

# Independent Hearings Investigate U.S. Department of Justice Misconduct

Independent hearings, facilitated by the Schiller Institute, to investigate allegations of gross misconduct by the United States Department of Justice, were convened Aug. 31 to Sept. 1 in Northern Virginia.

The hearings were prompted by the refusal this past summer by the House Judiciary Committee probe of the incident at Waco, to hear evidence of rampant corruption inside the permanent bureaucracy at the U.S. Department of Justice. Initially, those Congressional hearings seemed to be driven by broad-based, bipartisan concern that the Waco case, along with other pertinent cases, was a predicate of a continuing pattern of behavior by certain elements attached to the Justice Department.

But, once those hearings were hijacked by a group of Republican Congressmen whose only objective was to pillory President Clinton, the result was a massive coverup of the flagrant Justice Department corruption the Congress had promised to investigate.

## Members of the Panel

The independent panel, which declared that it would investigate what the House subcommittees refused to hear, included former Congressman James Mann of South Carolina (who, while in Congress, served as a prominent member of the House Judiciary Committee); Senators Robert Ford and Maggie Wallace Glover of the South Carolina State Senate; Reps. William Clark and John Hilliard of the Alabama House of Representatives; Reps. Toby Fitch and Howard Hunter of the North Carolina House of Representatives; Rep. Ulysses Jones, Jr., of the Tennessee House of Representatives; Rep. Percy Watson of the Mississippi House of Representatives; attorney J.L. Chestnut, one of the foremost Civil Rights lawyers in America today; and Msgr. Elias El Hayek, Chor Bishop of the Maronite Church



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*Panel members hear witness testimony at Independent Hearings.*

## LaRouche Exoneration Drive Expands

As of November 15, the number of current and former U.S. and Puerto Rican state legislators who have endorsed an Open Letter to the President of the United States, calling for the exoneration of Lyndon LaRouche, has grown to five hundred and ninety-seven (597).

The Open Letter has also been signed by twenty-nine former U.S. congressmen and such leading Civil Rights activists as Amelia Boynton Robinson, Rev. Hosea L. Williams, Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker, Rev. James L. Bevel, Rosa L. Parks, Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth, Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., Dick Gregory, Dr. Dorothy I. Height, and Mamie Till.

States in which more than ten legislators have endorsed the Open Letter include: Alabama (26), Arkansas (17), Idaho (19), Kansas (20), Kentucky (11), Louisiana (11), Michigan (20), Mississippi (36), Missouri (10), Montana (35), New Hampshire (40),

New Mexico (15), North Carolina (19), North Dakota (35), Oklahoma (14), Pennsylvania (13), Puerto Rico (15), South Carolina (22), South Dakota (22), Tennessee (31), Utah (16), Vermont (17), West Virginia (12), and Wyoming (12).

The text of the Open Letter stresses that, while Lyndon LaRouche is currently free on parole, "a terrible crime still goes unanswered. Not only was an innocent man framed, convicted, and wrongfully imprisoned for five years, but it is now clearly the case, documented by six volumes of unchallengeable evidence, consisting chiefly of government documents and admissions of government-led 'task force' officials, that the U.S. government knew at all relevant times, from 1979 to the present day, that Lyndon H. LaRouche and his co-defendants were innocent of the false charges for which they were convicted."

and professor of law.

International observers included Dr. Josef Mikloško, former Vice Premier of the post-communist Republic of Czechoslovakia; Dr. Kofi Awoonor, former Permanent Ambassador to the United Nations from the Republic of Ghana; Marino Elseviff, a prominent attorney from the Dominican Republic; and Amelia Boynton Robinson, of the Schiller Institute.

The panel focussed on cases where there was evidence of politically motivated targeting of groups and individuals by a concert of private organizations outside the U.S. government, working in tandem with corrupt officials inside Federal governmental law enforcement agencies.

### The Testimony

The testimony was organized around three panels: the harassment of African-American elected and public officials—the FBI’s “Operation *Frühmenschen*”; the conduct of the Justice Department’s so-called Office of Special Investigations (O.S.I.), particularly the cases of John Demjanjuk and former U.N. Secretary General and President of Austria Kurt Waldheim; and the Lyndon LaRouche case, the largest-scale single case involving the same corrupt Justice Department apparatus that operated in the O.S.I. and “Operation *Frühmenschen*” cases.

