

Demand Democratic Party oppose death penalty

The following resolution is being circulated for introduction at the July 13-17 Democratic National Convention, demanding that the Democratic Party go on record in this presidential election in opposition to the death penalty. The resolution was initiated by supporters of the campaign of Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, and has been endorsed so far by many prominent officials, close to 100 convention delegates, and hundreds of other religious, trade union, professional, and party leaders. Individuals and organizations are asked to circulate it resolution for endorsement.

Resolution for the Democratic Party

WHEREAS the death penalty has been outlawed by the European Community of nations, most other western nations, and the states newly freed from communism, as inconsistent with the standards of civilization, and

WHEREAS the death penalty tends to deny the sanctity and redeemability of human life, actually contributing to the bestialization of the executors and society at large by its fostering of the primitive instinct for revenge, and

WHEREAS the death penalty has been shown to be no deterrent to crime, as nations with no death penalty have lesser crime rates, and therefore to be merely an act of ritual retribution, and

WHEREAS the death penalty in the United States has been imposed on innocent people innumerable times, because of denials of due process or simple human error, and

WHEREAS the Supreme Court of the United States has determined to further limit the constitutional right to appeal death penalty decisions, in line with its overall drive to restrict the rights of all individuals accused of crimes, and is even considering the possibility that actual innocence is no defense against a wrongful sentence of death, and

WHEREAS it is offensive to the U.S. Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, and all principles we as Americans hold dear to put the interests of "judicial efficiency" above the interest in justice, and

WHEREAS, as a result of this trend over the past 20 years, the United States is about to be overwhelmed with a massive slaughter of the more than 2,500 individuals on death row, in the name of "judicial efficiency,"

BE IT RESOLVED that [name of endorsing individual or institution] puts him/her/itself on record as opposing the death penalty, and the restriction of *habeas corpus*, and will work to his/her/its utmost for the repeal of death penalty statutes and the reversal of Supreme Court decisions which have sacrificed

justice (equal justice for all) to so-called efficiency.

Partial list of endorsers

(Titles for identification purposes only).

Hon. Herman Badillo, former U.S. congressman, Bronx, New York.

Margaret Berg, former chairman, Caucus of Connecticut Democrats.

Hon. Orzell Billingly, circuit judge, Birmingham, Alabama.

Mrs. Joan Cashin, founder, National Women's Political Caucus.

W.J. Cosgrove, vice president, Quebec Liberal Party.

Joseph Dickson, publisher, *Birmingham World Newspaper*, Alabama.

Hon. Ronald Duhamel, Member of Parliament, Canada.

Jodie Evans, national campaign manager, Brown for President.

Hon. Floyd Flake, U.S. congressman, New York.

Ron Hampton, national director, National Black Police-men's Association.

Hon. K. Leroy Irvis, former speaker, Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Cristina Isajiw, executive director, World Congress of Free Ukrainians Human Rights Commission, Canada.

Dr. Joseph E. Lowery, national president, Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Colman McCarthy, syndicated columnist.

Hon. Eugene McCarthy, former U.S. senator, Minnesota.

Hon. Olga Mendez, state senator, Bronx, New York.

Franz Messerschmidt, chairman, Lebanon County (Pennsylvania) Democratic Party.

David Mortimer, business agent, Ironworkers' Local 501, Braintree, Massachusetts.

Hon. Paul O'Dwyer, former president, New York City Council.

Rosa Parks, civil rights leader, Illinois.

Hon. Vel Phillips, former secretary of state, Wisconsin.

Hon. Charles Rangel, U.S. congressman, New York.

Hon. David P. Richardson, Jr., state representative, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Norward Roussell, superintendent of schools, Macon County, Alabama.

Dorothy I. Spinks, past president, Federally Employed Women, Arlington, Virginia.

Rev. Allen Stanley, president, Empire State Baptist Association, Troy, New York.

Rev. Wade Watts, Oklahoma state president, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The Washington State Democratic Party Convention, by resolution adopted June 6, 1992.

The Loudoun County (Virginia) Democratic Party, by resolution adopted June 17, 1992.