

Black leaders demand hearings on DOJ abuse

by Marianna Wertz

Calls for congressional oversight hearings into gross misconduct by the Department of Justice were issued by the Tennessee Black Caucus, during its Twenty-first Annual Legislative Retreat on Nov. 16-19; and by Tom Barnes, mayor of Gary, Indiana, at a Nov. 21 joint press conference with Schiller Institute board member Sheila Jones. In both cases, these African-American leaders were responding to the findings issued by an independent panel of experts following hearings, facilitated by the Schiller Institute, in Northern Virginia on Aug. 31-Sept. 1, into gross misconduct by the Department of Justice in the LaRouche case; the targeting of African-American officials; and cases involving the DOJ's Office of Special Investigations (see *EIR*, Oct. 6, 1995).

The Tennessee Black Caucus became the first caucus in the United States to unanimously pass a resolution supporting the independent panel's findings. The resolution was adopted on Nov. 19 at the Caucus's Annual Legislative Retreat in Gatlinburg, which brought together black elected officials, educators, health care professionals, businessmen, and civil rights and political activists from across the state. The resolution first passed the Criminal Justice Task Force unanimously, and was then voted up at the closing plenary session by the entire body. It will be brought up for consideration by the Tennessee state legislature in January.

Resolution text

The full text of the resolution reads as follows:

"WHEREAS a series of public hearings to investigate allegations of gross misconduct by the Department of Justice were held Aug. 31-Sept. 1, 1995, in Northern Virginia, facilitated by the Schiller Institute, and

"WHEREAS chairman of the Tennessee Legislative Black Caucus State Rep. Ulysses Jones, Jr. participated as a member of the distinguished panel that heard testimony, and

"WHEREAS another former member of the Tennessee Black Caucus, former State Representative and former General Sessions Judge Ira Murphy presented testimony on the case of Tennessee Congressman Harold Ford, and

"WHEREAS the panel focussed on cases where there was evidence of political targetting of groups and individuals by corrupt officials inside federal governmental law enforcement agencies working in tandem with a concert of private

organizations, and

"WHEREAS the testimony was organized around three panels: the harassment of African-American elected and public officials—the FBI's 'Operation Frühmenschen' ('Early Man'); the conduct of the DOJ's Office of Special Investigations, particularly in the case of John Demjanjuk; and the case of Lyndon LaRouche, the largest-scale single case, involving the same DOJ corrupt apparatus that operated in the OSI and 'Operation Frühmenschen' cases, and

"WHEREAS in case after case, decisive evidence of rampant DOJ corruption, prosecutorial misconduct, withholding of exculpatory evidence, and conscious perjury and fraud upon the court, politically motivated and designed to deprive the American citizen of effective representation, was presented, not by the good word of witnesses, but by government documents, records, and memoranda, first suppressed and later obtained under the Freedom of Information Act and other legal actions,

"THEREFORE, Be It Resolved that this body, the 1995 Annual Legislative Retreat, join this independent panel of distinguished individuals in demanding oversight hearings by both houses of the U.S. Congress to investigate these allegations of gross misconduct by the Department of Justice in the three areas of testimony heard by this panel."

Gary Mayor Barnes speaks out

Showing great courage, Tom Barnes, Mayor of Gary, Indiana, joined Schiller Institute Board Member Sheila Jones, a LaRouche Democrat who ran for mayor of nearby Chicago, Illinois, in a Nov. 21 news conference which delivered another blow to the dirty side of the Justice Department. Hosting the news conference in his office, Mayor Barnes was supported by former and current state officials, civil rights leaders, Nation of Islam state leaders, lawyers, and state leaders of the Oct. 16 Million Man March.

In his remarks, Mayor Barnes presented a timeline of Justice Department targeting of black elected officials in Gary and nationally, and concluded, "I intend, after I leave office, to dedicate much of my time to a full investigation of current cases. It is my intention today to provide you with excerpts related to 'Operation Frühmenschen'; to provide you with the transcript of the Schiller Institute's Independent Hearings . . . and to ask you to take time to fully review . . . and to obtain the full transcript or the videotape of the hearings."

Mayor Barnes then presented Sheila Jones to discuss the importance of the LaRouche case. She said, "It is not only the individuals themselves who suffer, but the voters of this nation, who are deprived of representative participation in determining the direction of their nation. Taking into account the mass of documented evidence, nothing short of Congressional hearings will suffice. . . . Without a reversal in the LaRouche case, Newt Gingrich and his Confederates buddies have a carte blanche to impose brutal fascist policies."