

# **PROCEEDINGS**

Ad Hoc



# Democratic Party Platform

# Hearings



Washington, D.C. June 22, 2000

Suggested \$10









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Holiday Inn on the Hill Washington, D.C. June 22, 2000

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Paid for by LaRouche's Committee for a New Bretton Woods

LBWPA-2000-010

Suggested contribution: \$10

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### Introduction

We reproduce here the opening remarks offered at the June 22, 2000 Ad Hoc Democratic Party Platform Hearings, by Lyndon LaRouche's national spokeswoman Dr. Debra Hanania Freeman, and the panel chairman, Mississippi State Representative Erik Fleming.

#### The Fundamentals Are Not Sound

My name is Debra Freeman. I serve as the national spokeswoman for Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche. What I would like to do this morning is to begin with some background, for the sake of those of you in the audience, and for the sake of our listening audience, since today's proceedings are being broadcast



live on the Internet. I also want to take the opportunity first to welcome all of you to Washington. I want to especially extend a welcome to our distinguished panelists, who have convened here today to take testimony as to what should comprise the platform of the Democratic Party, as we enter this election period.

In welcoming the committee, I'd like to just briefly explain how today's event came about.

For those of us who have been active on the political scene for a number of years, it is traditional, during the month of June, in Presidential election years, that Democrats hold platform hearings. It is normally the tradition that during June, platform hearings occur in major cities across the United States. Those hearings usually go into a second round of hearings in July, prior to the national convention, which are more of a regional nature. This year, as of yet, no such hearings have been scheduled. We are told by the party leaders, that at some point, hearings will take place. But at the same time, we're told that, basically, the only thing that will be in order at those hearings, will be comments on the past platform; the platform that was adopted four years ago. And the reasoning for this, we are told, is that indeed, the fundamentals are sound.

For those of you who read the *New York Times* on Sunday—and even though I don't live in New York anymore, I always read the *New York Times* on Sunday—

you will have seen commentary, that the only real issue in this year's Presidential campaign, the thing that makes this campaign different from previous Presidential campaigns, is that both the candidate of the Democratic Party, and the candidate of the Republican Party, will have to deal with what the *Times* calls a "crisis of abundance."

Well, ladies and gentlemen, you only have to walk a couple of blocks to the east, or to the west, of this hotel to know that the crisis that we face, here in Washington, D.C., in Baltimore, Maryland, in Birmingham, Alabama, in Detroit, Michigan, in Los Angeles, California, in any city that you name in the United States, in any rural area that you name in the United States, the crisis that we face is not a crisis of abundance.

I would also submit to you, that in a period when we cannot find the money to adequately feed our hungry, to house our homeless, and to educate our children, when the vast majority of the American people have no access to quality health care, when, in fact, we as a nation rank 37th among nations in the health of our people—I would submit to you that the fundamentals are not sound.

I can't really speak for the leadership of our party, as to why they insist on maintaining this absurd posture. What I do know, is that there has been a tremendous concern, concern since Newt Gingrich led what he called his Conservative Revolution. . . . I have to admit, I never thought of it as much of revolution; I found it rather revolting, but I didn't find it to be a revolution. But, what occurred shortly after the Gingrich revolution, is that some "wise" people inside the Democratic Party said that the Democratic Party had to change, that we no longer had to worry about the traditional base of the party. That labor, African-Americans, Hispanics, farmers, people who had traditionally made up the vast sea of support that the party always enjoyed, that those folks had nowhere else to go. And that the new era would be defined by whether or not our party could appeal to soccer moms, and Wall Street yuppies.

Well, you know, we are, after all, the party of inclusion, and I think there's room in the party for soccer moms. But, I also know that in our country, 80% of our population lives in the lower income brackets. And a Democratic victory has always depended specifically on our ability to mobilize that base of the Democratic Party. The idea that those people have nowhere else to go, is a cynical statement, and I believe that it's a violation of

everything that our nation stands for. And in fact, it is during the course of platform hearings, that that 80% has its voice.

This year, that voice is silent. It was our feeling, and it's the feeling of Democrats all over the United States, that those voices have to be heard. And the men and women who sit before you today, have come together for that purpose. They've all left extremely busy schedules in Legislatures that are sitting around the United States, many of them in emergency session to deal with this socalled crisis of abundance. But they came here because they recognize that they have a responsibility, a responsibility to their constituents, a responsibility to see to it that the general welfare of the vast majority of the American people, is represented. It is a courageous move by each of them. It is a selfless move. And it is our hope that what goes on here today, will constitute a crucial intervention into this Presidential campaign, and will give a voice to those 80% of the American people, whose voices will otherwise not be heard.

So, ladies and gentlemen, you have, I suppose, a very solemn task today. Because in fact, you must be the eyes and the ears, and ultimately, the voice, of that 80%.

We have tried to solicit witnesses in areas that represent the crucial areas, the areas of crisis, that face the American people. I am more than happy to admit to you, that for every witness who is here today, there are probably 10 other witnesses who should be here. But we simply do not have the resources—this is an ad hoc committee, and it is something that we hope will spark a much greater dialogue and debate, but it is also the case that it cannot substitute for what in fact, should be going on far more broadly on a national scale.

