

Editorial

The jury is still out

One might well say with regard to the O.J. Simpson verdict, that the jury voted against a trial which was no trial, but a Roman imperial circus event, featuring O.J. Simpson as the Christian, Judge Lance Ito as the ringmaster, and Ted Turner's CNN as the contractor supplying the lions.

In the last days of the Roman Empire, huge numbers of spectators would gather to watch gladiators fight to the death—and worse yet, to enjoy the spectacle of Christians being ravaged by wild beasts. The United States population has, in the main, exhibited the same kind of blood-lust as the Romans.

Many people around the country are now screaming for the scalp of the victim, that is, O.J. Simpson. Because they believe, that after sitting so long in their seats at this Roman circus, waiting for the lions to begin to eat the Christian, they were cheated of the final orgy of the spectacle. Just like fans at a fistfight, or a professional boxing match, who scream for their money back, because the boxers didn't produce enough blood on the canvas. Things have gone so far that supermarket tabloids have screaming headlines inciting poor Mr. Goldman to violence against Simpson.

This is the same immoral climate which has permitted such miscarriages of justice as the refusal to stay executions because evidence to exonerate individuals wrongly convicted of murder, was only uncovered belatedly. Now there are even some who wish to televise executions.

This was no reason for the jurors to deliberate. They came to an honest verdict, which expressed their contempt for the prosecution attempt at yet another judicial railroad. What we have seen in the case of this trial, is a travesty in the system of justice, the trial itself. We have a travesty perpetrated by the news media which are out of control, the entertainment media which are out of control.

Ted Turner might sue for the fact that he's lost the income from a premature decision—after all, the jury might have deliberated for months, as some TV commentators predicted. We have the behavior

of many of the U.S. public, acting toward a *serious criminal trial* like the degenerate spectators in Emperor Nero's or Diocletian's Roman arena, or, worse yet, putting themselves in the role of the lions, by their bestial behavior.

We are presently facing the possibility of a social and economic crisis of catastrophic proportions, in which millions of Americans will not only lose their jobs, but will face hunger and homelessness. Already many Americans rightly fear for the future of their children under the ongoing economic collapse.

Under these circumstances, there are two possible alternatives—either enough people will listen to what Lyndon LaRouche has to say, and act on the recognition that he is right; or there will be social chaos. For those, such as Prince Philip and his flunkies in the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, the choice is for fascism.

They intend to create a more brutal climate than that created by Nazi Storm Troopers in Germany. To do this, they intend to create a fascist mentality among large sections of the population. One means is to promote ethnic conflicts of all sorts, including racial conflicts, to turn the growing frustration of the population into rage, of one ethnic group against another.

As people become increasingly enraged—as they fear for their jobs, fear for their children's future, and fear for their own old age should they lose their pensions—they can either learn who their real enemy is, or lull themselves with the ugly soap opera treatment of the Simpson trial.

In reality, it was not O.J. Simpson who was on trial this past year, so much as the American people, and the U.S. Constitution. Are there enough Americans who are willing to turn off their TV sets and educate themselves, in order to take on the hard responsibility of defeating the forces of evil who threaten to destroy civilization as we know it?

The Simpson trial has not been about the guilt or innocence of O.J. Simpson. It is the American people who have been on trial, and the jury is still out.