

# Behind Marion Barry's comeback, a larger rebellion brews in D.C.

by Mel Klenetsky

The Sept. 13 primary day victory for Washington, D.C. mayoralty candidate Marion Barry was more than a "cinderella" story of a "down-on-his-luck" politician making a sudden, dramatic return. For, although the personal redemption themes of the Barry campaign and the overwhelming response of D.C. citizens cannot be denied, there is a larger and far more important story in the Barry victory than Barry's personal triumph. The victory of Barry, who was one of the most targeted African-American elected officials in the country, reflects a rebellion in the African-American community against FBI, Department of Justice, and Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) operations to humiliate and overthrow African-American elected officials and representative groups. This rebellion is now surfacing in many ways, including the recent brawl in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the nation's oldest civil rights group, surrounding the removal of Benjamin Chavis as executive director.

## DOJ targets Mayor Barry

Hounded almost from the moment he came into office by the DOJ (especially in the Bush-Reagan years), the FBI, and the ADL, the temporary political demise of Barry after 12 years in office resulted from a "sting" set up by former U.S. Attorney General Jay B. Stephens. Stephens and the FBI used a former girlfriend of Barry's, Rasheeda Moore, to lure Barry into a hotel room and smoke cocaine before a hidden camera. All of America saw those tapes. But while people were saddened at seeing Barry's personal degeneration, they were also angered by the sordid FBI entrapment, which was an obvious political targeting. The African-American community, quite aware of the generalized FBI and DOJ targeting of black elected officials, now witnessed the entrapment game on television.

As Barry's trial got under way, D.C. activist, lawyer, and journalist Mary E. Cox submitted a petition to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, charging the DOJ and the U.S. government with gross violations of human rights and requesting a U.N. observer to view the trial.

Cox's petition documents that "since 1984 the Department of Justice, in close collaboration with the *Washington Post*, has harassed, persecuted, and prosecuted the mayor

and anyone connected with him under the cover of an investigation of public corruption and drug use in an effort to remove him from office." A seven-year investigation of Barry came up with nothing, until the Rasheeda Moore "sting." By its own admission, the office of U.S. Attorney Jay Stephens spent an estimated \$50 million in public funds to entrap the mayor.

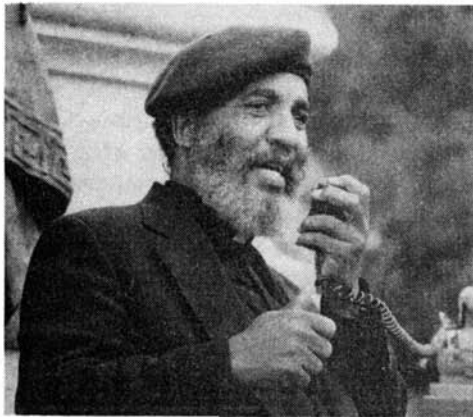
The role played by President George Bush in the vendetta against Barry is also known. According to a book by Jonathan Agronsky, Bush personally turned down a request by a high-ranking black leader to work out a plea bargain deal for Barry, after the latter's arrest. The President's reply was: "No, I'm not going to intervene. I want him [Barry] to go to jail."

The DOJ campaign against Barry included a 17-month undercover FBI "sting" operation begun by Stephens's office in 1986 against every major D.C. city agency, and top city officials and city contractors who were friends of Barry. As Barry came to trial, the operations against the city of U.S. Attorney Stephens and his predecessor Joseph di Genova were closed down. John B. Clyburn, a Washington, D.C. minority contractor and close associate of Barry, was brought to trial and acquitted on July 16, 1990, four days after the same jury acquitted his co-defendant, David E. Rivers, another Barry associate and former head of the city's Department of Human Services.

The acquittal of Rivers and Clyburn marked the finale of one of the government's broadest and most heralded investigations of alleged District government corruption. Sources close to the investigation admitted that Barry was the real target of the DOJ persecution. When Stephens and di Genova couldn't get Barry this way, they set up the Rasheeda Moore entrapment, and Barry was eventually convicted on a misdemeanor cocaine possession charge.