For the sake of the listening audience, and for the sake of those in the audience, I'd like to introduce to you the members of the panel. Many of them, during the course of today, will also serve as witnesses. They have crucial testimony to give, and I think that you will agree, that they have all distinguished themselves in various areas of expertise.

I will start from what I guess is my right, in introducing to you, from the state of New Mexico, State Senator Carlos Cisneros.

Sitting next to him, the only member of the panel who is not currently a sitting legislator, but who represents an important part of the history of our nation, and the his-

tory of the Democratic Party—it's my great pleasure to present to you, and to welcome, former Senator Eugene McCarthy, from the state of Minnesota, someone who has some experience of his own in Presidential campaigns.

Sitting next to him, from the state of Nevada, a state that has a lot more to it than Las Vegas and Reno, I'd like to present to you Senator Joe Neal.

Sitting next to Joe Neal is someone who also will be delivering testimony before the panel today. She's up there because of her distinguished leadership, and also because she's the prettiest one there, from the city of Philadelphia, the state of Pennsylvania, Representative LeAnna Washington.

Sitting next to her, from Detroit, Michigan, Representative Ed Vaughn.

I'm going to skip over our chairman for the moment, and present to you, from the state of Alabama, Representative Thomas Jackson.

Next to him, his colleague from the Alabama legislature, Representative John Hilliard. Welcome, John.

Next to him, also from the state of Pennsylvania, the city of Philadelphia, Representative Harold James.

From Connecticut—I knew we'd get North sooner or later—Representative Ernest Newton.

From the great state of Illinois, Representative Coy Pugh. Welcome, Representative Pugh.

And at the end of the end of dais, from the state of Kentucky, Representative Perry Clark.

What I would like to do now is to turn the proceedings over to our chairman, the distinguished Representative from the State of Mississippi, because we wanted everybody to know that there is a lot more to the state of Mississippi than Trent Lott, Representative Erik Fleming. Chairman, thank you.

#### A Matter of Conscience

Thank you, Dr. Freeman.

Before I go into the ground rules of where we are with the hearing, I did want to remark on a comment that Debbie made, as far as being courageous. Most of us here don't look at what we're doing today as being courageous, but a matter of conscience, and that the only thing that is considered a soft pillow to members of the Legislature, is a clear conscience.

So, we're well rested, with clear consciences, and we're ready to get started with our hearing.

# The Distinguished Panelists



Former U.S. Senator Eugene McCarthy (D-Minnesota) ran successfully in 1948 on Minnesota's Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party ticket for the U.S. House of Representatives, where he remained for 10 years. In 1958, he was elected to the U.S. Senate, where he remained until his announcement, in November

1967, of a challenge to President Lyndon Johnson in the Democratic Presidential primaries. Although he did not win the election, his campaign developed into a widespread movement, based on his strong support for the right to vote and his opposition to the war in Vietnam. The exclusionary treatment of Sen. McCarthy by the DNC and the media in subsequent Presidential primary campaigns, prompted him to challenge the DNC in many articles and in the courts. His wit and strong command of history have made him a much-sought-after columnist and lecturer.



Senator Carlos R. Cisneros (D-New Mexico) has been in the New Mexico State Senate since 1985 and is currently Chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee. He also served for eight years as Chair of the Senate Education Committee, and is currently a member of the Committees on Indian &

Cultural Affairs, Revenue Stabilization and Tax Policy, Tobacco Settlement, Water & Natural Resources, and of the Committees' Committee, and the Education Initiatives & Accountability Task Force. Senator Cisneros is also a New Mexico Board Member of the National Board of Certified Teachers; a member of the National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO); and a member of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL).



Senator Joe Neal (D-Nevada) has served in the Nevada Senate since 1972. He has served on every committee in the Senate and has chaired both the Human Resources and Natural Resources Committees. He currently serves as Chair of the Nevada Legislative Black Caucus and as a member of the Finance

Committee and the Committees on Government Affairs, and Taxation. In 1991, he was elected by the full Nevada State Senate (Democrats and Republicans) as Senate President Pro-Tem, in which Constitutional position, he served as Acting Governor in 1991.



Representative Perry Clark (D-Kentucky) has served in the Kentucky Legislature since 1995. He currently serves on the Committees on Economic Development & Tourism, Judiciary, and State Government.



Representative Erik Fleming (D-Mississippi), served as Chair of the Panel at the Ad Hoc Hearings. He was elected to the Mississippi Legislature in 1999, and serves on the Conservation & Water Resources, Juvenile Justice, Labor and Transportation Committees. A Democratic Party activist on the

state and national level, he served until recently on the Democratic National Committee, and is on the Platform Committee of the Mississippi Democratic Party. He also chaired the Hinds County Democratic Party in Mississippi and is currently a member of the Executive Committee of the state party, as well as serving as Co-Chair of the Young Democrats.



Representative John Hilliard (D-Alabama) was elected to the State Legislature in 1986. He currently serves as Chair of the Black Caucus of the Alabama Legislature and as Special Advisor to the President of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators. In the Legislature, he

serves as Chair of the State Government Committee and is a member of the Jefferson County Legislation Committee. He also serves as Chair of the Insurance Committee of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators.



