

poor, urban youth.

My concern led me to present workshops on the event before other policymakers, including last summer's presentation before the National Organization of Women Legislators.

Also, I sponsored a ratified resolution on the matter during the recent National Black Caucus of State Legislators annual legislative conference.

I want others to be aware that chemically treating our children at the rate and manner in which we are, may lead to problems in our society that will require great cost, both emotionally and financially, to correct.

All too often, psychotropic drugs are prescribed to children without an attempt to first understand the underlying factors that may be contributing to the behavior of the child in question.

Many overlooked factors such as parental stress, a changing family environment, or diet may influence a child's behavior.

The question policymakers and health officials should be seeking to answer is, whether or not Ritalin and similar drugs are being over-prescribed to help cope with normal life events, or, are they treating real disorders.

I am convinced that most behavioral problems may be just as treatable using other methods, such as nutrition, family, and community support. Patience and love also can be as effective as medication in certain instances.

Drugs should be a last resort, not the first step in solving emotional and behavioral problems in our children.

There is much work to be done in dealing with this issue. I support President Clinton in advocating the development of new research approaches for the study of medications for children.

As you know, medications are not typically studied in children because of ethical concerns about involving children in clinical trials. While these concerns are legitimate, they have created a lack of knowledge about the best treatments for children.

It is unconscionable to think that we have for years been giving them these drugs without actually knowing what long-term effects they may have.

In closing, allow me to voice one final concern regarding Ritalin: Ritalin is a Schedule II controlled substance, which the Federal government strictly regulates. It is in the same class as cocaine. There is a push to have Ritalin downgraded from a Schedule II drug. We can not let that happen.

I am concerned that relaxing controls will give young people easier access to a drug that already is used to get high and frequently is used by young people and college students on campus all across America. Students are giving and selling their medication to classmates who are crushing and snorting the powder like cocaine. In March of 1995, two deaths, in Mississippi and Virginia, were associated with this activity.

Thank you for listening, and thank you for your interest in this important issue.

Constitutional Law and Justice

We Must Defend the Voting Rights Act

by Sen. Theo Mitchell

Mr. Mitchell is a former South Carolina State Senator and Democratic nominee for governor, who was targeted for prosecution under the FBI's Operation Fruehmenschon program.

Mr. Chairman, and distinguished members of the panel, I certainly want you to know how grateful I am to take up a few minutes of your time. That you would allow such, on the issue of a very major problem. And that is, that we want those of you that will be going to the Democratic National Convention, to seek to have a plank in the platform repudiating the argument advanced by the Democratic National Committee, through its Republican lawyer, in the case of *LaRouche v. Fowler*, calling for the nullification of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Several of you signed on to a letter over my signature, which some 1,000-plus did participate in sending, a message that this is not the time, nor the place, to talk nonsense, especially from a party that has traditionally been known to consist, very heavily, of minorities, and those who represent the poor, the forgotten, the disadvantaged, the women, and principles and esteemed ideals and goals for making the Constitution of the United States work, for everybody.

Some of you, as well as myself, happen to have been elected to office, pursuant to the Voting Rights Act, especially from the Southern part of the United States. It's most appalling to know that [former DNC Chair] Don Fowler sent out in 1996, a call to chairs throughout the United States, of the Democratic Party, to repudiate those individuals, and reject seating them, who supported Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. for President. A lawsuit was filed, of which I happen to have been privileged to be one of the lawyers. The case even went up to the United States Supreme Court. But prior to going there, it was one in which the all-knowing judge, [Thomas] Penfield Jackson, whose wisdom broke up Microsoft, supposedly, sat and refused to have a three-judge panel impaneled to hear this case, raising the constitutionality of the act done by Don Fowler.

Now, I'm from South Carolina. Fowler was one who refused to have the Democratic National Committee contribute to my campaign for governor of South Carolina, after having won a bitter primary election. He's the kind of person who'd

throw rocks, and hide his hand, but has made no secret in the fact that Lyndon LaRouche—the only man who actually has a platform to help people, the only one who actually, running for President, can articulate answers to problems that beset this nation, to help empower, and re-empower, people, people in need.

There cannot be a Democratic Convention without having this matter raised, that if this party is going to prevail in the future—I dare say that it possibly won't prevail in November, as far as the Presidential candidate is concerned. By the way,



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they've appointed a special prosecutor-investigator on the case today, to question our Democratic nominee [Al Gore], to investigate his fundraising tactics, where he's trailing at 41%, below 49% for George W. Bush. So, it looks as though members of Congress may be the beneficiaries of a fallout; stay at home, or maybe go fishing on Election Day. Because, what do we have to represent us, from the Republicans, or, at this point, the Democrats?

Lyndon LaRouche was wronged. But it sends a message not just to those of us who have held office, or still hold office, but it sends a message to the hopelessness, and the despair, of the poor and dispossessed, the disadvantaged individuals. The question was raised: Why is it that people treat some people the way they do? And it's because they are knocked down, kicked down, walked over, stomped—especially by the party that supposedly has traditionally been sensitive to the needs of the peoples of the United States.

So, I'm here to ask you, those who will be going to the Convention, to have a plank inserted in the platform, repudiating the call of Jack Keeney, Jr., whose father is the architect of Operation Fruehmenschen, that doctrine that perilled and prosecuted minority officials throughout these United States. Fascist, to say the least. But certainly someone who actually represents the Democratic National Committee, not a Democratic lawyer; someone who raised this, to have this act declared unconstitutional. If there is going to be any relief for this century, it's going to take us all to work toward making America what we all want it to be, and what we all know it can be, and what we know it should be.

And the Democratic Party is indispensable. I have been a lifelong Democrat, as I'm sure many or most of you. And if there's any relief for the peoples of these United States, I still say it's through this party. And I still say it's through full participation under the Voting Rights Act, for those who had been traditionally locked out, and kept out, but [were] brought into the system. That now their voices—seated in legislative halls throughout the United States—and certainly, if ever there is a time for those voices to be heard, to raise the kinds of sensitive issues that deal with human dignity, and human rights, it's now.

So that is what we are here asking you to do. Thank you.

Let Us Expose the DOJ 'Permanent Bureaucracy'

by Judge Ira Murphy

Mr. Murphy is a former General Sessions Judge and former State Representative, from Memphis, Tennessee.

Mr. Chairman, and distinguished panelists, I just want to briefly follow up on one of the statements made by Senator Mitchell, and that's on this doctrine, as he has characterized it, of Operation Fruehmenschen.

I'm sure some of you have heard about this doctrine. We just want to highlight it, and do everything we can to get it on the agenda, on somebody's agenda, and perhaps the place to start would be at the Democratic Convention.

Essentially, what we're seeking is a restructuring of the Department of Justice. Maybe some of you are not aware of the fact, that they have in place there, a permanent bureaucracy, and it's this bureaucracy that runs the department. The bureaucracy runs [Attorney General] Janet Reno. And this is