

## 'Proud of my record,' LaRouche tells press

The first 250,000 copies of a booklet summarizing the "Relevant Evidence on the Record Demonstrating the Innocence of Lyndon LaRouche and Co-Defendants" began to be circulated across the United States, with a press conference in Washington, D.C. on March 10. The booklet, released by the Committee to Reverse the Accelerating Global Economic and Strategic Crisis: A LaRouche Exploratory Committee, for the 1996 presidential election, is the first of two mass-circulation campaign booklets. The second, slated for release in April, will address "The Attempt to Destroy the U.S. Presidency."

LaRouche's statement, "Why I Am Proud of My Record," opens the eight-page booklet. "I stand before you knowing that you have available to you proof that the government imprisoned me and several of my friends, proof that all the while the government knew that my friends and I were innocent of all of the charges. The fact that the Federal courts and the Justice Department, up to March 10, 1994, have failed to apologize for a fraudulent conviction, stains their honor, not mine. Thus, I as a presidential candidate stand before you clothed in the great honor of having paid a price for innocence which is far greater than any candidate who has stood for that high office during the recent decades," he writes.

The body of the report begins: "On the basis of government evidence now on the public record, the U.S. government knew at all relevant times, from 1979 to the present day, that Lyndon LaRouche and his co-defendants were innocent of the false charges for which they were convicted."

Mr. LaRouche was released on parole on Jan. 26 after serving five years of a 15-year sentence in federal prison, resulting from a trial in Alexandria, Virginia in 1988. Six of his associates were also convicted in that infamous "railroad." Michael Billington, a co-defendant at Alexandria, and five other political associates of LaRouche, are now serving long sentences in Virginia state penitentiaries. Both the federal and Virginia cases are separately summarized in the booklet.

"The evidence consists chiefly of the government's own documents, statements of government officials, and sworn testimony of government witnesses. These show that the prosecution lied on all relevant issues during pre-trial and later proceedings. This proof is documented in six volumes of such evidence filed on the public record within the Federal Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals," the booklet says.

In Virginia, "In contrast to the Federal prosecutors,

whose fraud upon the court was accomplished by a combination of crafted lies and a biased judge, the Commonwealth proceeded by raw political corruption in openly flagrant defiance of every statute, precedent and common standard of mere civilized criminal practice at each point of the process," the booklet indicates.

### Story breaks in Venezuela

While U.S. media have blacked out the story so far, the theme of LaRouche's exoneration is grabbing international attention. On March 9, *Ultimas Noticias*, one of Venezuela's largest circulation papers, published an article headlined, "Her Husband Had Denounced the Cisneros-Latin Links to Money Laundering, Ana María de Phau Charges":

"The Venezuelan Ana María Mendoza de Phau today told the press that her husband, U.S. citizen Donald Phau, is in jail in the United States with Lyndon LaRouche [sic], who is internationally known for his tireless fight against drug trafficking, money laundering by the banks, and the policies of the International Monetary Fund.

"My husband and the others charged in the case, including LaRouche, who is now conditionally free on parole, are innocent and the U.S. government knew of their innocence," said Mrs. Mendoza de Phau, "but the international financial interests responsible for the collapse of the banking system and drug money laundering orchestrated a campaign to send them to jail."

"In Venezuela," Mrs. Mendoza asserted, "the Cisneros Group repeated that fraud by launching a slander campaign against LaRouche and the Venezuela Labor Party, starting in 1985, when the book *Narcotráfico, SA* was published, which documents the alleged ties of Cisneros and the directors of the Banco Latino with money laundering. At that time, the Cisneros-Latino Group had such control over the country, that they were able to raid offices, deport journalists, and obtain a court order prohibiting the circulation of the book, so that Venezuelans would not know the facts."

"Mrs. Mendoza de Phau, who is on an international support tour calling for the freedom of her husband and the exoneration of all of those accused, also revealed that, in the United States, 'attorneys Odin Anderson and the former Attorney General Ramsey Clark last year filed a petition before the Federal Appeals Court, including six volumes of evidence consisting chiefly of the government's own documents, that show overwhelmingly that the prosecution in the cases against LaRouche and his associates lied and covered up exculpatory information, violating all constitutional rights. So far,' she asserted, 'both the Appeals Court and the Department of Justice have declined to order a review of this case.'"

Persons wishing to obtain copies of the booklet may send their name, address, and telephone number to the LaRouche Exploratory Committee, P.O. Box 730, Leesburg, Virginia, 22075, committee spokesmen said.