



Recitation in Leesburg, Virginia.

EIRNS/Stuart Lewis



Chorus in Wiesbaden, Germany.

EIRNS/Chris Lewis

Why is it that we are still barbarians?" asked Friedrich Schiller, the great German poet, playwright, and historian, over two hundred years ago, at a time when the Jacobin Terror unleashed by the French Revolution had destroyed the hopes of republican forces in Europe. Schiller Institute founder Helga Zepp-LaRouche asked this question again on Nov. 10, 1994, in remarks prepared to commemorate the 235th birthday of the great "Poet of Freedom" in celebrations across the United States, in Canada, and in Europe.

The message by Zepp-LaRouche, who also heads the Civil Rights Movement Solidarity Party in Germany, was read at full-day Institute events in major cities from Los Angeles to Boston, from Montreal to Hanover, events which featured recitations from Schiller's dramas, poetry, and prose writings, as well as musical settings of his works by the leading Classical composers.

What is at stake, said Zepp-LaRouche in her remarks, "is the question of whether a worldwide Dark Age, with many regional wars, the proliferation of old and new epidemics, starvation catastrophes, annihilation of entire geographical areas and a degeneration into a far more profound barbarism, will emerge out of the end of the era of

## 'Poet of Freedom' Celebrated Worldwide



Chicago pre-celebration rally.

EIRNS/Tom Szymeczek

mankind, or whether we will shape political conditions upon this Earth in a way which finally corresponds to human dignity. Since the answer to this question will decide the issue of whether we will still find something which deserves to be called 'human civilization,' it is worth thinking about how we can create the 'moral possibility' in the people of our time."

The need, and desire, for such cultural renewal was indeed evident in the many resolutions proclaiming Nov. 10 to be Friedrich Schiller Day, issued by U.S. city councils. Over a dozen U.S. cities released proclamations, including

Washington, D.C., St. Louis, Newark, and Buffalo.

Il the events heard greetings from the five associates of Lyndon LaRouche who remain political prisoners, serving decades-long sentences in Virginia prisons; their messages underscored the importance of Schiller's writings today.

Michael Billington, who is serving a 77-year sentence on phony "securities fraud" charges, concluded his greetings with an enthusiasm that mirrored the day's festivities: "The reason we're holding this meeting, is that we know that to break through the hardened shells that have grown around the troubled souls of our citizens, requires the music and

the poetry of a Beethoven and a Schiller; and whether it's the lost youth who have been neglected and surrounded by ugliness, who have too easily succumbed to evil, or whether it's the frustrated average citizen who has become so mindless, that he or she allows a Newt Nitwit to occupy a position of political power in this country, in either case, it's only the beauty of the creative process as expressed by Classical art, which can awaken in them a conscious sense of their own humanity, their own potential, and their own freedom. So enjoy the celebration, and enjoy the fight!"