

## Alabama Martin Luther King Celebrations

# LaRouche: 'Put this Country on the March Again!'

The Northwest Alabama chapter of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Committee invited Lyndon LaRouche to be their featured speaker Jan. 19-20 in celebration of Dr. King's birthday. In three appearances, LaRouche addressed hundreds of residents of the Florence-Sheffield metropolitan area, along with elected officials, ministers, and Civil Rights leaders, on Dr. King's unique Christian qualities of leadership, which the Civil Rights movement needs to emulate today.

The high point of the King celebration was a march, on Monday, Jan. 20, by three hundred adults and children through Florence, culminating in an outdoor rally at the Lauderdale County Courthouse. After various choral performances, and after speeches by the Mayor and the Chief of Police of Florence, James Barnett, a leader of the King Memorial Committee, introduced Lyndon LaRouche as the guest speaker. [SEE pages 4-5 for the text of LaRouche's remarks.]

On Sunday, Jan. 19, LaRouche addressed sixty people at the St. Paul A.M.E. Church. As he was speaking, Amelia Boynton Robinson, the legendary Civil Rights fighter from Tuskegee, Ala., who is vice-chairman of the Schiller Institute, entered, at which point



James Barnett welcomes Lyndon LaRouche to the St. Paul A.M.E. Church.

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LaRouche interrupted his remarks to embrace her. A picture of their greeting appeared on the front page of the *Times Daily* the next day, with excerpts from LaRouche's presentation. Mrs. Robinson also spoke at the courthouse rally.

She told the crowd that Martin Luther King Day "is a day of atonement in a small way. . . . When you think of the man who gave his life, then I think it is a good thing for us to realize, what are we giving—what are we doing? When I think of Martin, when he finished, the good Lord said, well, you

have finished your course, you have run the race, now come up a little higher. . . . I hope that each and every one of us will realize that we have something to live for, and we have something to leave to these younger people. Let us realize that Martin will never die. He will live as long as we keep the legacy alive."

The culminating event of the program was on Monday evening, Jan. 20, at the First Missionary Baptist Church of Sheffield. The featured speaker was Dr. Larry McCoy, president of the Northwest-Shoals Community College, who stressed the importance of education in fulfilling Martin Luther King's dream. LaRouche was asked to speak once again, this time to make the closing remarks.



Amelia Boynton Robinson addresses crowd outside Lauderdale County Courthouse.

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## NBCSL Calls for

The National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL), at its 20th Annual Conference in Biloxi, Miss. on Dec. 3-7, unanimously endorsed Resolution 97 in "Support for an Investigation of the Role of U.S. Government Agencies Regarding the Flow of Drugs into the United States."

The resolution was introduced by

# Movement Builds To Restore Pa. Medical Cuts

Pennsylvania State Representative Harold James (D-Phila) was joined by eight other Democratic state legislators and by Philadelphia City Council president John Street, in a Dec. 30 press conference in Philadelphia, to call upon Gov. Tom Ridge to restore his deadly cuts in the state medical assistance program, using the \$123-million surplus announced by Ridge's Budget Secretary on Dec. 11.

Representative James said that Gov. Ridge could use his executive powers to restore the medical cuts immediately. He said the alternative mechanism would be passage of a bill sponsored by Rep. John Myers (D-Phila), to restore eligibility for the 220,000 unemployed, working poor, and disabled persons who were cut off earlier this year. James has also introduced legislation to impose a 0.2% tax on security transfers.

Phil Valenti, state spokesman for Lyndon LaRouche and leader in the movement to impeach Ridge, stated: "If Gov. Ridge rejects the proposal, *knowing that his cuts have already resulted in deaths, injuries, and threats to the lives of innocent people*, he will likely have *condemned himself* to impeachment for Nazi crimes against humanity."

Among the state representatives in attendance at James' press conference were Rep. Dwight Evans, Democratic chairman of the Appropriations Committee, and Rep. Mark Cohen, chairman of the House Democratic Caucus. Representative Cohen pledged to sponsor hearings on the deadly impact of Ridge's cuts, if the Republicans refuse to do so.



EIRNS/Phil Valenti

*Pennsylvania Rep. Harold James (podium), flanked by Democratic state legislators, including Reps. James Roebuck, John Myers, Babette Josephs, Mark Cohen, and LeAnna Washington.*

Representative James' initiative was also supported by Bill George, president of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO, Richard Benfer, president of Braddock Hospital in Allegheny County, Henry Nicholas of the Hospital Workers Union, and Ed Cloonan, president of the Independent State Store Union.

In the press conference, James cited the devastation already inflicted by Ridge's policies: "New evidence is continuously coming into my office about the casualty toll, and the devastating effects on people's lives, that have been wrought by this mean-spirited Act 35. . . . This includes testimony and evidence from forty-eight witnesses and sources, describing nine deaths and twenty life-threatening situations, directly and indirectly related to Gov. Ridge's medical

assistance and health care cuts."