Representative Thomas
Jackson (D-Alabama) was
elected to the State Legislature in
1994. He currently serves in the
Legislature as Chair of the
Agriculture, Forestry & Natural
Resources Committee, and is a
member of the Health
Committee. He is Vice-Chair of
the Agriculture Committee for

the National Conference of State Legislatures. He is also past Vice-Chair of the Clarke County Democratic Conference in Alabama.



Representative Harold James (D-Pennsylvania), has been a member of the Pennsylvania House since 1989. He currently serves in the Legislature as Vice-Chair of the Committee on Law & Justice and Subcommittee Chair on Crime and Corrections, and is a member of the Committees on Judiciary,

Commerce & Economic Development, and Health & Human Services. Representative James is the former Chair of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus and is a Special Assistant to the President of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators. He was appointed to serve as Vice-Chair of the Law and Justice Committee of the Assembly on Federal Issues for the National Conference of State Legislatures. A Philadelphia police office for 22 years, he is former Chair of the National Black Police Association, former President of the Guardian Civic League, and a former Commissioner of the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission.



Representative Ernest Newton (D-Connecticut) was elected to the Connecticut Legislature in 1988. Before that, he was elected City Council President in Bridgeport from 1981 to 1985, the youngest person, and first African-American, to serve in that position. He served as Assistant Majority Leader in the House

from 1995-96 and became Majority Whip in 1997. He is currently a Deputy Majority Leader, and a member of the Committees on Banks; Finance, Revenue & Bonding; and Legislative Management. He is former Chair of the Legislative Black and Puerto Rican Caucus in Connecticut. In 1995, he was appointed to be a Special Assistant to the President of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, and in 1999, was appointed to serve as Special Advisor to the President of the Caucus.



Representative Coy Pugh (D-Illinois) has served in the Illinois Legislature since 1993. He is Chair of the Committee on Revenue and serves as a member of the Committees on Human Services, Appropriations-Public Safety, Committee of the Whole, Personnel & Pensions, and Tobacco Settlement Proceeds

Distribution. Pugh drafted the Illinois legislation calling for a moratorium on the death penalty, and played a key role in securing its passage, making Illinois the first state in the U.S. to do so. Representative Pugh is now also an ordained minister.



Representative Ed Vaughn (D-Michigan) first served in the Michigan Legislature from 1978-79. He was elected again in 1994 and currently serves as Minority Vice-Chair of the Constitutional Law and Ethics Committee and is a member of the Committees on Economic Development, and Regulatory Reform. He formerly

chaired the Michigan Legislative Black Caucus and is currently the First Vice-Chair. He is the owner of Vaughn's Bookstore, America's oldest black bookstore. He served as Executive Assistant to Detroit Mayor Coleman A. Young from 1980-89.



Representative LeAnna
Washington (D-Pennsylvania)
has served in the Pennsylvania
Legislature since 1993. She serves
as Chair of Philadelphia Black
Elected Officials (PBEO). In the
Legislature, she is Vice-Chair of
the Philadelphia Delegation; a
member of the Committees on
Health & Human Services,

Judiciary, and Urban Affairs; and Subcommittee Chair on First Class Cities, Counties.

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# The Economic Crisis

### Covering the Farm Crisis, the Crisis of the Cities, and Labor

Witness List (in alphabetical order)

- **Terri Bishop,** director, Community for Creative Non-Violence Homeless Shelter, Washington, D.C.
- Greg Blaska, director, National Dairy Board; local director, Wisconsin Farm Union; Sun Prairie, Wisconsin.
- George "Bill" Burrows, member, State Committee of the Farm Service Agency, Adams, Nebraska.
- Robert Cebina, vice president, UAW Local 723, CAP Council Representative; Monroe, Michigan.
- State Senator Carlos Cisneros, chairman, Senate Ways and Means Committee, New Mexico Legislature; Questa, New Mexico.
- State Representative Thomas Jackson, chairman, Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resources Committee, Alabama Legislature; vice-chairman, Agriculture Committee, National Conference of State Legislatures; Thomasville, Alabama.
- E. Martin "Marty" Jewell, chairman, Richmond Coalition on Housing, Richmond, Virginia.
- **Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.,** Democratic Presidential pre-candidate; economist; *EIR* Contributing Editor.
- V.B. Morris, National Secretary, American Agricultural Movement, Texas.
- Melvin Muhammad, state president, AFSCME, Nebraska.
- Randy Sowers, dairy farmer, Middletown, Maryland; member, executive board, Mid-Atlantic Egg Council; member, executive board, Maryland/Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association.
- State Representative Ed Vaughn, first vice-chairman, Michigan Legislative Black Caucus; Detroit, Michigan.
- Louis "Steve" Whitehead, president, Portsmouth Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO; Portsmouth, Virginia.

# Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.



Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. is a Democratic Presidential pre-candidate and economist. Mr. LaRouche has been a frequent Presidential candidate, is a prolific writer, and the founder of Executive

Intelligence Review, a prominent newsweekly magazine. The following testimony, to which Mr. LaRouche gave the title "After the Shock: Providing the Leadership the American People Will Need," was presented to the panel via videotape.

