

March to serve on the Seattle-King County Drug Commission, a county government agency. His nomination came after more than 25 local Republicans, trade unionists, and some city government circles had brought enormous pressure to bear on King County Executive John Spellman to support Ruckert as a candidate to fill a Commission vacancy. Moments before the expected approval of Ruckert's nomination, his name was withdrawn by Spellman on March 23 amid a flurry of charges by ADL officials in the area that the Labor Party is "anti-Semitic." The story broke on the front pages of the *Seattle Post Intelligencer* and *Seattle Times*.

In the aftermath, the U.S. Labor Party has circulated hundreds of copies of *Dope, Inc.*, a task now undertaken as well by some local Republican officials. The Seattle-Tacoma Labor Party influence against drugs is reinforced by strong anti-drug organizing across the Canadian border in British Columbia, where the North American Labor Party is backing Social Credit Party candidate Carlo Dallavalle.

Candidates speak out against drugs

Buffalo, New York: School Board candidate Dr. Ernest Schapiro was officially awarded 13 percent of the vote in the May 1 elections, a suspiciously low total given the fact that his campaign brought together anti-drug groups and individuals behind his fight to clean drugs out of the Buffalo school system.

An officer in the New York State Non-Partisan Committee Against Drug Abuse and later a founding member of the New York-New Jersey Anti-Drug Coalition, Dr. Schapiro received endorsements for his campaign from Dr. Joseph Riccotta, president of the National Council of Catholic Physicians, Bishop LeRoy Anderson, presiding bishop of the Western New York Church of God in Christ, Dr. James Nunn, the former president of the Erie County Medical Society, Vail Lycett, secretary-treasurer of the United Transportation Workers Local 1530, and the Rev. James Monroe of the Greater Hope Baptist Church in Buffalo.

Dr. Schapiro's campaign gained international attention when he issued an urgent appeal to stop the cultivation and importation of marijuana from such Third World countries as Colombia.

Dr. Schapiro reports that plans are under discussion with community leaders to form an Upstate New York Coalition in the next weeks.

—Barbara Gould

Michigan Anti-Drug

A gathering of over 600 representatives from labor, community organizations, and religious, political and law enforcement associations met in Detroit, Michigan on May 20 under the auspices of the Michigan Anti-Drug Coalition, signaling the emergence of the Michigan Coalition as the leading center of a national movement against drugs and for the American tradition of progress.

Meeting under the banner of "Bridging the Gap for Human Development," the Coalition heard five major presentations on how to escalate the fight against the epidemic spread of mind-destroying drugs. The key speakers were Dr. William Banks, president of Detroit television station WGPR and Supreme President of the International Masons; Mayor Jesse P. Miller of Highland Park, Mich.; Imam Talib Karim, resident Imam of Highland Park's Masjid John Hassan; U.S. Labor Party Chairman Lyndon H. LaRouche, a candidate for the 1980 presidential election; and featured speaker, the Hon. Dr. Frederick Wills, former Foreign Minister of Guyana.

Coalition Vice Chairman Salahuddin Muhammad stressed that these speakers, and Reverend Brockington of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, were not there only to honor the Coalition from the outside, but that each has made special contributions to the Coalition's success over months of hard work and struggle. Mr. Muhammad pointed out for special mention the role played by Lyndon LaRouche and the U.S. Labor Party. "If it had not been for LaRouche's concern with stopping drugs, and the work he did to reveal who runs the drug traffic, we couldn't have succeeded in our effort. No other party or candidate has taken on this task, and that's a true fact you have to acknowledge."

The event itself took place in the middle of the Coalition's fight against marijuana decriminalization in Michigan and its successful midwifing of other anti-drug coalitions in New York-New Jersey, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut.

The Coalition's activities since its founding in December 1978 were the subject of their May-June Progress Report newsletter, which was issued immediately prior to their May 20 meeting.

Excerpted here at length, this newsletter, which has already reached 10,000 circulation, describes the success of the Michigan Coalition and exemplifies the commitment of every Coalition to maintain communication with other anti-drug organizations and the general public.

Coalition: a progress report

Coalitions expand nationally

Over the last two months news of the Coalition has moved scores of other groups throughout the nation to begin forming their own state coalitions.

The excited response has come at a time when propot legislation is being passed or introduced and when recent studies are showing that 25 percent of our children are heavy users of marijuana.

Parents, teachers, ministers, labor, political, and civic leaders are realizing that the only way to reverse this trend is to bring down the barriers separating them and join in a coalition effort.

In New York City, Salahuddin Muhammad was invited as a guest speaker at the founding conference of the New York-New Jersey Anti-Drug Coalition. Following this success, we were invited to Chicago to kick off their effort.

Scheduled founding conferences are set for Maryland, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., Florida and five other states.

Within six months we hope to establish a National Anti-Drug Coalition that will propose effective international laws to the United Nations to stop the trafficking of drugs on the high seas. ■

Coalition stalls Senate Bill 65

Senate Bill 65, Sen. Jerome Hart's bill to reduce penalties for the use, possession, and sale of marijuana, is still in Judiciary Committee In January, it looked as if this bill would easily pass the new legislature—and it would have—if there were no Michigan Anti-Drug Coalition Pro-drug lobbyists packed two more pro-decrim senators onto the Judiciary Committee, despite

the strong objections of the majority of the committee.