Representative LeAnna Washington then discussed the case of Lolita Cunningham: "Lolita Cunningham became Philadelphia's first childhood heart transplant recipient in 1985, at the age of twelve. Despite all the obstacles of poverty and ill-health, she was determined to become a scientist. . . . [L]ike many of our working poor citizens, she received no health benefits at work. When she applied for state medical assistance five months ago, she was denied, despite the fact that her anti-rejection drugs alone cost \$600 a month. Lolita Cunningham stopped taking some of her drugs for lack of money. She collapsed at work Dec. 11, and died several hours later. She was only twenty-four years old."

## Investigation of Bush Role in Crack Epidemic

Pennsylvania Black Caucus chairman Harold James, approved by the Law and Justice Committee on Dec. 4, and ratified in plenary session on Dec. 7. The full text follows:

"WHEREAS, a series of investigative reports published in the San Jose Mercury News, August 18-20, 1996, contained highly credible allegations concerning the

role of U.S. Government agencies, including the C.I.A. and the Dept. of Justice, through covert operations, in aiding and abetting the flow of drugs into the United States, including crack cocaine into the African-American communities of Los Angeles, as part of covert support for the Nicaraguan Contras in the 1980's; and,

"WHEREAS, these reports reaf-

firmed the conclusions of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Narcotics, Terrorism, and International Operations, also known as the 'Kerry Committee,' whose final report, dated December 1988, stated: 'On the basis of this evidence, it is clear that individuals who provided support for the Contras

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were involved in drug trafficking, the supply network of the Contras was used by drug trafficking organizations, and elements of the Contras themselves knowingly received financial and material assistance from drug traffickers'; and,

"WHEREAS, during the period in which drugs were allegedly brought into the country with the connivance of U.S. government agencies, then-Vice President George Bush was appointed by President Reagan to run the National Narcotics Border Interdiction System, and a series of executive orders and 'national security decision directives' were signed by President Reagan, placing most covert intelligence operations of the U.S. government, including covert support for the Contras, under the directions of a Special Situations Group also headed by George Bush, with Oliver North functioning as one of his key lieutenants; and,

"WHEREAS, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Senators Feinstein and Boxer, and the Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Jackson, and St. Louis, and other City Councils have called for Congressional and other investigations into the role of the C.I.A. and other agencies and individuals in these operations; and,

"WHEREAS, such investigations must go right to the highest levels of responsibility for the devastation and violence in our communities associated with drugs and guns.

"NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the 20th Annual Legislative Conference of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, assembled in Biloxi, Miss., Dec. 1-7, 1996, that the NBCSL endorses the call by the Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman Maxine Waters, Senators Feinstein and Boxer, the Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Jackson, and St. Louis City Councils, and others, for a congressional investigation, and the appointment of an independent special prosecutor, for a complete, thorough, and independent investigation of these allegations, and for vigorous prosecution of individuals, where justified by probable cause, irrespective of their current or former official status."

## Most Reverend Justin Francis Rigali, Archbishop of St. Louis

# 'The need to have the global view is not sufficiently understood'

*Archbishop Justin Francis Rigali was born in Los Angeles, California, April 19, 1935. He was ordained a priest in Los Angeles on April 25, 1961. During the first two sessions of the Second Vatican Council he was one of the priest assistants in St. Peter's Basilica. In June 1964, he attained the Doctorate in Canon Law from the Pontifical Gregorian University.*

*From 1964 to 1966 he studied at the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy in preparation for service to the Holy See. In November 1964, he entered the English-language Section of the Secretariat of State. For three-and-a-half years beginning September 1966, he served at the Apostolic Nunciature in Madagascar.*

*In February 1970, he returned to Rome and was appointed Director of the English-language Section of the Secretariat of State, becoming English-language translator for Pope Paul VI. From 1979 to 1987, he accompanied Pope John Paul II on a number of his international journeys. On June 8, 1985, he was appointed Titular Archbishop of Bolsena, and President of the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy. On Sept. 14, 1985, he was ordained a bishop by Pope John Paul II in the Cathedral of Albano.*

*During the years 1985-1990, he was named to positions with various Vatican*



*commissions. In December 1989, he was named Secretary of the Congregation for Bishops, and in January 1990, he became the Secretary of the College of Cardinals. On Jan. 25, 1994, Archbishop Rigali was appointed eighth Bishop/seventh Archbishop of St. Louis by Pope John Paul II. In June of the following year, Archbishop Rigali was appointed by Pope John Paul II to the Preparatory Council of the Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for America.*

*The following interview was conducted by Nina Ogden and William F. Wertz, Jr.,*