We face a situation now, which is roughly comparable to the situation when President Franklin Roosevelt was running for office in 1932. Contrary to wishful delusions about the economy, this economy is finished. It can go in one of three ways: We could have had, since 1997, as I warned, a collapse of the type where the stock market collapses by 50% or more—suddenly—a deflationary collapse, chain-reaction collapse. But then, in October of 1998, there was a change in policy to try to avoid a financial chain-reaction collapse, by hyperinflating the world monetary and financial systems, as a way of trying to postpone, if not prevent, a coming financial collapse—that's the second financial alternative, and that's the one we face right now.

The third alternative, is that governments, including the government of the United States, the President of the United States, personally, most notably, must intervene to call a conference, an international monetary conference, to reorganize what is actually a bankrupt international financial and monetary system.

Now, in the recent period, in the most desperate period—where Larry Summers and Alan Greenspan have been attempting to postpone what they know to be, or should know to be, is an inevitable financial crash—we've entered a hyperinflationary phase, somewhat comparable to Germany in mid-1923. When the thing will blow out, or when it might blow out, is not

yet certain; but the threat of the blowout is present and growing. And that threat is a problem we're going to have to deal with—now.

The alternative, as I said, is to form a new monetary conference, call a number of nations together, and put the present system into bankruptcy reorganization, and start all over again, in effect, the way we did with Roosevelt, when he was first inaugurated in 1933. We're going to have to go through that. We have been, we must admit it, we must face reality: The population of the United States, or at least those in the top 20% of income brackets, and others, have been about as crazy, or more crazy than Americans in the late 1920s or early 1930s. We had a big financial bubble then, which resulted in the stock market crash of 1929. We're headed for a bigger crash now. We had a crash, not only because the bankers were crooked, as they always have been—our Wall Street banker-types are not exactly too moral-but, because they're worse today, and there are more people, a larger percentage of the population are involved in this euphoric belief in an ever-ongoing prosperity under this so-called new form. And we're crazy. Therefore, we're going to have to go back and change our ways.

We're not likely to change our ways until a great shock hits. Well, I tell you, the shock is coming. So, the chance to change is now. But, you're going to have to realize, that we as a nation have been crazy. What we're been doing in financial policy, in economic policy over 30 years, has been crazy, and has been getting crazier by the decade. We're now at the limit: Either we reorganize the system, and become sensible, or we're headed for something beyond belief.

I think, that with a shock, many Americans will wake up. What's required however, in a shock like this, is leadership, the way that Franklin Roosevelt provided leadership in 1932-33. Without that kind of leadership, after a shock, the American people will still be crazy. People recover from these kinds of situations only when shocks bring them to their senses, number one; and number two, when they have the leadership which inspires in them, the confidence to undertake rebuilding—and that's what we need now. That should be the function of the Democratic Party's Platform formation and the Convention. Admittedly, a radical change from the trends in the party leadership right now. But that change must come, otherwise,

you're going to be saying, "President George Bush." And that won't be pleasant.

So, there are several areas we have to cover. One area of the Platform, primarily, is the reorganization of the monetary system. That means we're going to have to cancel all the funny-money games and go back to a strict, hard-core, hard-commodity program. That is, we're going to have to rebuild our industries, we're going to have to invest in capital goods, in technology—forget this socalled "New Economy"—it's dead, it's already as good as dead. We're going to have to go back to the old ways. We're going to have to make a number of social changes, as well as economic changes. Among the economic changes, of course, is rebuilding our infrastructure. We're going to have probably about 10% of population from the upper-income brackets, along with others, who are going to be out of jobs very soon. That is, people in the top half of the top income brackets—they're going to be out of—losing their jobs, most of them. We're going to have to provide mass employment. The driver for increasing the level of employment, will have to be basic economic infrastructure: water systems, power systems, transportation systems, sanitation systems.

We're going to have to also rebuild the physical and other infrastructure of our education system, and our health-care system, both of which are essentially breaking down. For example, reports are now, that half of the pupils reaching the eighth grade in the United States are illiterate. Now, that's not a problem just of money; that's a problem of bad teachers and bad teacher policies in the educational system. Yes, we need more money. We need more teachers. But we also have to have teachers who are committed to teaching—not what too many are doing today. But we have to build the infrastructural system.

We have a worse problem in health care, relatively speaking. In health care, we're losing, and have lost, a great bit of our institutional infrastructure, particularly over the past 25 years, since the repeal of the old Hill-Burton law, and its replacement by the so-called HMO law. This change has resulted in a disaster in health care. It's not just a matter of who's going to pay. That's not the issue. The issue is, if you don't have the hospitals, if you don't have the physicians, if you don't have the emergency clinics, if you don't have the other physical infrastructure, where physicians assemble to perform various kinds of medical services, apart from their private offices, you don't have medical care.

So, the main concern of the United States today, as before, in the postwar period, should be to build up our institutional capacity for delivering medical care as needed by the population, rather than anything else. If we provide the number of physicians, support the number of physicians, and so forth, who are needed, to work with these institutions, we can do as we were doing quite suc-

cessfully, under the old Hill-Burton system. Go back to it, but we have to rebuild much plant; we've lost hospitals, we've lost facilities.