## The return of Marion Barry

Barry had served on the first elected D.C. City Council in 1976, was elected mayor in 1978, and served three terms. After serving six months in prison, he began his comeback by running against Wilhelmina Rolark, a long-term incumbent, in the 1992 race for Ward 8 City Council member. His margin of victory was hefty.



*Marion Barry's election victory signals a revolt by those who are fed up with all the dirty tricks of the FBI, the ADL, and the Justice Department. Shown here: a rally in support of Mayor Barry in July 1990; Washington, D.C. activist and attorney Mary E. Cox; Rev. James Bevel leads a demonstration at the statue of KKK founder Albert Pike.*

In the Sept. 13, 1994 Democratic Party primary, City Councilman Barry garnered 65,000 votes, easily defeating incumbent Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly, who came in a distant third with 18,000 votes (13%), and City Councilman John Ray, the candidate with the most financial backing, as well as the support of the *Washington Post* (no one has ever been elected mayor of Washington, D.C. without endorsement by the *Post*). Ray received 50,923 votes (37%). Barry's win followed a brilliant political campaign, in which he registered 12,000 new voters, many from the homeless constituency that he had championed as mayor. Barry's political career had started with the civil rights movement as an organizer for the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, and he had done a lot for the youth, the homeless, and senior citizens; these constituencies came back to him.

Using his personal history of having cured himself of drug and alcohol problems, Barry campaigned hard on the theme of change and redemption. His election night victory speech quoted a well-known hymn and Scriptures: "Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I was blind, but now I see, lost but now found. Faith the size

of mustard seed can move mountains." Barry is expected to win against Republican nominee Carol Schwartz in the November election.

Barry carried six of the city's eight wards in the primary election. Because his only losses were in the white wards—he received only 600 votes to Ray's 14,000 in the predominantly white (88%), high income (\$48,967 median) Ward 3—while winning the black wards, including middle-class areas, by high margins, the *New York Times* and other press described the Barry victory as baring a racial rift. This description misses the important process occurring now in the African-American community.

### 'Fruehmenschen'

Dr. Mary Sawyer, author of the *The Dilemma of Black Politics: A Report on the Harassment of Black Elected Officials*, documented a widespread pattern of improper investigations and charges against black elected officials. In her 1977 study, she wrote, "It is significant, for example, that the black official considered to be the most powerful or influential in a particular state has in many instances been the

target of harassment. . . ." Her updated 1987 report showed that 43% of all black elected officials in the United States today were either currently under investigation or indictment, or have been in the past. The investigations of Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy, and California Rep. Walter Tucker are just a few of the many cases of the continuation of this policy by the FBI and the DOJ to this day.

On Jan. 27, 1988, Rep. Mervyn Dymally (D-Calif.), chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, entered into the *Congressional Record* the following sworn testimony of Hirsch Friedman, given in the federal court case, *United States of America v. A. Reginald Eaves*, tried in Georgia. Hirsch was a Georgia lawyer working in undercover activity under the control of Special Agent John C. McAvoy of the FBI.

Friedman said: "Shortly after I began working with the FBI in 1979, I was made aware of an 'unofficial' policy of the FBI which was generally referred to by Special Agent John McAvoy as 'Fruehmenschen' [a German word meaning "primitive men"]. The purpose of this policy was the routine investigation without probable cause of prominent elected and appointed black officials in major metropolitan areas throughout the United States. I learned from my conversations with special agents of the FBI that the basis for this Fruehmenschen policy was the assumption by the FBI that Black officials were intellectually and socially incapable of governing major cities."

Congressman Dymally forwarded this to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees.

