

## Webster Tarpley: a challenge to D'Amato

by Marla Minnicino

"He's the guy who voted to kill you," says LaRouche Democrat Webster G. Tarpley of his Republican opponent, incumbent Sen. Alfonse D'Amato. First-term Senator D'Amato "has brought his own political career to an abrupt end by voting for the Gramm-Rudman law, one of the most infamous pieces of legislation in the history of the United States and an act of high treason against the Constitution," Tarpley told *EIR*.

Declaring his campaign for D'Amato's seat at an Albany press conference on Feb. 10, Tarpley stated: "Every legislator who voted for Gramm-Rudman deserves to be voted out of office. . . I am here to make sure that happens to Senator D'Amato." Gramm-Rudman is a "death warrant for the United States," said Tarpley. "It is an act of unspeakable, cynical cruelty" which will wipe out about one-fourth of the education, health, transportation, and other infrastructural programs that are still functioning."

"City residents, the black community, farmers and the rural poor, unemployed and welfare recipients, children and the elderly, will be deprived of schools, health care, and mass transit." In many cases, they will be "deprived of life itself," Tarpley told reporters in Buffalo, Binghamton, and Syracuse during a recent campaign tour. "Make no mistake: the Gramm-Rudman law will kill our citizens, unless it is struck down or repealed—it will kill them by the hundreds of thousands, and then by the millions, starting in the central cities of New York."

Senator D'Amato's Gramm-Rudman law means cuts in defense in FY87 that will amount to \$60 billion—about one-fifth of the entire defense budget," Tarpley pointed out. "This comes at a time when 'Czar Michael' Gorbachov, and his clique of militarists are gearing up the Soviet economy in an all-out economic mobilization for war," said Tarpley, an expert on Soviet military and strategic policy.

Though D'Amato supported defense measures such as the SDI and the MX missile in the past, his vote for Gramm-Rudman will make U.S. treaty obligations, its alliances, its foreign garrisons, and its naval presence a dead letter. "If this does not constitute giving aid and comfort to the enemy, then what does?" asked Tarpley.

At a recent Republican Party dinner in Rochester, D'Amato defended his vote, saying that Democrat Edward M. Kennedy also backed the bill. D'Amato said that people who warn of Gramm-Rudman's "dire consequences" are using the "rhetoric of demagoguery. . . . It has to be a shared kind of sacrifice."

A D'Amato spokesman said, "He'll run on the same platform that got him where he is today," i.e., popular slogans and promises, couching budget-cutting austerity.

The Harriman wing of the Democratic Party is still scrounging around for a candidate to oppose D'Amato. First, Brooklyn District Attorney Elizabeth Holtzman, and then former congresswoman and vice-presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro dropped out of the race. Now, former "Nader's Raider" Mark Green—who some Democrats believe is too liberal for even a New York electorate—says he will enter the race regardless of whether he gets the party's backing. Green has a committee of 10 Wall Street lawyers, headed by an executive of First Boston Corp., soliciting donations. Green's backers include former Congressman Richard "Right to Die" Ottinger, and '60s folksingers Peter, Paul, and Mary.

Also contemplating a run for the seat is Franklin Havlicek, former deputy counsel to Mayor Koch and lately director of labor relations for NBC. Havlicek also has Wall Street backers, but otherwise is a virtual unknown.

Democratic Party officials are now courting calypso singer Harry Belafonte, whom Governor Cuomo called a "formidable combination of artistic talent and intelligence of substance and scintillation." Belafonte calls himself a "progressive black artist."

Meanwhile, LaRouche Democrat Tarpley is already attracting considerable interest from traditional Democrats and other patriotic forces in the state. They have found him to be a highly qualified international leader, who is committed to reversing not only the economic catastrophe of the Carter-Reagan era, but the foreign policy disasters of the Eastern Establishment.

Tarpley, a historian and political consultant fluent in five languages, was the foreign policy advisor to the National Democratic Policy Committee, a political action committee created in 1980 to oppose the Carter-Mondale takeover of the Democratic Party. He co-authored the book-length *EIR* special report, *Global Showdown: The Russian Imperial War Plan for 1988*, and a landmark study of international terrorism, *Who Killed Aldo Moro?*

When asked by reporters if he will approach New York State Democratic Party officials for their endorsement, Tarpley replied: "I don't want their endorsement. . . . It would be the kiss of death. . . . My candidacy is flanked by NDPC senatorial campaigns in 15 states, and in hundreds of congressional districts throughout the country," Tarpley added: "My vote in the Senate will be worth more to the people of New York because of this candidates' movement. We intend to clean the traitors out of Congress in 1986."