We have also, at the same time—as President Clinton has admitted and emphasized—we have a global infectious disease threat, which is hitting largely in places like Africa, but which is also a threat to the United States and its people, already. That is, the basis for this report by the CIA, which the President used to declare this emergency, is the fact that two U.S. agents, travelling in strange parts of the world, could pick up, in the course of their travel, a disease from Africa, which was previously unknown, virtually, in Europe or the United States, and arrive at their destination in the United States, or Europe, dying from this disease, like Ebola, or other kinds of new fevers.

On top of that, as the report emphasized, we have an increase, through the failure of our antibiotic program—that the antibiotic program and health-care program, as presently administered, is actually increasing the incidence of resistant strains of old epidemic diseases like tuberculosis. Therefore, we have to have a lot of emphasis on research to develop new technologies, as well as the support system for dealing with these kinds of diseases.

We have, in addition to that, all kinds of problems: We have urban problems; we have housing problems; we have social problems and mental-health problems, which are a byproduct of this situation. And therefore, we've got to address these things.

We also have another problem that I've addressed recently, together with others: It's a threat in the United States which I've called "New Violence"; that is, violence is old, but the form of violence we're undergoing now, in Europe and the United States, is different, is a new form, not what we've experienced before. What's happened is, through the spread of military and other types of Nintendo games, such as Pokémon, we have—our children in the highly suggestible age groups of 3 to 8, 9, and so forth—have been subjected to conditioning by these kinds of games. And these kinds of games produce a quasipsychosis, where these children are doing violence to each other. Not just with guns, but look at the *kinds* of death that are proposed in Pokémon. Look at the way people are killed in the Pokémon stories. These ways are spreading.

Not only that, we have it in the police departments. From our military and police departments, we've gone to a Nintendo-style of military training, of shoot-and-kill. Point, shoot, and kill. As a result, we've produced people who can, on instinct, empty their weapons, rather accurately, at a bunch of targets. And we've had these cases of police shootings, violence. For example, the famous case in New York City, where several police, four in total, unloaded 41 bullets into the body of an unarmed man [Amadou Diallo], before finding out who he was. This is typical. Our military are being trained in these ways.

As a result of this kind of thing, the spread on television, through Nintendo-style games, and related methods, we have brought into the United States, as we saw at Columbine, we have brought a new kind of violence, a new motivation, new mental mechanisms for violence, into the United States. It is not guns. Remember, no gun ever, of its own volition, shot anyone. But the man who had it, did the shooting. To understand the problem of violence, don't look at weapons. Look at the mind of the individual. It is the mind of the individual that does the killing. And that's where you've got to go.

So, we have to clean this up. We have to clean up our entertainment system. Some people say this is a matter of free speech. It's not a matter of free speech. If you're taking children, putting them before a television set, every day, hour on hour, playing with these Nintendo-style games, hour on hour, they're being trained to kill on instinct. This is not a matter of free will. They're being conditioned. They're being literally *brainwashed*. People in our military are being brainwashed in similar ways. And some of our police teams are being brainwashed in similar ways. This is the kind of thing that the violence is producing.

It is not only in these departments; it's in our mass media, our television, our electronic games, and similar kinds of things. If this continues, we're not going to have a society worth living in. And don't say this is a matter of free speech. This is the same thing with drugs and other things. It's not a matter of free speech and free choice. If you have a society which is afflicted with these kinds of habits, that society will destroy itself. And the decision you have to make, is whether you're going to condone our society's destroying itself. Or whether you're going to say, this kind of thing is not to be encouraged in our country.

So those are the kinds of problems we face.

Otherwise, we face a more general problem. The difference essentially between the stock market or financial market lunacies of the 1920s, and again today, is that people no longer believe in the principle upon which this nation was founded. You can find that principle stated in various ways. It's stated in the first three paragraphs of the Declaration of Independence. It's also stated in the Preamble of our Constitution. Sometimes it's called the "General Welfare Clause." The principle on which our government was founded, our republic was founded, the principle which we contrasted to feudal society, and similar kinds of oligarchical society, is that the government has no authority, no moral authority, except as it is officially committed to defend the general welfare of all of the population and their posterity.

That means that the economic policies, must be policies which promote the general welfare; that means, which promote the standard of living; which promote the security; which promote the health-care system; which

promote the national defense, of course; which promote good education; which promote good opportunities; which promote upgrades in the conditions of life of our citizens at work, and elsewhere. These are the primary responsibilities of government.

Now today, we've gone to a different system. It's called the John Locke system. The right of property. The argument is, that anything which makes money is good. And therefore, if we have owners of property, they have a right to their profit, they have a right to profit, even as it is being made now in the Internet area. Just pure speculation, the kind of speculation which is destroying our economy and destroying the world. So, the fact that people condone this, think this is right, think that shareholder values are primary, the corruption of the majority of the members of the Supreme Court—as Roosevelt faced back then in the 1930s—these are the problems. And as long as we as a people, believe you have to go along with public opinion, as expressed by our major news media, have to go along with the idea of shareholder value, you have to submit to that. As long as you accept that, you're bringing it on yourself. You're bringing doom on yourself just the same way that the so-called popular opinion, the vox populi of the pagan Roman Empire, sent the Latin Roman Empire to its doom. We're headed in that direction.

