

LaRouche still in mortal danger at Rochester 'medical' prison

Warren J. Hamerman, national coordinator of the legal defense team for former U.S. presidential candidate and political prisoner Lyndon LaRouche, issued the following statement on Sept. 30 concerning LaRouche's medical status following what can only be classified as an attempt to murder him under the pretext of a medical treatment. (See EIR, Sept. 29, for a chronology of what was done to the 67-year-old statesman.)

The purpose of this report is to update my bulletin of Sept. 16, 1989, on the status of Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., and to dispel rumors or any misleading interpretations of his personal situation at the Rochester Federal Medical Center.

Lyndon LaRouche has continued to suffer serious fatigue and muscular pain as result of cumulative over-exertion. His current status is that his medical condition is being examined, with respect to the previous report of the events which occurred between Sept. 11 and Sept. 15, 1989, before and after his surgical procedure.

It should be emphasized that there was no problem with the medical personnel at the Mayo Clinic, as opposed to the Bureau of Prisons. All of the facts in that statement are true. The problem in his mistreatment was that the Bureau of Prisons used strong cathartic medication and compelled Mr. LaRouche to heavy labor while that medication was being administered before and after his surgical procedure. This caused a dysentery-like condition for Mr. LaRouche prior to the procedure, a condition which lasted for nearly 48 hours. The prison system also compelled him to resume heavy labor to the point of virtual collapse only hours after the surgical procedure. This in fact was contrary to the Mayo Clinic's medical request for his preparation.

The inmate is a senior citizen who has been compelled to do heavy labor characteristically done by people who are 20-40 years old. This has caused persisting muscular pain and fatigue. While Mr. LaRouche's current status is that he is being medically examined, there is a very clear pattern of someone in the prison system trying to break him down physically and accelerate his demise. In plain language: This is an attempt to murder him by a process not unsimilar to that which occurred in Nazi concentration camps or other prisons which have intended to physically wear down a prisoner. . . .

There is a tendency for institutional people, such as those in the prison system, or especially in government, to join ranks and rally their employees to cover up for embarrassing facts by saying that nothing but the standard procedure was followed. This is based on a general untruth, because the prison system is not composed entirely of senior citizens. Therefore, if the senior citizens in the prison system are treated exactly the same way as 20- and 30-year-olds, there is a basic problem in the policy of standard heavy labor.

* * *

The following is a small selection of the thousands of telegrams and letters which have arrived at the offices of President George Bush and U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh by concerned citizens around the world protesting the cruel mistreatment of LaRouche. (Messages are directed to President Bush unless otherwise noted.)

We received news from different people about the severe judgment against Mr. Lyndon LaRouche, an American politician who is well known in many parts of the world.

Since the punishment with life-long imprisonment is in democratic countries never given in case of somebody who is not able to pay money back, this whole matter creates the impression to people in other countries that political reasons, and not only crimes are responsible for the severe judgment. After the news we got today about an operation he had to undergo because of a polyposis in the rectum, he was not allowed to rest a day before the operation and also not after the operation was finished, but was forced always to work eight hours.

If this is really true, *we as members of the World Federation of Doctors who Respect Human Life* have to protest in case of a patient who is 67 years old, because such a treatment would be against all medical and human rules.

Since we cannot think, that such things are corresponding with your worldwide battle for human rights—for which we are very thankful—we beg you, dear Mr. President, to investigate this case and to stop if possible such violations of Human Rights, if they really should have happened. . . .

Dr. Med. Siegfried Ernst, President of the Europäische Ärzteaktion and Vice President of the World Federation of Doctors Who Respect Human Life, Ulm, West Germany

Dr. Med. Georg Goetz, Vice President of the Europäische Ärztekongress, Augsburg, West Germany

* * *

"I am outraged to learn that Mr. Lyndon LaRouche, imprisoned in Rochester, Minnesota, was reportedly forced to a full work schedule until shortly before undergoing a surgical procedure and already during the night afterwards. And this despite considerable physical weakness due to a liquid-only diet and heavy laxatives he received in preparation of the procedure.

