford Weckstein, managed to make Nov. 4, 1993, one of the worst days in the history of the United States. By denying my husband, Donald Phau, Anita and Paul Gallagher, and Laurence Hecht their petitions for a reduction of their outrageously long sentences, he not only showed his pedigree as a lackey of the ADL, but made it clear just how corrupt the U.S. justice system has become.

"This is like Sodom and Gomorrah," commented a Venezuelan lawyer who was present in the courtroom on Oct. 25, when the hearing was originally supposed to take place. It is the "American Empire," she added. As a lawyer, she could not believe, after reviewing the facts of the case, that this was happening in the United States.

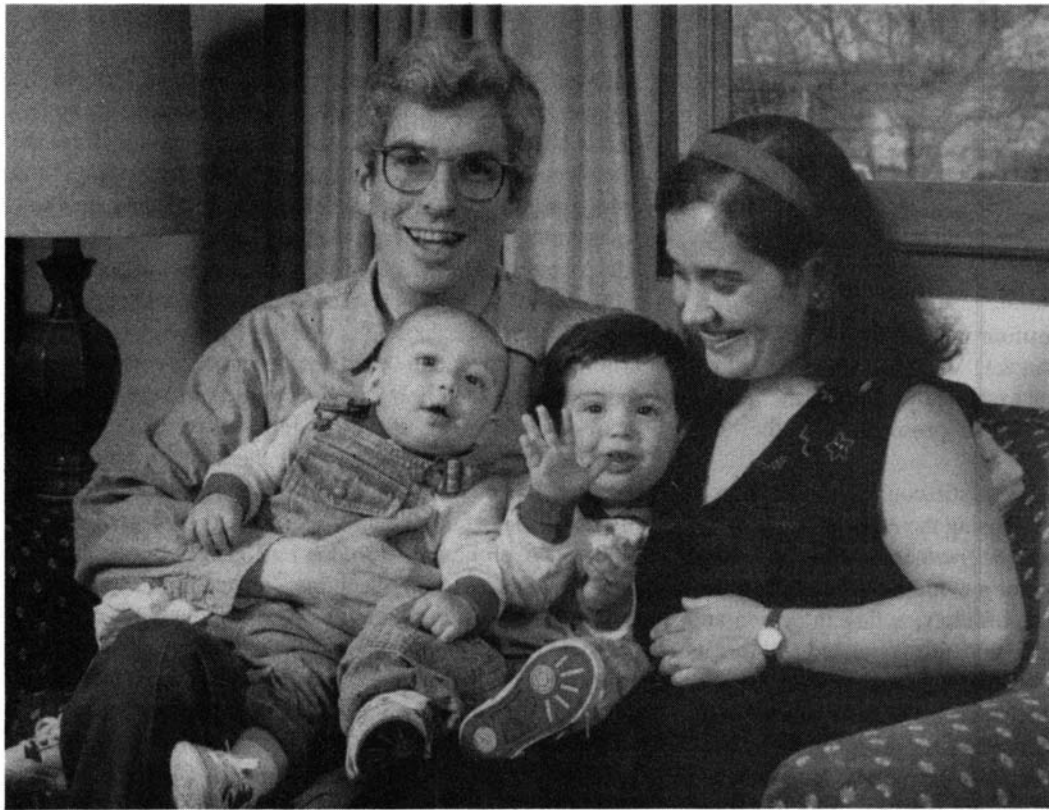
Shock in Ibero-America

This was not the only time I had heard such statements about the cases involving Lyndon H. LaRouche and his associates. During my trip to my native Venezuela in March of this year, I met with many people to discuss the case. As I explained the case to about 50 people at the first conference of the Venezuelan chapter of the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement, the injustice of the case hit me even more starkly than ever before.

People's reactions ranged from fear to total outrage. How could this possibly happen in the United States? As my husband said in a written message to the Venezuelan meeting: You have to fight against this, "not for LaRouche's benefit, nor for me, but for the future of millions of human beings that have yet to be born." The audience understood that if this could happen in the United States, which gave the world people like Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King, something was terribly wrong, and nobody was safe anymore.

The same happened at my meetings with three Venezuelan congressmen, including the head of the Commission on the Family, all of whom signed a letter to President Clinton asking him to review LaRouche's case and act to reverse the injustice. At each meeting, the same question was raised over and over again: What is wrong with the United States? Why does the U.S. population tolerate such communist-style methods of eliminating political opposition?

I also visited three newspapers. *Ultimas Noticias*, the largest-circulation daily in Venezuela, ran a prominent article



Donald and Ana Phau, with their sons Paul (left) and Peter. Prior to his incarceration, Donald Phau led the field organizing effort of Lyndon LaRouche's political and philosophical association, the National Caucus of Labor Committees, in Northern Virginia. He is also a historian of American and European history.

titled, "Venezuelan Denounces Human Rights Violation in the United States." It covered my appeal to the Human Rights Commissions of both the Senate and the House of the Venezuelan Congress, which asked them to formally review the cases. The daily also reported on Henry Kissinger's role in LaRouche's prosecution, and chose to underline Virginia's Supreme Court Justice Elizabeth Lacy's actions. Lacy, as a commissioner for the Virginia State Corporation Commission, ruled that political loans were securities, *after* the indictments were issued. As the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* pointed out, were it not for this ruling, all the cases would have had to be dismissed. Lacy, in turn, was promoted to the Virginia Supreme Court. She neglected to recuse herself from the three-judge panel that heard my husband's appeal, the which was denied.

My trip was not only covered by the Venezuelan press. The actions against LaRouche and his associates were considered such a scandal that the Panamanian daily *La Estrella de Panamá* reported on my trip. In Argentina, the daily *El Informador Público* covered the case.

Confederate justice

Don is now in the Loudoun County Adult Detention Center waiting to be transferred to a state prison. Our two young sons, Peter and Paul, and I can only see him twice a week, for half an hour, through a glass. Our family doctor was astonished that the jail did not have any policy regarding

contact visit for the children.

The time has come for the world, especially for the U.S. population, to fight against this injustice, on behalf of what the Statue of Liberty represents to the world. As Michael Billington said right before starting to serve his sentence of 77 years, the sentence "is not just a sentence against me. It is a sentence against you, and each and every citizen in this nation and around the world who refuses to compromise. The reason for this sentence is a threat. The threat says that any of my associates or anyone who may decide to become one of our associates or anyone who fights against tyranny, is going to be threatened with this same treatment. The thinking is that this will terrorize people into backing out. . . .

"I was told that I could win my freedom, my so-called freedom, if I would lie before the court, before the nation, before the world, before God—lie, and say that this fight is a fraud.

"So I refused to accept that form of freedom, which would have in fact been my commitment to slavery, to such tyranny for the rest of my life. I chose instead to be truly free, despite the fact that these barbarians intend to keep me in captivity possibly for the rest of my life. But my freedom will not be lost, my soul will not be sold to this kind of tyranny. That is not what the purpose of my life is, that is not what I have done with my life, and it is not what I will do with it."

We will fight for justice, so that every human being on this planet can be truly free.