We've often made that kind of mistake in our national past. Fortunately, in our past, we have corrected that mistake—again, and again, and again. We must now correct that mistake once more. We must say that shareholder value, the kind of free-trade and related policies that we've imposed upon ourselves, are lunacy and they have to stop.

What you should do is look at what the hearings were, before the Congress and elsewhere, when Roosevelt became President, Franklin Roosevelt. Look at the investigations that were conducted against Wall Street and others at that time, hmm? Look at the laws that were passed to prevent this foolishness from continuing. Those laws helped us. They carried us through most of the years up to recent decades. In recent decades, especially since the Carter administration, we have been destroying those very laws, which the Roosevelt era put into place to protect us from the insanity that led us into the Great Depression of the 1930s. Today, the same kind of insanity prevails. It is supported by popular opinion. It's supported by leaders of the Democratic Party and their leading candidates. It's wrong. It was wrong then, and it's wrong now. You don't go along to get along. You go along with this, and you go down.

So, to sum up, first of all, we have the worst financial crisis in modern history. We shan't survive it, unless we come to our senses. If we come to our senses we can. We need programs to deal with it, programs which do have

precedents, and we need leadership, leadership typified in the past by people like Abraham Lincoln and President Franklin Roosevelt. With that combination, we can survive. With that combination of leadership, we will fix up our infrastructure, go back to high levels of productive employment, restore our health-care systems, restore our power systems, restore our transportation systems, restore our education system, and get some good old-fashioned clean morality into our nation.

Under those conditions, we can survive. That, I think, is the guts of the platform which the Democratic Party must shape during this coming period.

#### THE FARM CRISIS

# Randy Sowers & Greg Blaska



Randy Sowers is a dairy farmer from Middletown, Maryland, is on the executive board of the Mid-Atlantic Egg Council and on the executive board of the Maryland/Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association,

and has been voted a master farmer of several states, including Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. He read the testimony prepared by Greg Blaska, and added remarks of his own.

Greg Blaska, of Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, is the director of the National Dairy Board; and the local director of the Wisconsin Farm Union.

My name is Randy Sowers, and I am from Middletown, Md. A little history on me and my family. Twenty years ago, we decided to start farming—we didn't inherit this farm in any way. It's been a tough go so far, but we've done all right.

Since 1980, when we started farming, things have gotten progressively worse for farmers of smaller size. It seems that most of those have fallen to the wayside, so over the 20-year period, we thought that to get bigger, was the answer. So we have increased 400% on our dairy herd in that 20 years, and we added a poultry operation which consists of 109,000 laying hens. We were originally under contract with those from some other corporation that paid us to keep chickens for them, but over the years, we found that what they offered us in the beginning, every year they seemed to be cutting more and more off of what they were paying us to do that. So for the past four years,

we've owned our own chickens. This past year, we've taken as low as 17 cents a dozen for eggs, and the milk situation right now, for the past eight months, we've taken less for our milk than we had in the 20 years that we've been farming.

And to elaborate on that a little bit. When we started farming in 1980, if we had somebody come in to do service work on our equipment, it cost us \$15 an hour. Today it costs us \$60 an hour. We've already rounded off all the rough edges. We've done all we can to do what we do better, to try to make a living. But it's getting to the point now, even the size we are, that it is tough. In Frederick County, which was the main dairy-producing county in Maryland, and probably, except for Franklin County, Pa., on the East Coast, we lost six dairy farmers in the last two months. Those dairy farmers were veteran dairymen; their families have been milking cows since the beginning of time in this country, in the 1700s, and they just decided it wasn't worth it any more.

To enlighten you a little bit on how milk is priced. I think before 1980, according to Mr. Blaska's testimony here, it was pretty profitable until 1980. After that, you know, the system we had didn't work anymore. The way milk is priced, it's priced on the price of cheese, and if anybody knows what they're going through in South Dakota on the price of beef, and how they confirmed if one organization, or one mega-company, owned, or had 30% control of the meat market, they could control the price of beef in the country. With Kraft Food having control of about 75 or 80% of the cheese production in this country, they pretty much control the price of cheese, which ultimately controls what we get for our product.

Up until recently, I question how a big corporation like Philip Morris could pay the kind of fines they paid for their tobacco industry side of their business, and still stay in business. It's just unbelievable to me, when we have trouble every month paying our bills, and, you know, they can put out this kind of money, and still stay in business.

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Witness List (in alphabetical order)

Kildare Clarke, M.D.,\* Associate Director, Emergency Room, Kings County Hospital, Brooklyn, New York; Doctors Council, New York

Alphonso Coles; National Black Leadership Initiative on Cancer, Washington, D.C.

State Representative Erik Fleming, Mississippi.

Joe Jones, City Council, Cleveland, Ohio.

Abdul Alim Muhammad, M.D., medical director, Abundant Life Clinic Foundation, Washington, D.C.; Minister of Health and Human Services, Nation of Islam; national spokesman for Minister Louis Farrakhan.

