

who bridged the transition from Bertrand Russell's to Moon's leadership. Wigner, who chaired some of Moon's conferences, was associated with the "theological" doctrine of "universal entropy." Another old-timer at Moon's ICUS conferences was Ervin Laszlo, a leader of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. In his *Introduction to Philosophy*, Laszlo explained the method developed at Russell's Unity of Science conferences: good and evil do not exist; "goodness" is simply an idea equivalent to the built-in attributes of animal existence; the animal, man, considers his existence "good," and *any* action for survival, morality aside, is "good."

Among the speakers at the 1974 London ICUS conference were Sir Charles Goodeve, Tavistock Institute Professor of Applied Science; and Russell Ackoff, a U.S.-based Tavistock Institute associate specializing in coercive social psychology. A later ICUS conference was keyed by Theodosius Dobzhansky, longtime chairman of the Eugenics Society of the United States, speaking on "Evolutionary Roots of Family Ethics and Group Ethics."

Fred E. Emery, a Tavistock associate of Ackoff at the University of Pennsylvania, told a Moon conference how "turbulence," or social shocks, will pry people loose from their old ideals, such as "achievement," "independence," "self-control," and "endurance of distress," and force them to adopt ideals such as "nurturance," "self-actualization," and "inter-dependence." The latter ideals are more in line with the new "international order," which requires a change to the paradigm of the "post-industrial society."

In Moon's speech to the 1974 conference, Lord Adrian's reply to which we excerpted above, Moon praised "Zen and meditation"; recommended "the study of extrasensory perception"; noted that "plants respond to [human] emotional states"; and warned that the "study of the Club of Rome . . . clearly indicates the finiteness of the world's resources and environs, and also makes clear the absolute necessity of a global approach . . . transcending the interest of any one . . . nation."

In response to Moon's 1990 ICUS meeting, Lyndon LaRouche issued a public denunciation of conference leaders Moon and Wigner for attempting to place what is in fact Satanism, on the same social and political footing as Christianity. LaRouche hit Wigner's anti-Christian theological doctrine of "universal entropy," and his effort to "superimpose that gnostic's cult-dogma upon the practice of science." LaRouche excoriated Club of Rome founder Alexander King, the frequent ICUS keynoter and avowed white racist, for King's "attack on the fundamentals of Catholic and Protestant beliefs, and King's demand for a savage cut-back in the numbers of the black-skinned section of the human race."

This, then, is the background to the weekend of wedded bliss, which made headlines in the Washington newspapers in November as Reverend Moon's "World Culture and Sports Festival."

## Activists vow to defeat prison privatization

by Rochelle Ascher

An intervention by the Schiller Institute, at the Nov. 20-23 Third Annual Legislative Retreat of the Tennessee Black Caucus in Nashville, brought the national fight against prison privatization to a political boiling point. Approximately 3,000 elected officials and political activists attended the meeting. This is the oldest Black Caucus in the United States, and their retreats tend to be the largest of any caucus in the country. Citizens travel from all over the state to make input into the political process, as the caucus's commitment is to introduce, as legislation at the next legislative session in January, all resolutions passed. The most explosive and well-attended workshop was the one featuring a debate on prison privatization.

As the U.S. economy spins out of control, and Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and company need more and more cash to keep the speculative bubble in financial derivatives afloat, the drive for prison privatization will accelerate. Speculators who build and run prisons for profit are all the more anxious to get in on the country's fastest-growing "industry," to get their hands on the public funds. The cost of corrections, including state, local, and Federal budgets, is well over \$20 billion a year. Hundreds of thousands of people are employed in the prison-industrial complex. As reports of the Nazi brutality occurring in private prisons across the country have spread, and the Schiller Institute has educated legislators as to the real purpose of privatization, a movement led by local elected officials, primarily African-American state legislators, together with state employees and the Schiller Institute, is emerging to counter privatization.

The recent history of this fight is intense. On Aug. 12, a videotape was released, which showed correctional officers in a private prison in Brazoria County, Texas, brutally beating and kicking Missouri prisoners in the groin, while also making them crawl on the floor for hours and allowing guard dogs to bite them. The tape, of an incident which occurred in the prison in September 1996, was being circulated as a training video.

As *EIR* reported in its Sept. 5 issue, immediately upon seeing the videotape, Missouri Corrections Director Dora Schriro consulted with Missouri Gov. Mel Carnahan, and cancelled Missouri's contract with Texas. Responding in large part to enraged African-American state legislators, 415 of Missouri's prisoners were brought back to Missouri, with promises that the 655 incarcerated in four other Texas private prisons would be yanked out immediately. Oklahoma and

Massachusetts followed suit shortly thereafter.