Even with the packing of the committee, the bill failed to get enough support to be released to the Senate. The bill remains stalled in committee but the Coalition won't let up on it until it is buried once and for all. The pro-drug forces are fuming at being blocked by us and they have been forced to try some new maneuvers. ■

Senate Bill 185—a foolish scheme

A dirty maneuver to confuse opposition to marijuana decriminalization was introduced by pro-decrim Sen. S. Monsma: Senate Bill 185. This foolish piece of legislation calls for the legalization of the smoking of marijuana as a competent method of treatment for glaucoma, for nausea in chemotherapy patients, etc.

Dr. John Bellows, Director of the International

Glaucoma Congress, has repeatedly testified that smoking marijuana is a practically useless method of treatment for glaucoma. The bill slyly creates the impression that perhaps marijuana use is harmless and may be beneficial. Already, many school children believe that pot smoking is harmless, with some even insisting that it cures cancer ■

National PTA hearings

On March 30, a representative from the Coalition testified at the National PTA hearings held in Detroit, and entitled "The PTA Challenges the Cities: What Can We Do For Our Schools?"

Grace Baisinger, President of the National PTA,

wrote in her letter to the Coalition, "We need your assistance at this stage in providing us with insights, perspectives and solutions to pervasive problems affecting our young people and families in urban areas." ■

Incorporation and new board member

On March 30, the Coalition became officially incorporated in the State of Michigan as a non-profit organization. This allows us to now file for tax exempt status with the federal government.

We are also happy to announce that a fifth member has been added to the Executive Board of the Coalition, Billy A.A. Rasul. He joins Juan Torres, Salahuddin Muhammad, Ken Dalto, and Max Dean as the executive body of the Coalition. ■

Dismantling Dope, Inc.— an international mandate

The founding of the Michigan Anti-Drug Coalition on Dec. 18, 1978 marked the beginning of a national, coordinated fight against drugs. The initiating conference, held in Detroit, was heralded by concerned citizens groups, the medical profession, and labor leaders across the United States and internationally. The commitment and determination of the Michigan Anti-Drug Coalition to win the war against drugs—and the subsequent formation of Anti-Drug Coalitions in several other states—is reflected in the support telegrams, some of which appear below, sent to that December conference.

This year my organization celebrated the 75th anniversary of our founding convention. Our union's slogan has always been "Teamsters are America," for we have led the labor movement in its struggle for economic growth, technological development, and for decent and rising standards of living for all working men and women.

Now America is faced with a drug epidemic that threatens to destroy a whole generation of our youth. Although the liberal news media tries to portray drug usage as "fashionable" and as something that is too large to be prevented, we, and the majority of American people, know this to be false and misleading.

As leaders of the American Labor Movement, we give 100 percent support to your Coalition's efforts to clean up the drug trade, and pledge our help to rid our nation of this evil disease.

Charles J. Kirschbaum, *Secretary-Treasurer*

IBT Local 147, Des Moines, Iowa

Bill Bounds, *President,*

Teamsters Joint Council 65, Springfield, Illinois

Tony Cannestro, *President,*

IBT Local 769 Miami, Florida

(affiliation for identification only)

I extend my fullest commendation and support to the Michigan Anti-Drug Coalition.

It has been the proud tradition and commitment of the United Mineworkers to fight for a better life for all. Drugs and the drug culture destroy the creative and productive potential of the human mind.

We Mineworkers support the courageous actions to stop drugs in Michigan and we will work for such action all across America and all around the world, to restore dignity and progress to all humanity.

Mike Trbovich, *former National Vice President*

United Mineworkers

The National Agrarian Federation, the FANAL, which represents 120,000 peasants in Colombia, is pleased to

greet the Detroit meeting in the campaign against drugs. The FANAL wishes to express its solidarity with the Anti-Drug Coalition and reaffirms the struggle for the progress of all peoples.

Heli Arambulo, *President, FANAL*

Fausto Charris, *General Secretary, FANAL,*
Colombia

The Andean Labor Party enthusiastically supports your humanist struggle to reestablish the idea of progress among the North American people. Your Detroit meeting of the Anti-Drug Coalition, presided by the Community of Al-Islam in the West and by our fraternal party, the U.S. Labor Party, is the most important step up to now to eradicate mind-killing drugs. The real interest of the Colombian people is to export not marijuana, but rather raw materials and manufactures in return for America's highest technology.

National Executive Committee

Andean Labor Party, Colombia

The European Labor Party and its national organizations in Europe greet the powerful revival of the American tradition which is contained in your conference today. This meeting we view to be of the highest international significance, to be the awakening of the American population to affirm the purposes laid down by the Founding Fathers at a moment when some try to degrade and destroy the universal principles of the American Revolution. We understand the mass-based force which you represent to be reason reasserting itself in the USA, a fact which will be crucial to world peace in the months and years ahead....

We want you to know that the effects already achieved by the mobilization against the drug pushers and their masters here in Europe is vast. We will amplify the results of your conference to the world.

Executive Committee of the European Labor Party
Le Parti Ouvrier Européen (France)

Il Partito Operaio Europeo (Italy)

A national executive official is arranging for a Postal Workers' delegation to attend from Detroit. The executive is very exhilarated over the Coalition developments.

American Postal Workers Union

Warmest greetings to the historic meeting of the Michigan Anti-Drug Coalition. As a member of the National Board of the NAACP and activist for the NAACP since the 1920s, I am gravely concerned over the growth of drug use among our people and support every sincere effort to rid the nation of this menace. I am hopeful that your national effort needed to win this fight and look forward to contributing myself to the work you are setting in motion.

Dr. H. Claude Hudson, *Los Angeles, California*