Dr. Ray Terry, Director of Health Research, University of Maryland.

State Representative LeAnna Washington, member, Health and Human Services Committee; Judiciary Committee, Pennsylvania State Legislature; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Chet Wray,\* former State Assemblyman, California; chairman, UAW Retirees, California.

<sup>\*</sup>The asterisk indicates those witnesses who supplied taped testimony, rather than delivering it before the panel. Their testimony appears in Appendix 1.

## Dr. Abdul Alim Muhammad



Dr. Muhammad is the national spokesman for Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan, Minister of Health and Human Services for the Nation of Islam, and director of the Abundant Life Clinic in Washington, D.C.

In the Name of God the Beneficent, the Merciful, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you for this opportunity—and for the whole panel, I will say that the remarks that I will give, can be supplied at a later date in a written format, so that whatever I don't have a chance to cover today, verbally, can be available for the record.

I was asked to make some commentary about the issue of HIV and AIDS, and I think that this room and the people who are associated with this movement, are very familiar, especially those who read the *Final Call* newspaper, the *EIR*, and the *New Federalist*, they are certainly more aware than perhaps the average citizen would be, either in the United States or throughout the world. So, I will make certain assumptions that we are very familiar with the overall dimensions of this problem.

However, I will summarize, and then quickly jump onto the solution side, because I think we've been hearing about HIV and AIDS since about 1981, and people talk about it, and then tend to bury their head in the sand, as though there's nothing that can be done. But as we speak, the world is facing an unprecedented biological holocaust, and right now the major impact is being felt in sub-Saharan Africa. But I also have coined a phrase, which is the "Africanization of AIDS in America," because early on in the epidemic in this country, the epidemic was actually called a "gay men's disease," which it never was exclusively, and it seemed to be a matter for high-risk groups to be concerned about. But if we look at the example of Africa, it always has been and continues to be predominantly a heterosexual disease—not that it is specifically associated with heterosexuality, just as it is not specifically associated with anybody's sexuality, it happens to

be something that is part and parcel of certain policy decisions that were entered into by the United States and our allies in the late '60s and in the mid-'70s.

The disease has been documented to be due to an artificially created microorganism commonly known as human immune deficiency virus. The thorough documentation of that fact can be found in a book published by Dr. Leonard Horowitz of Harvard University, and a new book that, as I understand it, is only available on the Internet, by Robert E. Lee, and is called AIDS: An Explosion of the Biological Time Bomb. So I'll leave it to those who have a greater interest to search out both those sources, but I think even a cursory reading of those two sources will convince any fair-minded person that what we're dealing with now is not a natural disease that came out of the jungle or out of a cave in Kenya, or any such notion. It has nothing to do with green monkeys, except to the extent that green monkeys were used in some of the early experiments that later produced this biological holocaust.

As we speak, the WHO [UN World Health Organization] says that there are more than 34 million people throughout the world infected; probably those figures are too optimistic. The cumulative infection rate, those who are living and those who are already dead of HIV- and AIDS-related causes, is well in excess of 50 million. The late Dr. Jonathan Mann of the Harvard School of Public Health estimated that in the year 2000-2001, the cumulative total would be somewhere around 100 million to 120 million. It's interesting that nowhere in the world, including in this country, can we trust the statistical figures related to HIV and AIDS, simply because, with the exception of Cuba, there is no nation on the face of the Earth that has actually done the epidemiological-prevalence studies through mass testing that would actually give us figures that we can rely upon.

What I would like to say at this point is that, without a doubt, HIV and AIDS are having an impact on life expectancy, both in the United States and elsewhere, but more especially in southern Africa. It's interesting to note, for example, that in the Republic of South Africa at the time of Mandela's release from prison, the infection rate was less than 1% in the black population—less than one-tenth of 1% in the black population. But I think that what we have to understand, is that there were forces in motion at that time and continuing since that time, that now bring

the infection rate up to 3.4 million black South Africans, which, in some age groups, is as much as 25% in those young-adult age groups. So we need to understand that the dynamics of what is going on, is not all that meets the eye, nor does the popular notion of HIV and AIDS tell the story.

Interestingly enough, as we speak, in Tripoli, in Libya, there is a trial ongoing that involves, I believe, nine Bulgarian health workers who were caught red-handed injecting HIV and AIDS into babies in the Children's Hospital in Bengazi. They are accused of deliberately infecting, I believe the figure is 486 children, with HIV and AIDS, in a country that previously had reported very low prevalence rates. And so what I'm suggesting is that if we compare what is going on in Africa, and throughout the world, that this unnatural, man-made disease should be viewed for what it is: It's a biological weapon that has been deployed by those who produce such documents as Global 2000, National Security Study Memorandum 200, which made population reduction the official policy of the United States government since about 1974-75, and that period of time coincides exactly with the spread of HIV and AIDS throughout the world.

Further, the preferred delivery system for this biological weapon is the hypodermic syringe, and there is documentation to show that hepatitis vaccination programs in this country and throughout the world, smallpox vaccination programs throughout the world, were in fact fronts to disguise the deliberate inoculations of hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions of people, throughout the world with HIV and AIDS.