I urge you to immediately take steps in order to end this inhuman treatment that without any doubt jeopardizes the life of the 67-years-old man. Otherwise the world will hold the government of the U.S. responsible for any consequences.

Dr. Adam, National Chairman of the organization Pro Vita—Movement for the Human Right to Life, Austria

Dr. Naef-Hofmann, Vice President "Ja zum Leben," Section Zurich, Switzerland

Prof.-Dr. Nieboer, Prof. of Procedural and Penal Law, Criminal and Forensic Psychiatry, Catholic University, Tilburg, The Netherlands

* * *

As medical professionals we wish to register our strong exception to the treatment Mr. LaRouche has received at the Federal Medical Center at Rochester, Minnesota. . . .

We especially object to medical and surgical, diagnostic and therapeutic procedures being used as a pretext for coercive mistreatment of an individual in custody. This episode is an affront to the medical profession in particular, as well as civilized standards of behavior. We fail to see where maintenance of relations with the Soviet Union requires us to emulate the brutality for which they have become so notorious.

Dr. Jacques Rivière, physician, Bethune, France

Dr. Jean-Alain Scemama, dentist, Paris, France

Dr. Rougemont, physician, professor, chairman of Physicians Against Nuclear War, Bourg-en-Bresse, France

Colette Crassier, nurse, Ville d'Auray, France

Marie-Helene Touboul, dentist, Chaumont-en-Vexin, France

* * *

I was informed that Mr. Lyndon LaRouche, whom I know as the initiator of the international campaign to lower opera pitch according to Giuseppe Verdi's will in order to preserve belcanto, is being mistreated in the Rochester Detention Center. I am one of the hundreds of opera stars who endorsed the Schiller Institute's initiative to go back to Verdi's pitch, and you may have heard me sing in records.

I can assure you, Mr. President, that I would have never meddled with political affairs, particularly not in another

country, if it were not for a severe human case, and a case of violation of the most fundamental right of every person, the right to life. Mr. LaRouche is 67 years old, and has been forced to carry pots and pans and to work in a jail kitchen after an intestine operation. At this age, such efforts can turn to be fatal.

As a singer, I do not know much about politics, but from the many Verdi operas I sang in the thirty years of my career, I know that human life and justice are worth defending. I call on you, Mr. President, to put an end to this mistreatment towards Mr. LaRouche and to reaffirm your commitment to life and justice.

Best regards,

Fedora Barbieri

Mezzosoprano, Florence, Italy

* * *

I wish to call upon you to investigate the injustice done to Lyndon LaRouche in Rochester, Minnesota. Rectify it. I earnestly request that you give an immediate presidential pardon to Lyndon LaRouche and to his six associates. May all the world admire your rightness, praise our nation and all we Americans be proud of our good strong President Bush. God bless America!

Rev. Andrew Bonet

Pastor of the Shrine of Fatima & St. Cajetan Brooksville, Florida

* * *

To all the people of the United States who believe in freedom and justice and the rule of law. It is of great concern to those of us here in Australia that we see the criminal abuse of your most courageous patriot, Lyndon LaRouche. The railroad conviction in a Virginia court alone was beyond belief. But now to learn of the medical abuse and subsequent outrages in a Minnesota prison of this just man is more fitting for the Soviet police state rather than the land of Ben Franklin, Washington, and Lincoln.

The legal people who have had the courage to support the Friend of the Court petition need to be commended in an age of amoral career watching. As the socialist governments of Australia undermine our freedoms, we look to your republic to be a light shining forth for liberty and the dignity of man in God's image. I believe it was one of your great statesmen who said: "We must hang together gentlemen, or else we will surely hang separately."

John Koehler

Executive Officer, Citizens Electoral Council, Australia

* * *

We wish to appeal for your intervention in the case of Lyndon LaRouche and associates jailed this year on charges of fraud and corruption which appear to bear little relation to fact. For a man of such standing and of such age (he is in his

Billington forced to stand trial with hostile lawyer

Michael Billington, a nationally known activist in the political movement of Lyndon LaRouche, was forced to begin his trial on charges of "securities fraud" in the Commonwealth of Virginia on Sept. 28, even though his own attorney has, as Billington charged, "taken on the role of an adversary."