On Aug. 25, the state of Missouri brought a lawsuit against Brazoria County, charging it with a cover-up of the beating of Missouri prisoners. That same week, Texas Black Caucus member Rep. Ron Wilson called for a statewide investigation into the 34 county-owned and privately operated jails in Texas, which hold nearly 5,000 inmates from out of state and generate close to \$80 million a year for Texas coffers.

On Aug. 27, *EIR* interviewed State Rep. Charles Quincy Troupe, a 24-year veteran of the Missouri Legislative Black Caucus, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, and vice president of Local 788 of the Amalgamated Transit Union for Missouri and southern Illinois. Troupe indicated that he had been investigating the brutality in the private prisons in Texas for nearly two years, based on prisoner and family complaints, and had repeatedly demanded an official investigation.

On Nov. 25, Troupe decided to take the gloves off. Together with Wisconsin Legislative Black Caucus Chairman Spencer Coggs, and in consultation with the Schiller Institute, he wrote a letter to all of the members of the Congressional Black Caucus, and to the entire 575 members of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL), who will convene for their 21st Annual Legislative Caucus meeting during the second week of December in Milwaukee. His letter demands that African-American elected officials put a halt to this most hideous form of privatization—the equivalent of trafficking in human flesh (see box).

## Tennessee and the CCA

Tennessee is considered to be the “mother” of prison privatization, because it is home to the Correctional Corporation of America, the largest prison privatization company in the world. According to its most recent report, CCA now has 28,357 beds in 46 facilities under contract in 11 U.S. states, Puerto Rico, Australia, and the United Kingdom. CCA boasted to the media that they would introduce legislation this year in Tennessee to privatize *all* the prisons in the state. (Tennessee state law is very specific: The current code allows the operation of *only one* private prison in the state, the South Central Correctional Facility, run by CCA.)

The history of CCA exemplifies everything wrong with privatization, which reaches its ultimate evil when dealing with prison populations. As William Montague, a jail administrator in Madison County, pointed out at the workshop in Tennessee, the U.S. Constitution guarantees to its citizens life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Citizens can only be deprived of these rights *by their government*, as a result of due process of law, in punishment for a crime. Private prisons are therefore, by their nature, unconstitutional.

The history of CCA is a horror story in itself, which will only be summarized here. In his book *Private Prisons*, author Charles Caudwell documented the interconnection between the oligarchical families that run Tennessee, the George Bush machine, and CCA.

In 1984, Honey Alexander, the wife of Bush sidekick and

then-Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander (later Bush’s secretary of education), invested in CCA. The company had been founded a year earlier by Thomas Beasley, a former Tennessee Republican Party chairman. Its start-up capital was provided by the venture capital firm Massey Burch, the funders of Kentucky Fried Chicken. Beasley projected that CCA would make an 8-12% return on investments, with higher returns accruing with volume—i.e., more prisons, longer sentences. In 1985, Beasley put together a proposal worth \$250 million to take over the Tennessee prison system. CCA did not land a contract with the state while Alexander was governor, but it did get a contract to run a state juvenile facility, after Alexander left office. According to the journal *CovertAction*, the U.S. Attorney in Nashville was investigating charges of bribery and kickbacks surrounding the contract to run this facility, after it was discovered that influential state and local politicians were shareholders, including Alexander’s successor as governor, Ned McWherter.

CCA was intimately tied to the Alexander machine: Lobbyists for CCA managed the campaigns of the former Tennessee governor and Presidential candidate, and served as his chief of staff. CCA’s first group of investors included, besides Alexander’s wife and McWherter, current and former Alexander cabinet officers, CCA administrators who were former state GOP chairpersons, and a CCA lobbyist who was a Democratic state senator. Honey Alexander and McWherter sold their CCA stock in 1985, to avoid the appearance of conflict of interest.

A 1985 article in *The Nation* magazine, entitled “The Downside of Prisons,” gives the real “flavor” of CCA. Two former state corrections officials were at that time vice presidents of the company: T. Don Hutto, former commissioner of corrections in Arkansas and Virginia, and Travis Snellings, former budget director of Virginia’s Department of Corrections.