And so, we need to understand that what we are dealing with is an ongoing genocidal program that has been made to look like a naturally occurring disease process. I would say that people who want to do something about this, need to be better informed about it, they need to read the references that I cited, but further than that, we need to mobilize the populations of this country and of Africa and other nations that are ill-affected by this epidemic.

We need to understand that, in fact, the policies that are in effect by WHO, by agencies within this country and African countries and other countries throughout the world, are ineffectual because they have abandoned the tried, tested, and true principles of public health, and in fact the therapeutic measures that are being used are inadequate, ineffective, and overpriced, out of reach of those who are most in need of them—even if they were clinically effective, they are beyond the economic means of those who need them the most.

We should understand, however, that the technology does exist that would permit cost-effective mass testing of populations. The technology in the area of therapeutics also exists that can arrest and in some cases even cure HIV and AIDS infection, and it is specifically in these areas that resources are not made available.

I'll just briefly cite the example—I'm sorry I didn't bring it, but there's a test kit that could actually make the diagnosis of HIV and AIDS, within five minutes with a single drop of blood. This is off-the-shelf technology, but our FDA [U.S. Food and Drug Administration] has embargoed this technology for the last four years. The Abundant Life Clinic did the clinical research to prove the efficacy and the specificity of this diagnostic test. It could literally bring us up to speed in this country and throughout the world, because it's a technology that does not require electricity or any sophisticated infrastructure to utilize. We could literally do epidemiological testing anywhere we wanted to, and find out the actual facts of HIV and AIDS. And then, in addition to the diagnosis, we also have treatment modalities that are also under embargo, specifically, the Interferon treatment that was pioneered in East Africa, in Kenya, which is also cost-effective, as well as being clinically effective.

So I think that those two things, the diagnostic testing technology and the therapies that are proven to be effective, need to be employed now, in order to get a grip on this epidemic and to literally save nations that are on the brink of extinction. Thank you.

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# Constitutional Law and Justice

### Covering Political Targetting, Racial Profiling, and the Death Penalty

Witness List (in alphabetical order)

- Congressman Mervyn M. Dymally, former chairman, Congressional Black Caucus; Los Angeles, California.
- **John Gilliam-Price,** national speaker, Campaign to End the Death Penalty, Baltimore, Maryland.
- The Most Rev. Thomas Gumbleton,\* Roman Catholic Auxiliary Bishop, Detroit, Michigan.
- State Representative Harold James, chairman, Subcommittee on Crime and Corrections, Judiciary Committee; Pennsylvania State Legislature; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Father Richard McSorley, S.J., director, Center for Peace Studies, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
- State Senator Theo Mitchell, former Democratic nominee for Governor of South Carolina; Greenville, South Carolina.
- Judge Ira Murphy, former State Representative, Memphis, Tennessee.
- **State Representative Ernest Newton,** Deputy Majority Leader, Connecticut State Legislature; Bridgeport, Connecticut.
- State Representative Coy Pugh, chairman, Revenue Committee; member, Committees on Human Services; Appropriations/Public Safety—Illinois State Legislature; Chicago, Illinois.
- Delegate William P. Robinson, chairman, Transportation Committee; member, Judiciary Committee, Virginia House of Delegates; Norfolk, Virginia.
- **Barry Scheck, Esq.,** professor, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law; cofounder, Innocence Project; member, National Commission on the Future of DNA Evidence; New York, New York.
- Bryan Stevenson,\* executive director, Equal Justice Initiative of Alabama; assistant professor, New York University School of Law; Montgomery, Alabama.
- William Taft, National Juneteenth Observance Foundation, Representative and Legislative Affairs chairman; Washington, D.C.
- \*The asterisk indicates those witnesses who supplied written testimony, rather than delivering it before the panel. Their testimony appears in Appendix 1.

# **Concluding Remarks**

Chairman Fleming: All right. Ladies and gentlemen, I just want to thank the Committee for a New Bretton Woods for inviting us, and having this forum. I'd like to thank the members of the Ad Hoc Platform Hearings Committee for their participation throughout the day. And, I just—you know, the old saying is, "If it doesn't kill you, it makes you stronger," so now that I've survived this, I think I'm a little better off, a better individual

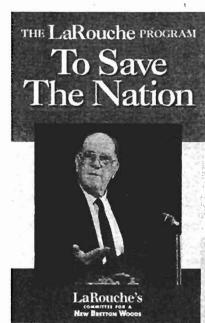
But seriously, one of the things I just want people to take away, is that this is, the issues that we touched on

today, are quote/unquote not conventional, or not popular, but we all have a charge to do the right thing. That's why we made the trip here. And I'm always reminded, when we deal with things like this, that in one of Paul's Letters to a young aspiring minister named Timothy, he said that he wanted to be remembered as fighting the good fight, running the race, and keeping the faith. I hope that all of us will keep the faith and do the right thing on these issues.

With that, this Committee is adjourned. [Applause.]

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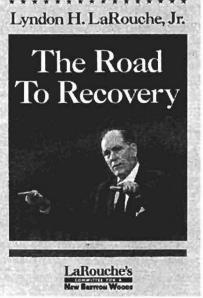
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