Congressman Mann also read into the record a request he had received from Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega of Panama, who is currently incarcerated in a Federal prison in Miami, that the panel, at some future date, also consider evidence of Justice Department misconduct and human rights violations that pervaded his American trial.

The proceedings opened with a Memorial Tribute and moment of silence in memory of Rep. David P. Richardson, of Pennsylvania. Richardson, who was to have served on the panel, died suddenly just a week prior to the formal opening of the hearings. He was the youngest person ever elected to the Pennsylvania state legislature, and, during twenty-four years of distinguished public service, was a national leader, and one of the pioneers,

in the battle against “Operation *Frühmenschen*.” He was forty-seven years old at the time of his death.

### The Presenters

Testimony on “Operation *Frühmenschen*” was presented by Sen. Theo Walker Mitchell (former), Sen. Herb Fielding (f), Judge Tee Ferguson (f), and Rep. Frank McBride (f), all of South Carolina; Judge Ira Murphy (f) of Tennessee; Councilman Roosevelt Bell of Alabama; and Patricia Moore and attorney Ollie Manago, of California. Testimony on the O.S.I. was presented by Yoram Sheftel of Tel Aviv, Israel, the attorney who represented John Demjanjuk in the latter’s death-penalty trial before the Israeli Supreme Court; Dr. Hans Koechler, of the International Progress Organization, Vienna, Austria; and William Nezowy, of the American Ukrainian Political Action Council of the United States.

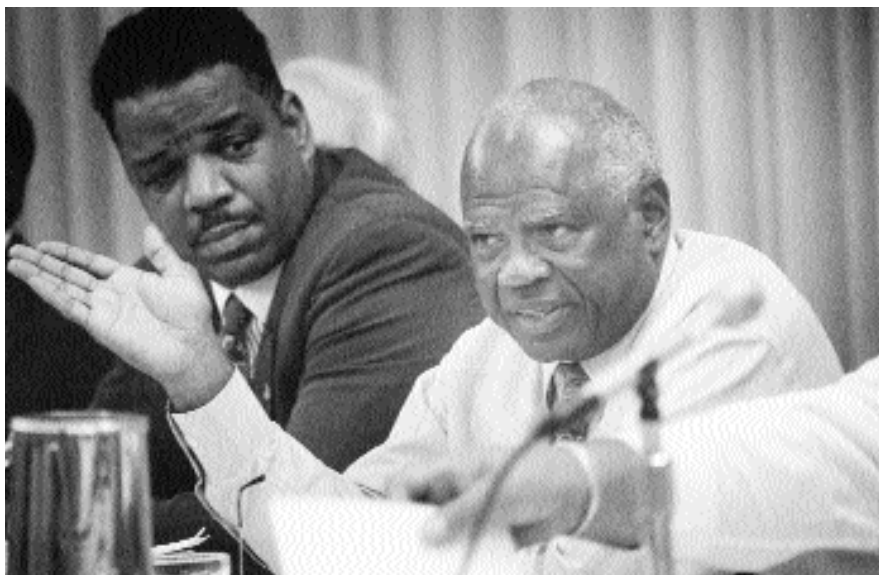
Testimony on the LaRouche case was presented by Odin Anderson of Boston, who has served as LaRouche’s attorney for over a decade; by Lyndon LaRouche and Helga Zepp-LaRouche; and finally, by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark.

In case after case, decisive evidence of rampant Justice Department 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 merely by the good word of the witnesses, but by government documents, records, and memoranda, first suppressed and later obtained by FOIA and other legal actions.

At the close of testimony, the panel, under the joint chairmanship of Rep. Mann and J.L. Chestnut, ruled that no summary statement could capture the shocking and dramatic nature of the testimony itself. By unanimous decision, the panel is now preparing a series of written and videotaped presentations of the proceedings that will be produced for broad, international circulation, as well as submission to every member of the United States Congress.

One by one, the panelists expressed their confidence, given that the nature of the evidence they had compiled was so compelling and so indicting, that Congressional oversight hearings into the matter, as well as other governmental action, would soon be forthcoming. “Justice,” said Congressman Mann, “must finally be returned to the Department of Justice.”



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*Noted Civil Rights attorney J.L. Chestnut, who co-chaired the Independent Hearings, questions a witness.*