*The Nation* cites Hutto’s record with the Arkansas prison system as demonstrating his approach to prison management. In 1978, while he was commissioner of corrections there, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the state’s entire penal system constituted “cruel and unusual punishment.” The court found that he and his associates, while running the state prison system, “evidently tried to operate their prisons at a profit.” Inmates were required to work on the prison farms ten hours a day, six days a week, often without suitable clothing or shoes, using mule-drawn plows and tending crops by hand. Punishment for minor misconduct included lashing with a wooden-handled leather strap five feet long and four inches wide, and administering electric shocks to sensitive parts of the body. The trial court characterized the prisons as “a dark and evil world completely alien to the free world.”

While Hutto is no longer CCA vice president, he is still employed by the company. And CCA’s courtship of Tennessee elected officials has certainly not changed. While Lamar Alexander’s wife may have divested her stock before

## Troupe appeals to state legislators

*State Rep. Charles Quincy Troupe (D-Mo.), is circulating the following letter to the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL):*

“As members of NBCSL, it is our moral as well as our political duty to oppose the privatization of prisons in our states, and also federally. I believe this, both because we represent African-American constituents, who are the principal grist for this man-killing ‘industry,’ and because the philosophy which stands behind *prison privatization is un-American and inhuman*. Prison privatization is being sold as a cost-saving device, particularly in an era when Americans, and particularly African-Americans, are being incarcerated in record numbers, indeed numbers greater than in *any* other democratic nation. But there is no study today which demonstrates that, in the long run, these savings are real, and there is plenty of evidence, as recently as earlier this year in the case of Missouri prisoners being tortured in privately run jails in Texas, *to indicate that the cost is far too high for what little might be saved*” (emphasis in original).

Reminding his audience that Auschwitz, too, was a private prison, where prisoner-slaves were worked to death, Troupe went on to say:

“While private companies have run some aspects of the prison industry for decades, the large-scale takeover which we are experiencing today began in the 1980s, under the Reagan-Bush administration. It coincided with the huge increase in incarceration and with the general thrust toward privatization of all government functions to funnel business into the hands and pockets of the administration’s friends. So, for instance, CCA, founded in 1983, and today the largest private prison concern, had 685 beds under management in 1984 and has more than 15,000 today. Perhaps the best evidence of this political relationship is the fact that Bush’s Bureau of Prisons director, J. Michael Quinlan, moved from that position when Bush lost the election, to ‘Director of Strategic Planning’ at CCA. Today Quinlan is making a fortune off CCA’s meteoric rise on the stock exchange. . . .

“It is up to us, you, me, and NBCSL, to stop this monster before it eats us alive. The next step, should we accept the privatization of our prisons, will be the wholesale establishment of work camps in private prisons, something now beginning in states like Virginia, whose sole purpose will be to break the wage scale of free labor. If you remember what slave labor was in this country before the Civil War, you will recognize the intended effect of such a policy.”

her husband’s Presidential bid, many other elected officials or their spouses are still on the CCA payroll and/or hold substantial amounts of CCA stock. The wife of the Democratic Speaker of the House, Jimmy Naifeh, is the chief lobbyist for CCA. Tennessee law does not prohibit this, nor does it require the Speaker to recuse himself from voting on awarding CCA contracts. The only stipulation in state law is that lobbyists for CCA be registered and that their holdings be transparent.

### **Battle over privatization in Tennessee**

Earlier this year, Democratic Lt. Gov. John Wilder and Democratic State Rep. Matthew Kisber drafted the legislation that CCA had boasted would pass. This bill proposes to break the state code, which prohibits more than one privatized facility.

(In fact, CCA has already gotten around the law quite successfully. They built, and are currently operating, a 1,500-bed facility in Hardeman County. The sleight of hand here was that they used another state law which allows counties to contract in the event of overcrowding. So the county contracted with CCA, and then the state turned around and leased the 1,500 beds from the county. Then CCA argued for the

addition of 500 more beds in Hardeman County. When the state said they didn’t need the beds, CCA went ahead anyway, bringing in prisoners from Montana. They are now building another 1,500-bed private facility just down the road from this facility — with no authorization by the legislature. CCA obviously assumes if they build the prisons, they will certainly find some prisoners to fill them! CCA also has a contract with Davidson County to manage their 900-bed facility.)

The House bill came before the Select Oversight Committee on Corrections (SOCC) in October, for their review and recommendations. The committee opposed total privatization, stating that at least 30-40% of the prisons should *not* be privatized. Their report addressed several other problems with the existing CCA contract. For example, CCA will not allow any prisoners with AIDS in their prisons, and has a cap of \$4,000 for medical expenses per prisoner per year. Any prisoner who costs more than that, has to be covered by the state. The implications for medical care for prisoners in these facilities is obvious.