### **The firing of NAACP's Ben Chavis**

The African-American community has become increasingly sensitive to outside interference. One of the most blatant recent examples of this has been the case of NAACP national head Ben Chavis, who was fired in August as the result of a concerted effort by the media, corporate foundations, and the ADL. Chavis and his supporters described the efforts to oust him as a "lynching" and a "crucifixion" by forces "outside the African-American community."

Chavis was not fired because of the "mishandling of funds" or failing to report a job discrimination settlement that he made when he became director, as has been alleged. The real battle was over whether the Wall Street establishment has the right to dictate whom African-American politicians can associate with and what they can discuss. One of the "outside forces" Chavis referred to included the Anti-Defamation League, whose leaders became apoplectic earlier in the year when the Congressional Black Caucus mooted opening a dialogue with the Nation of Islam. The ADL forced the Caucus to back down from the dialogue, but went into a further frenzy when Chavis hosted the National African-American Leadership Summit in Baltimore in June, which included Nation of Islam leader Minister Louis Farrakhan along with Black Caucus leader Rep. Kweisi Mfume (D-

Md.), the Rev. Jesse Jackson, and many other African-American political figures.

Indeed the Leadership Summit was the African-American community leadership's way of telling the ADL where to go. Numerous sources who attended the summit said there was unanimous support for Farrakhan's presence, because of his efforts to combat drugs and the successes of his prisoner rehabilitation program. This was reflected in a *Time/CNN* poll conducted last February which found that 70% of black American adults (think Farrakhan is "someone who says things the country should hear.")

The ADL, which issued a report in 1991 charging that black intellectuals posed the greatest danger to Jews, immediately began a stream of public denunciations of Chavis for daring to invite Farrakhan to the meeting, and demands for Chavis's resignation soon began to be heard. The *Wall Street Journal* editorially called for Chavis to step down and threatened withdrawal of corporate support. In mid-August, the Ford Foundation, one of the NAACP's biggest donors, held up a \$250,000 grant to the NAACP, feeding the environment for Chavis's ouster.

The media onslaught against Chavis, led by syndicated columnist Carl Rowan and the *Washington Post*, among others, argued that it was Chavis's "mishandling of funds," and not his defiance of the ADL and Wall Street, with his overtures to youth and black separatist groups, that led to his firing. Chavis was fired the day before the second National African-American Leadership Summit was to take place.

### **The death penalty fight**

The anti-death penalty campaign, and the parallel campaign to bring down the Judiciary Square statue of KKK founder Albert Pike, begun by the LaRouche-Bevel presidential campaign in October 1992, helped to shape the more thoughtful climate that the Barry victory signifies. When a death penalty referendum was announced for Washington, D.C., everyone expected that city residents, given the high murder rate in the city, would handily pass the referendum and set a precedent for death penalty referendums around the country.

On Oct. 7, 1992, the Rev. James Bevel, vice-presidential candidate on the LaRouche-Bevel 1992 presidential ticket, started a picket line in front of the Rehnquist Supreme Court. Bevel was joined by Amelia Boynton Robinson, founder of the Selma voting rights movement, and Hosea Williams, "field general" of Martin Luther King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). Marion Barry (who would fight the death penalty up and down the streets of his Ward) joined the picket line, but he believed, in common with the "experts," that the referendum for capital punishment would pass.

This was the first rally in a 30-day fight which led to almost all the political and religious leaders in the city joining the battle. With the polls and media insisting through election

morning that the residents of the nation's capital were "split 50-50" on the death penalty referendum Congress forced them to hold, Washington citizens turned out in large numbers and crushed this draconian capital punishment law by 2-1.

The LaRouche-Bevel campaign to bring down the statue of Albert Pike, which sits on Judiciary Square in Washington, D.C., is still ongoing. Barry, Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly, and most of the City Council members signed on supporting a resolution to remove this disgraceful monument, although no one on the City Council had the courage to introduce the resolution to bring down the statue—a resolution that was passed in many cities around the country. The ADL played a big role in blocking the efforts to topple the statue of a fellow freemason, and their main ally in that was City Councilman Nathanson of Ward 3.