Asserting his constitutional rights to a jury trial and a lawyer of his own choosing, and not to be subjected to continuing "psychiatric examinations" as demanded by both the prosecution and his own lawyer, Billington filed an emergency *pro se* motion in the Roanoke County Circuit Court in Salem, Virginia on Sept. 25 (see last week's *EIR* for the full text).

Billington is one of 16 persons indicted in Virginia in February 1987 as part of a national effort by the "Get LaRouche" task force. He was already convicted on similar charges in a frameup trial in federal court, along with LaRouche and five others, and has been a political prisoner since January.

Billington was forced to file *pro se*, that is, on his own behalf, without a lawyer, because he was being denied the right to counsel of his choice. On Sept. 20, he had fired attorney Brian Gettings, but the Court refused to recognize that fact.

On Sept. 25, Billington was taken to the University of Virginia Institute for Psychiatry, Law and Public Policy for psychiatric examination, but refused to submit to interrogation.

Then, after a several-hour hearing on Billington's motion Sept. 26, Roanoke Judge Clifford Weckstein ruled

that Gettings had to continue to "represent" Billington. He also declared that Billington was fully competent to stand trial.

Thus, Billington is now being deprived of his Sixth Amendment right to counsel, since Gettings has become openly hostile to his client, to the point of arguing numerous times in open court—in concert with the prosecution—and in the media, that his client should be declared mentally incompetent, and insane.

Soviet-style abuse of psychiatry

It was on Sept. 18, after Billington decided that he wanted a jury trial, that Billington's attorney Gettings raised the issue of his client's competence to stand trial. Gettings was seeking to withdraw from the case, he said, because Billington did not agree with him on having a bench trial, in which the judge would decide on his innocence or guilt, instead of a jury. Billington, Gettings claimed, was not acting "of his own free will."

Prosecutor John Russell immediately demanded a psychiatric exam, which was ordered by Judge Weckstein. But, when the first exam certified Billington to be sane, Russell and Gettings demanded a second one, by "an expert in cults," Judge Weckstein acquiesced, with the proviso that Billington could object to the examination if it involved so-called cult deprogramming.

Prosecutor Russell chose the University of Virginia Institute of Law, Psychiatry, and Public Policy as the location of the second exam. This institute brags in its own annual report about its "strong" relationship with the Commonwealth Attorney General's Office and the FBI. Both of these offices are intimately involved in the "Get LaRouche" strike force, which provoked the prosecutions against Billington.

In addition, the director of the Institute, Richard J. Bonnie, is the self-described "granddad" of the marijuana legalization movement, a movement which LaRouche and

60s) to have been jailed with hard labour *for so many years* is inexplicable to us—and bewildering. Your great Republic has always ranked high among the nations in dispensing justice at home and abroad. Your Constitution has been a model for many in this respect—yet never to my knowledge, has a Court in New Zealand (which has no Constitution) handed down such a sentence for such a "crime"—even if the person *had* been guilty of it (which LaRouche wasn't). Even a convicted spy—and there is nothing lower than that—or a rapist or multiple murderer would probably get off with far less. But Mr. LaRouche, because he has been brash enough to expose and oppose in his publications people who are real enemies to the American way of life—Communists,

pornographers, drug dealers, Satan-worshippers, ruthless internationalists, etc., etc.—has been trapped by his enemies and "had the book thrown at him" in court. Yet he has every mark of being a true patriot—and a gentleman. Even the charges brought against him by liberals and leftists (he himself espouses the Christian principles which made America great) were heavily weighted against him. He was *foredoomed* because governmental agencies themselves had closed down the firm charged with repaying his investors. And a savage campaign of vilification in the media had reduced his credit rating almost to nil.

Please do order a re-trial of this man, under normal traditional procedures, where prejudice can have nothing to do

Billington went directly up against in the late 1970s.

But when Billington cited these facts to Judge Weckstein, the judge ordered him to go ahead with the examination anyway. This left Billington with no alternative but to file his *pro se* motion, while exercising his constitutional right not to cooperate in the psychiatric examination.

