
In Memoriam

Donald Phau

March 28—Donald Phau, a gentle poetic man, an intrepid political organizer, a creative and original historical investigator, passed away March 16 at the age of 66 from complications of advanced-stage Multiple Sclerosis.

In his life Don suffered overwhelming trials and hardships, maintaining his idealism and his optimism throughout, until his disease won out.

He was born in New York in 1950, the son of Benjamin Phau, a television repair expert and master builder of model ships, and Frances Phau, a homemaker of inspiring, sharp intellect. Don was a “gadget” boy who like his father saw into the logic of things mechanical and electronic. He attended the Bronx High School of Science, an elite public school.

While attending the New York State University at Stony Brook, Don encountered and soon joined the political movement associated with Lyndon LaRouche. In that association he found his wings, as a political fighter and original thinker.

During the early 1970s in New York City, Don figured in an incident that led to significant changes in a segment of the American political scene. He was distributing the movement’s *New Solidarity* newspaper, which attacked the City’s slavemaster-like use of jobless poor people as low-wage replacements for employed labor, as a design to promote racism and break unions. He was assaulted in the street by purported members of the Communist Party, and his nose was broken. In the ensuing political conflict, the revelation that some 50% of the members of that party were FBI agents or dupes, helped bring about a revulsion among intelligent Americans against the New Left in which the Communist Party had become enmeshed.

Don moved for a time to France as an organizer. He gained original insights into the global role of Lafayette, which bore fruit in his writings (on both Lafayette and Beethoven), and in Don’s consultation with others.

In 1980 *Campaigner* magazine published Don’s devastating reassessment of the republic’s founding,



Courtesy of Deborah Sonnenblick

Donald Phau (1950-2016)

“The Treachery of Thomas Jefferson.” He demonstrated that Jefferson, as American ambassador to France, had worked with British East India Company intriguers in France to develop fake radical currents hostile to the American Revolution and to the American-French alliance. He showed that Jefferson carried this covert and malicious role back to the United States, and it was as a pro-feudal British Free Trade proponent that Jefferson led the southern slave-owners who fought against Alexander Hamilton’s program for high-wage, modern industry.

Don’s groundbreaking 1982 article, “How Benjamin Franklin Organized American Industrial Growth,” appeared in *EIR*. It conveyed Don’s discovery, that it was as an old man that the Revolutionary War leader and scientist Franklin personally organized the cadres and the programs that made economic nationalism and scientific progress the Federal Republic’s founding mission.

Don became a defendant in the Wall Street establishment’s use of the federal government for a witch-hunt against the LaRouche movement in the 1980s and 1990s.

Threatened with prison on trumped-up nonsense

charges aiming to break up the movement, Don Phau steadfastly refused to plead guilty, despite notorious offers to many defendants that if they left politics they would be spared. Under pressure, his wife left him and took away his two sons.

It was likely during the five years that this quietly humorous and loving man was in a Virginia penitentiary, or shortly after his release from this barbarism, that the disease that would kill him, Multiple Sclerosis, came to afflict him.

But Don went back into action. Under great harassment and with meager resources, Don helped organize Lyndon LaRouche's 2000 Presidential campaign. The overriding theme was to counter the national nightmare: Al Gore, leading the Democrats' surrender to New Age insanity, and George W. Bush, preparing to

install a dictatorship under cover of some provocation like Hitler's Reichstag fire.

Over many years Don persisted in political and historical work with dazzling optimism, refusing to yield, though increasingly frail from the crushing effects of his auto-immune disease.

In February and March, just days before he died, he was still working through his research findings on the amazing humanistic program that General Douglas MacArthur brought to Japan during America's post-World War II military occupation.

Don Phau is survived by Deborah Sonnenblick, his partner for the past ten years and, in the later days, his devoted caregiver; his two sons Peter and Paul Phau; his niece C. Alexis Freeman; and hundreds of admiring friends, co-workers, and readers.

Donald Phau: When America Started Downhill

This appeared in Executive Intelligence Review, May 8, 2015.

In April 1968, Robert F. Kennedy was on a plane heading for a campaign rally in Indianapolis when he was told that Martin Luther King was shot dead. He was told to call off the rally. The chief of police warned him not to go into the ghetto. His police escort abandoned him as he entered the ghetto. The crowd that gathered had not heard the news of King's death. Kennedy told them. He ended: "Let us dedicate ourselves to what the Greeks wrote so many years ago: To tame the savageness of man and make gentle the life of the world. Let us dedicate ourselves to that."

Over the next days there were riots in 110 cities. Thirty-nine people were killed, mostly black. There were 75,000 troops in the street. There were no riots in Indianapolis where Kennedy was campaigning. He went to Cleveland and said, "Violence goes on and on. Why? What has violence accomplished? What has it ever created? No martyr's cause has ever been stilled by his assassin's bullet."

RFK's biographer writes: "He flew back to Wash-

ington, a city of smoke and flame, under curfew, patrolled by troops. He walked through the Black districts. Burning wood and broken glass were all over the place. Walter Fauntroy said, "The troops were on duty. A crowd followed behind us, following Bobby Kennedy. The troops saw us coming at a distance, and they put on gas masks and got their guns at ready, waiting for this horde of Blacks coming up the street. When they saw it was Bobby Kennedy, they took off their gas masks and let us through. They looked awfully relieved."

During the worst of the urban riots of 1967 Kennedy, though advised not to, toured the Black and Hispanic areas. When asked what he would do if he became President, Kennedy said he would make the media show what it was like to live in the ghettos. He said: "Let them show the soul, the feel, the hopelessness, and what it's like to think, you'll never get out. Show a Black teenager, told by some radio jingle to stay in school, looking at his older brother who stayed in school and is out of a job. Show the Mafia pushing narcotics; put a candid camera team in a ghetto school and watch what a rotten system of education it really is. . . . Ask people to watch it—and experience what it was like to live in the most affluent society in history—without hope."

On June 6, 1968, RFK won the California primary and was heading for the Presidency. That day he was shot dead.

—Donald Phau