

Senate Told: 'Enough Is Enough!' Commission Calls for D.O.J. Corruption Hearings

On April 21, the independent blue-ribbon panel headed by former U.S. Rep. James Mann (D-S.C.) and prominent Alabama attorney J.L. Chestnut, issued a call urging that Congressional investigative hearings into the U.S. Department of Justice include the crucial evidence heard by the Mann-Chestnut Commission in 1995.

Referring to recent exposés of misconduct by the D.O.J. and F.B.I., including evidence-tampering at the F.B.I. crime lab, Federal Judge Falcon Hawkins' ruling in the South Carolina Lost Trust case, and the Alcee Hastings case, the Commission stated, "Given recent events, it appears inevitable that Congress will be forced to exercise its oversight responsibility, placing investigative hearings high on the agenda of both the Senate and the House Judiciary Committees. If such hearings are to facilitate the long-overdue clean-out of one of the most corrupt sections of our government's permanent bureaucracy, it is imperative



Mann-Chestnut Independent Commission hears testimony, Aug. 31, 1995. Attorney J.L. Chestnut and U.S. Congressman James Mann, co-chairmen, are seated third and fifth from right.

that the full evidence presented to the 1995 Mann-Chestnut Commission, particularly a full investigation of the judicial railroad of LaRouche and his associates—a case that former Attorney General Ramsey Clark called a

case which, viewed in context, 'represented a broader range of deliberate cunning and systematic misconduct, over a longer period of time, utilizing the power of the Federal government, than any other prosecution by the U.S.

'The World Needs LaRouche's Exoneration'

On April 28, Laith Shubeilat, Jordanian parliamentarian (1984-93) and President of the Jordanian Engineers Association, addressed a seminar of the FDR-PAC in Washington, D.C., on behalf of the urgent necessity of exonerating Lyndon LaRouche. Also addressing the meeting were Dr. Abdul Alim Muhammad, national spokesman for Nation of Islam leader Minister Louis Farrakhan; Dr. Sabah Karam, Director of Islamic Schools of North America; and Bruce Director, Trustee of the Constitutional Defense Fund.

Twice a political prisoner himself, Shubeilat explained why he took up LaRouche's case, despite being told repeatedly, "Don't listen to those people." After being contacted in 1990, during the buildup to the Gulf War, when the LaRouche movement was virtually a

lone voice in the West opposing that war, Shubeilat began to realize that "those people are being targeted by the same agencies who are targeting me."

Shubeilat is best known for his philosophical commitment to an ecumenical alliance among the "Abrahamic" faiths—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—based on the common principle that all men are created in the image of God. He is also correctly known as the leading opponent in Jordan of the usurious policies of the I.M.F. and World Bank.

Although Shubeilat knew the risks of activities of conscience in his own nation of Jordan, a monarchy, he was shocked to learn, in reading the book *Railroad* about the LaRouche frameup and show-trial, that such things could occur in the "American democracy."

This led him to investigate La-

Rouche's ideas in depth. "I found an 'encyclopedic man,'" he reported. He described a meeting with Lyndon and Helga LaRouche, where LaRouche spoke about the importance of music in educating young people. "I was very impressed" by the depth of his knowledge, said Shubeilat. "I was also impressed with his courage"; in his decision to "go against the mainstream . . . I saw a bit of myself," he said. "I don't want to be against the mainstream, but if the mainstream is wrong, I must be against it."

So, Shubeilat decided to fight for LaRouche's freedom. "Why should I take up LaRouche's case?" he asked rhetorically. "Why should I meddle? Because if I don't meddle, I will lose my humanity, my self-respect."

Shubeilat recalled the courage of Michael Billington, the LaRouche associ-

government, in my time, or to my knowledge’—be heard.”

The Mann-Chestnut Commission convened a panel of legal experts on Aug. 31-Sept. 1, 1995 to conduct a series of extraordinary independent hearings to investigate allegations of gross misconduct by the Department of Justice. The hearings 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.

Commission members include: James R. Mann (D-S.C.), U.S. House of Representatives (retired); JL Chestnut, attorney, Selma, Alabama and author, *Black in Selma*; Sen. Robert Ford, South Carolina State Senate; Sen. Maggie Wallace Glover, South Carolina State Senate; Rep. William Clark, Alabama House of Representatives; Rep. John Hilliard, Alabama House of Representatives; Rep. Milton Toby Fitch, North Carolina General Assembly; Rep. Howard Hunter, North Carolina General Assembly; Rep. Ulysses Jones, Jr., Tennessee General Assembly; and

Msgr. Elias El Hayek, Chor Bishop of the Maronite Church and Professor of Law.

‘Enough Is Enough!’

On April 30, the Senate Judiciary Committee held hearings on the Department of Justice corruption. Concerned that these hearings not be a coverup, eighteen prominent current and former state elected officials drafted a statement, which was entered into the official records. The statement, which reported on the work and conclusions of the Mann-Chestnut Commission, concluded:

“Some of us have been victims of this corruption. All of us have been witnesses to it. Now we say, enough is enough! A clean-out is long overdue. And, it is our position, that if the relevant committees of the Congress refuse to hear this crucial evidence once again, we will see to it, that the stench of political corruption and cover-up follows them to the end of what will be very short political careers.”

In addition to a number of members of the Mann-Chestnut Commission, the following state legislators signed the statement: (former) Sen. Theo W.

Mitchell, South Carolina; Rep. Andrew M. Hayden, Alabama; Rep. Tommie Houston, Alabama; Rep. Thomas E. Jackson, Alabama; Rep. Bryant Melton, Jr., Alabama; Rep. James L. Thomas, Alabama; Rep. Ben McGee, Arkansas; Rep. Ben Swan, Massachusetts; Sen. William L. Clay, Jr., Missouri; Rep. Charles Quincy Troupe, Missouri; Rep. Harold James, Pennsylvania; Sen. John Ford, Tennessee; and (former) Rep. Ira Murphy, Tennessee.

Release of LaRouche Associates

On March 31, in the month leading up to the Congressional hearings, petitions for a writ of *habeas corpus* were filed on behalf of Anita Gallagher, Paul Gallagher, and Laurence Hecht, three of five LaRouche associates who, despite their innocence, are serving long sentences in Virginia prisons. Don Phau, another LaRouche associate, had filed papers in his case the prior week. Michael Billington, the LaRouche associate serving the longest sentence, 77 years, is currently challenging his conviction in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.



EIRNS/Stuart Lewis

Jordanian Parliamentarian Laith Shubeilat

ate who is serving a barbaric 77-year sentence in a Virginia state prison. “I cannot forget Mike Billington—when the day came that he should go to jail, first he went to a demonstration, calling for my freedom; facing his darkest day, going to jail for 77 years. I cannot forget that.”

St. John Passion Performed in Germany

On Good Friday, March 28, the Schiller Institute chorus and orchestra returned to the Untere Kirche in Florsheim-Dalsheim, Germany, to perform portions of J.S. Bach’s oratorio, the *St. John Passion*. The seventy performers, mostly amateurs, came from many nations—Germany, France, Italy, Denmark, and Poland—and were joined by students from the church conservatory in Bratislava, Slovakia. The work was performed at the scientific tuning of C=256, and was conducted by Anno Hellenbroich.



EIRNS/Christopher Lewis