When CCA announced its plans to privatize all the Tennessee prisons, an explosion ripped through the state. The Tennessee State Employees Association (TSEA) immediately began to mobilize, as did employees of the Department

of Corrections, sheriffs, members of the state Legislative Black Caucus, and civil rights veterans.

### The Schiller Institute intervenes

It was into this explosive atmosphere, that a Schiller Institute organizing team arrived on Nov. 20. At the workshop of the Criminal Justice Task Force, the major discussion was a debate between John Ball, CCA director of business development, and William Montague, jail administrator at the Madison County Sheriff's Department. Before an audience of several hundred very agitated people, including TSEA officials sporting "No to private prisons" buttons, the presentations began. Montague summarized a paper he has written, covering all the arguments against prison privatization, saying that the profit motive has no place when it comes to the question of incarceration.

The questions from the audience were an angry bombardment directed at the CCA director—ranging from employees of the correctional system, concerned that their pensions and retirement would be destroyed if CCA took over the prisons, to citizens, one of whom said: "African-Americans make up a disproportionate share of the prison population. Prevention, alternative sentencing, and rehabilitation are virtually a thing of the past. What incentive is there, when the motive of private

prisons is profit? Therefore, there is no incentive for rehabilitation, no incentive for education, and every incentive to lock up as many people as possible for as long as possible."

At that point, a Schiller Institute representative was called upon by the moderator. Stating that *EIR* had extensive files on CCA and prison privatization which we would be delighted to contribute to the fight, she held up *EIR*'s Oct. 17 issue, containing an interview with Jonathan Smith, executive director of the D.C. Prisoners Legal Services Project, reporting the use of CS gas on District of Columbia prisoners at the CCA facility in Ohio, detailing how the prisoners were not allowed to wash it off, while the skin was peeling off their bodies. Then, she held up the letter from Representative Troupe, and asked the Tennessee Black Caucus to join the effort to ban prison privatization.

The Schiller Institute representative went on to discuss the bill Troupe has drafted, modelled on the legislation now incorporated into the Mississippi Code, sponsored by another Black Caucus member, State Rep. Jim Evans of Jackson, which banned privatization of *any* state agency without a vote of the legislature. She described the fight in Mississippi, where Representative Evans, together with the Mississippi Alliance of State Employees/Communications Workers of America, successfully defeated Maximus, a Virginia-based company which Republican Gov. Kirk Fordice had brought in (with the help of George Bush and Oliver North) to privatize the entire Health and Human Services budget in the state. She then pointed her finger at the CCA representative, indicating that the reason they have gotten this far, is CCA's close financial ties to elected officials in the state, and demanded that anyone on CCA's payroll or holding CCA stock recuse themselves from the vote on prison privatization.

When she sat down, speaker after speaker from the audience demanded a response from the legislators present. State Rep. Ulysses Jones, who chairs the State and Local Government Committee in the House (which would ultimately hear any prison privatization bill), made clear that nothing will get by his committee without intense hearings. He chided the CCA representative on the company's proposed cost savings: "First you promised \$150 million in savings, then it dropped to \$40 million—next thing you know it will be \$4 million." Rep. Joe Towns, who served with Representative Jones as co-moderator on the panel, summed up the proceedings, making clear his commitment to defeat any prison privatization legislation that comes before the legislature.

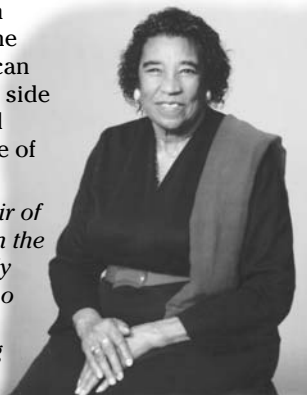
At the Annual Legislative Caucus in Milwaukee, Representative Troupe will propose to the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, that they join together to adopt his proposed legislation to ban prison privatization in the 44 states where they have members. As for Tennessee, it is undoubtedly now clear to CCA, and those on their payroll, that as a result of the Schiller Institute fight, they are not going to have an easy time of it, either.

## Bridge Across Jordan

by Amelia Platts Boynton Robinson

From the civil rights struggle in the South in the 1930s, to the Edmund Pettus Bridge at Selma, Alabama in 1965, to the liberation of East Germany in 1989-90: the new edition of the classic account by an American heroine who struggled at the side of Dr. Martin Luther King and today is fighting for the cause of Lyndon LaRouche.

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