These two campaigns both influenced and helped capture the new fighting spirit that could be seen in the Barry victory. It is interesting that Carl Rowan, the FBI's favorite African-American journalist, who has run smear campaigns against Martin Luther King, Ben Chavis, and Marion Barry, characterized the Barry victory as an example of racial bigotry and class discrimination. Richard Cohen, a *Washington Post* political columnist with close ADL ties, warned Barry against any associations with the Nation of Islam, reporting that Barry had a Howard University student, close to the Nation of Islam, on the podium with him at his victory celebration. Cohen also points out that Barry has had past associations, especially during his trial, with Louis Farrakhan.

In the District of Columbia there is a long history of the ADL's effort to create antagonisms in the black community by treating the Nation of Islam like pariahs. The NOI's Dr. Abdul Alim Muhammad started the famous "Dope Busters" in 1988 at the Paradise Manor housing project, and had tremendous success in driving out the dope pushers. In 1991, Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly honored Dr. Muhammad for his service in going after the drug peddlers. At that time, the ADL and Councilman Nathanson led the fight to try to force Kelly to renege on naming Dr. Alim Muhammad Day. Dr. Muhammad also runs the Abundant Life Clinic, the largest clinic in D.C. for minorities, which has pioneered work in the United States with alpha-interferon as a promising treatment for AIDS victims.

Dr. Muhammad has participated with LaRouche associates in numerous forums throughout the Greater D.C. area, exposing the role of the ADL in its campaign of harassment, persecution, and abuse of power in the black community. If the Rowan and Cohen columns are any sign of what lies ahead, the ADL intends to spare no efforts to pressure Barry. But the Democratic Party nominee for mayor can call upon his strong grassroots support and the fact that District citizens, from the defeat of the death penalty to his own primary victory, have shown a new level of maturity, to put the *Washington Post* and ADL crowd, the greatest purveyors of divisiveness in the city, in their proper place.

## Bush Leaguers rally under banner of Christian Coalition

by Scott Thompson

It's getting harder and harder to tell the Christians from the lions these days, and nowhere was that problem more evident than at the annual convention of the Christian Coalition, which took place at the Washington Hilton on Sept. 16-17. Although the organization, sponsored by televangelist Pat Robertson, professes to push Christian values like family, community, patriotism, and down-home morality, and has recently come out attacking the just-concluded Cairo depopulation conference and even the organized-crime linked Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL), the annual coalition fête, attended by several thousand people, turned into a combination of populist political campaign rally and Roman circus.

Above all, it was a class reunion of some of the Reagan and Bush administration officials who brought you such exemplary "moral" figures as the "narc-Contras."

Heading the list of Reagan-Bush alumni were Bush Vice President Dan Quayle, Education Secretaries William Bennett and Lamar Alexander, Bush Defense Secretary Richard Cheney, Bush Labor Secretary Elizabeth Dole, Quayle Chief of Staff William Kristol, and Reagan State Department official Elliott Abrams. There's hardly any mystery behind this turnout: Quayle, Alexander, Cheney, and Bob Dole are all stumping for the GOP presidential nomination in 1996, as is Sen. Phil Gramm (R-Tex.), another conference speaker.

Underscoring the political campaign rally quality of the event was the constant theme of Clinton-bashing. Speaker after speaker delivered diatribes against the President, often leaving the truth in the dust in their fervor to rally the crowd. Pat Robertson has been in the forefront of the British Crown-instigated assault on the presidency, and his various front organizations have raked in millions of dollars peddling books, videos, and bumper stickers retailing the latest anti-Clinton smears churned out by such British smut sheets as the Hollinger Corp.-owned *Sunday Telegraph*.

### Pulling for a pusher

About the only Iran-Contra crook who failed to turn out for the event was Oliver North, who is now the GOP nominee for the U.S. Senate seat from Virginia currently held by Democrat Charles Robb. Perhaps North got wind that a delegation from the Stop That Son-of-a-Bush political action