Who's set up?

During the course of the hearing Sept. 26, Judge Weckstein heard testimony on both the issue of Billington's mental competence, and on a new motion by Gettings to withdraw from the case.

Dr. Steven Hoge of the Institute testified that he could not make an evaluation of Billington, since the defendant had refused to cooperate. Prosecutor Russell asked Hoge "if an individual had made a decision manifestly not in his self-interest, but for a higher purpose," would you challenge his competence? Hoge said he would want to examine the individual further. At this point, Russell changed his tune, and argued that Billington was competent to stand trial, and that he was essentially trying to manipulate the court by firing Gettings. He asserted that Billington could not be represented by Attorney John Flannery, whom he had hired the week before, because of alleged conflicts of interest.

The other part of the hearing dealt with Gettings's representation of Billington. Gettings's own attorney, Harvey Cohen, argued that Gettings should be allowed to withdraw from the case on the grounds of a "complete breakdown of all communications" with Billington.

Gettings then rose to declare that he believed that he was "set up" in his representation of Billington, and that Billington was acting as a "tool of the organization." Gettings then went on to imply that a message received from Lyndon LaRouche concerning treating him "charitably" was a threat (!), which made him feel uncomfortable in

continuing his representation.

Judge Weckstein concluded the hearing with two rulings: first, that there was not "one iota or scintilla of evidence" that Billington was incompetent; and second, that he would not allow Billington to hire a new attorney.

Billington was therefore forced to begin jury selection and trial, with Gettings as his attorney. While Gettings is attempting to appear proper in his representation, he is also appearing on local television regularly, making charges that he has been "set up" by his client.

This coverage, plus the extensive coverage of Gettings's original charge that B . . . was "incompetent," has significantly poisoned the environment in this small, one-newspaper town. In addition, Billington is being prevented by the local sheriff from both normal telephone access and visits from paralegals, and is thus restricted to contact with his hostile attorney, and his assistant.

Billington's only recourse, according to Judge Weckstein, is to submit on-the-record objections when Gettings does not do what he wants.

So far, Billington has entered two such objections. The first is that Gettings refused to make a motion for a change of venue, despite the flurry of damaging publicity on the eve of trial. The jury was chosen in only a few hours. The second is that Gettings has refused to take any action to provide Billington adequate access to paralegal help, despite his continuous requests. Access of paralegals has been upheld as a right of the accused, in recent federal court decisions.

At present, Billington appears to be stymied from stopping the farcical proceeding with appeals to higher state courts, or federal court, because those courts require a verdict prior to accepting a case for review.

At present, Judge Weckstein, prosecutor Russell, and attorney Gettings all seem to be rushing to get such a verdict, with the maximum efforts to ensure that it is "guilty."

with the verdict—or the sentence (which seems to be unaccountably severe). He has been in jail 231 days now. If he stays there it may well cost him his life—by direct assassination if by no other means. (You would be aware of the possibilities here). . . .

M.V. Thorn (Mr.)

Secretary, Coalition of Concerned Citizens, New Zealand

* * *

Dear Attorney General:

In the name of all nations' joint effort to guarantee human rights, I request of Your Excellency that Mr. Lyndon La-

Rouche, 66 years old, be treated in prison in conformity with the humanitarian standards and care that his age demands. Imprisoned after a trial only two months long in circumstances which several international jurists consider to be similar to those of the famous "Dreyfus Affair," Mr. Lyndon LaRouche has the right to be treated within the strict terms that the law guarantees him, with due attention to his being in his sixties.

I appreciate Your Excellency's attending to this.

Francisco Kuster

Federal Deputy, Brazil

* * *

As a member of the National Congress of the Federative Republic of Brazil, I feel deeply perturbed by the inhuman treatment and by the forced labor regime to which Mr. Lyndon LaRouche has been subjected in the Rochester, Minnesota, federal prison, a torture treatment appropriate to the worst tyrannies and the most bloody dictatorships, which violates the most cherished principles of dignity and human rights which were consecrated in your country's own Constitution, 200 years ago.

