

Michael Gelber will be greatly missed

I announced your justice in the vast assembly;
I did not restrain my lips, as you, O Lord, know.
—*Psalm 40:10*

It is with deep sadness that we report the death of our associate Michael Gelber on Jan. 11, an automobile accident in upstate New York. Gelber, who would have been 43 next month, had been a spokesman and a fighter for the policies and principles of the political movement associated with Lyndon LaRouche for his entire adult life. As those who knew him and worked with him knew, Gelber never gave less than his entire being at any moment.

Michael Gelber became an activist with Lyndon LaRouche's philosophical association, the National Caucus of Labor Committees, in 1972. He was the quintessential organizer, one of those who seek to master ideas at the highest level, and then communicate them in the laborious one-on-one process that many of our readers have encountered. Many times their bylines never appear in *EIR*, but their contribution to our work is inestimable. We were lucky to have had him as an author on Africa for a brief period.

His training in Special Education had perhaps given him a unique sense of organizing. In Boston in the 1980s, for example, Gelber waged a campaign against the malthusian ideologues under the slogan, "Before Hitler, There Was Harvard" which exposed the zero-growth racism of the Harvard eugenicists and anti-immigrationists—outlooks inculcated at Harvard as part of the training of an Anglo-American elite. Gelber also made a name for himself with his 1983 election campaign for mayor; he subsequently ran for other elected offices as well. In the course of those electoral bids, Gelber made the drug-money laundering by Boston's infamous Vault one of his top targets.

Michael Gelber was among those persecuted by the U.S. Justice Department-ADL "Get LaRouche" task force, and served a one-year sentence in federal prison for the good he had done. For a brief period after his release in 1990, Gelber wrote for *EIR*, turning his sharp sense of moral justice to saving Africa from the combined deprivations of Anglo-American geopolitics and International Monetary Fund "conditionalities."

More than three years later, the articles are still strikingly timely. In "IMF runs neo-colonial war on West Africa," (Nov. 16, 1990) he documented how the IMF Structural Adjustment Program in three West African nations had caused a \$5 billion increase in net transfers of resources in

1989—the same SAP which Nigeria has just now, in 1994, sharply rejected. In "Barbarism in Liberia is the result of American pragmatism" (Nov. 2, 1990), Gelber hammered away at the "lifeboat" ethics that covered for Anglo-American malthusianism, quoting George Bush saying that: "Pragmatism should prevail. . . . My criteria for assistance would include: the importance to the U.S. of a given state in terms of its natural resources, strategic position, and influence in Africa." In "Africa's refugees: a moral test for the industrialized world," (Dec. 14, 1990), Gelber exposed the hypocrisy and genocidal intentions of the United Nations High Commission on Refugees and the Bush administration alike.

A love of life

No one has ever been more anxious to return to organizing than Mike was after his prison term. To those who knew him, he was among those people, too often underappreciated, too often unsung, who do so much for humanity. He had a unique flair for being, as it were, egregious with his political foes, often standing alone for right against opinion and against goons whose bulk was many times his slight build. He combined with that a love of life and of people that is difficult to match.

In a eulogy delivered on Jan. 16, Lyndon LaRouche characterized Michael Gelber as someone who locates his identity on the highest level, one of those "who dedicate their lives not only to serving the good but to combatting the evil, even when evil seems to have overwhelming preponderance of force. These are rare and remarkable people who are given to us not by accident, but because of roots in some family experience, a strong moral motivation takes root in them and grows, blossoms, as it did with Michael.

". . . He is one of a relatively tiny few who have stood for more than a pair of decades in the front lines of combat against evil, when evil was supported or tolerated by a majority of his fellow citizens. And not only fought against this evil, but has fought consistently, lovingly, and with dedication to the good.

"We shall miss him very much, but it is within our power only to do certain other things. First, to continue the fight, so that his work shall not have in any case been done in vain. Second, we shall recognize the well-springs of that potential for goodness within him which made him what he was and what he could have become had he lived longer.

"And thus to his family we can say, here is a man who came from the bosom of your family, who brought to society a spark of goodness which is rare in all mankind today, and who developed that spark and served it as only a rare few have done in this time. It is a great loss, but it is also a great joy to have had him."

He will be deeply missed. Michael Gelber is survived by his wife Debra, like him a longtime LaRouche associate, and by his parents, brothers, and the millions of children of this world whom he loved, and lived and fought for.