

LaRouche exoneration campaign is expanding

by Nancy Spannaus

A half-page paid advertisement calling for the exoneration of economist and statesman Lyndon LaRouche appeared on page six of the *New York Times* on Jan. 5, 1995. The ad, which has appeared since September in nine major U.S. newspapers from Texas to Massachusetts, features the findings of an independent committee of 11 legal experts who met in August to review the six volumes of evidence which the courts continue to ignore in the case of *United States vs. Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. et al.*

The committee issued its findings on Sept. 3, 1994, noting that “there have been grave violations of the fundamental right to a fair trial,” and that they agreed with former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, one of LaRouche’s attorneys, that this case, viewed in context, “represented a broader range of deliberate cunning and systematic misconduct over a longer period of time utilizing the power of the federal government than any other prosecution by the U.S. Government in my time or to my knowledge.”

The ad was taken out by the Schiller Institute, an international think tank founded by Mrs. Helga Zepp-LaRouche in 1984, which campaigns on issues of economic justice and Classical culture internationally. The institute has also taken out two full-page ads in the *Washington Post*, in which political and human rights leaders and elected officials from around the world have urged President Clinton and the Congress to move for LaRouche’s exoneration.

Cracking the barrier of fear

The Schiller Institute’s campaign of ads, supplemented by lobbying visits and the LaRouche Exploratory Committee’s mass distribution of pamphlets on the evidence which shows LaRouche and his associates are innocent, has been aimed at breaking the barrier of fear around the officials who must act to restore justice in this case, particularly in Washington, D.C. Many congressmen and other leaders who understand full well the travesty of justice in the LaRouche case will not express their views publicly, for fear of retaliation by groups such as the national news media, the Anti-Defamation League of B’nai B’rith, and corporate funders.

But the determination to challenge political persecution is growing. Particularly responsive to the exoneration cam-

paign have been those who themselves have been targeted by the establishment. This includes African-American legislators in particular, who have no problem understanding the political targeting process which predominated under the Reagan-Bush Justice Department.

From the spring of 1994 to the present, LaRouche’s presidential campaign has been working to cut through the climate of fear, by distributing close to 6 million booklets which summarize both the federal and Virginia judicial misconduct in the anti-LaRouche prosecutions. The mass propaganda campaign is designed to counter “drip by drip” the more than 10 years of press venom against LaRouche’s political association—venom which was part of the concert of action among government officials and private individuals to put LaRouche and his associates in prison.

The barrier of intimidation has not yet been broken, but many more prominent Americans have been willing to cross it. In the full-page ad which the Schiller Institute took out in the *Washington Post* on Nov. 4, 1994, nine former U.S. congressmen joined more than 100 current state legislators from 31 states in signing an open letter to the President urging LaRouche’s exoneration.

Despite some negative publicity, none of these persons have withdrawn their signature on the call. But the problem that still exists is shown by the fact that eight current Canadian parliamentarians who signed came under massive fire in virtually all the major media of that Queen-dominated land. Three of these officials capitulated to the pressure by withdrawing their names.

In nations further away from the United States and Great Britain, where LaRouche’s importance as a challenger to the financial oligarchy is better understood, the dozens of members of parliament who have signed the ad for exoneration have held firm.

The Virginia cases

The latest edition of what what has become known as the “exoneration pamphlet” contains not only the findings of the independent committee of legal experts, but also a legal motion for a state habeas corpus for Michael Billington, a LaRouche associate who was convicted in both the federal and state cases. Billington is now serving a 77-year sentence in Virginia; four other LaRouche associates—Anita and Paul Gallagher, Laurence, Hecht, and Donald Phau—are serving sentences of ranging from 25 to 39 years.

Like LaRouche and the other federal prisoners, these political leaders are innocent of the charges on which they have been convicted. Billington’s case is the most egregious, since he was in effect the victim of double jeopardy between the state and federal cases, and is serving what amounts to a life sentence for the alleged crime of not having registered as a securities agent to take a corporate loan—a charge which had never been ruled to be a crime until two weeks after he and the other Virginia LaRouche associates were arrested.