I anticipate, Mr. President, that Mr. LaRouche's situation be immediately changed for the benefit of the prestige of the United States and of its government.

Jose Carlos Saboia
Federal Deputy, Brazil

* * *

Abundant information, provided by important world personalities relating to the violation of human rights in your country, has reached us here in Argentina. As Argentine citizens and as Catholics, allow us to call your attention to this fact, given that your country asserts leadership among the nations of the world.

It has always been Soviet terrorism and the communist nations which systematically violated the fundamental principles defended by our Faith. As we enter the third millennium of Christianity, civilization must approach a greater humanism. Yet it is your country, and your judicial system, which is persecuting political opponents, in true Soviet fashion.

We are gravely concerned about the systematic violation of fundamental rights suffered by Mr. Lyndon LaRouche and his associate Michael Billington. We have been informed that Mr. LaRouche, 67 years old, is forced to work long hours at the federal prison at Rochester, Minnesota, a threat to his physical well-being. We have always considered Mr. LaRouche as one of your country's best ambassadors; he is an American patriot, who has rekindled in us the hope we had lost in your country's leadership. You cannot be unaware that LaRouche supported us during the Malvinas crisis, and that his clearly anti-Marxist policies have served to direct many Hispano-American youth away from that ideological plague and toward the aspirations for freedom expressed by Alexander Hamilton and other of your nation's revolutionary heroes. Just as Pope John Paul II has done, LaRouche has denounced that crime against the civilized world—the slavery which narcoterrorism would impose on us.

Therefore, in that bastion of the struggle against Marxist tyranny, and in that indefatigable enemy of the drug counter-culture, we can only find a committed American patriot, a friend to Argentina, who is now jailed and subjected to violations which go against the most fundamental norms of a civilized nation.

Because our country fought against Marxist terrorism, we were accused by your country and other international

organizations of violating human rights. Now, your country appears to be persecuting combatants of Marxism, narcoterrorism, and international usury.

May God permit, that through His Blessed Mother, the Holy Virgin Mary, you be illuminated, Mr. President, so that you may stimulate and encourage the strengthening of Western civilization; so that you will not be called upon to be the executioner of moral values, thus destroying that freedom of mankind attained at such a high cost to Christian civilization.

With all good wishes for a successful term in office, and for your Nation, we remain,

Sincerely yours,
Reverend Father Luis Moises Jardin
Jorge Cesar Quadro, president, Prolatin
Buenos Aires, Argentina

* * *

We, the undersigned, are citizens and legislators of Mexico, members of the LII Legislature of the State of Sonora, Mexico. We are active in our country's democratic and political life, and thus, we are persons with a profound conviction about the importance for the world of a growing adherence to respect for human rights.

For those reasons we view with much concern the case of the North American political leader Lyndon H. LaRouche and his associates, who, according to reports from the Commission to Investigate Human Right Violations, and in the opinion of a group of more than 400 prominent American attorneys led by your nation's former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, have suffered violations of their fundamental rights to be tried in an impartial manner, in accordance with applicable criminal law.

Those of us who sign this letter, do not all share the same beliefs, or the political or philosophical perspectives of Mr. LaRouche and his co-defendants. However, we share the common conviction that the rights of all sincere fighters for social justice must be respected throughout the world, and that all aggression against their rights of expression, by the use of tainted judicial processes, must be avoided.

Therefore, we appeal to your nation's long tradition of political democracy and equality, in order that the civil and political rights of Mr. LaRouche and his associates are not trampled upon and their right to a fair trial is respected.

Rep. Cecilia Soto G. (PARM)
Rep. Adalberto Rosas Lopez (PAN)
Rep. Irene Gaxiola Mendivil (PPS)
Rep. Prisciliano Melendrez (PAN)
Rep. Guadalupe R. de Bazan (PAN)
Rep. Juan Ceballos Ayala (PRI)
Rep. Leonel Arguelles Mendez (PRI)
Rep. Quinarado Melendrez Montijo (PAN)
Rep. A. Mendoza De La Lama (PFCRN)
Rep. Raul Vaderrrain Otero (PRI)