**JOEL DEJEAN FOR CONGRESS**

**“A Positive Vision for the Future”**

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**Public Testimonies Delivered to the Houston City Council**

**August 30, 2022**

*This is the transcript public testimonies delivered to the Houston City Council by Diane Bettag, Treasurer; and Joe Jennings, Coordinator, of the Congressional campaign of LaRouche Independent Joel Dejean. On August 23, candidate Joel Dejean and Joe Jennings had brought the ugly reality of Ukraine’s Center for Countering Disinformation’s hitlist to the Houston Mayor and City Council.*

*In their public testimony, they delivered a “one-two” counterpunch to the crude slanders leveled at the Schiller Institute before the body on Aug 23 last week by Councilwoman Abbie Kamin, after testimony by Ron Bettag. At that time, the ADL-connected Kamin had said, “I just want to read into the record for the public that the Schiller Institute, the Scotland Yard has determined, blames the Jewish people for many of the problems of the world.”*

*The testimonies of Dianne Bettag [beginning at 53:09] and Joe Jennings [Beginning at 1:03:02]can be watched here:*

[*https://houstontx.new.swagit.com/videos/179701*](https://houstontx.new.swagit.com/videos/179701)

*Watch the video of Joel Dejean and Ron Bettag at* <https://houstontx.new.swagit.com/videos/179399> -- Starting at 1:16:42

**Regarding the Needed Quality of Good Government**

**Dianne Marks Bettag**

My full name is Dianne Marks Bettag. I want to put on the record a response to allegations of antisemitism made here last week, regarding Lyndon and Helga LaRouche’s Schiller Institute.

I have been associated with Lyndon LaRouche for most of my adult life, long enough to have witnessed first-hand the collusion of the ADL and FBI in bearing false witness regarding him and our association. And Wikipedia is more than willing to be a conduit for their nonsense.

But the origin of these slanders, was reflected in the source of last week’s charge of antisemitism: Scotland Yard, one of the many enforcers of the Empire faction’s Malthusian genocide policy. That policy was always there in Empires, but was hardwired into the post WWII version, with the defeat of Hitler. For the Empire, FDR was the enemy, because of his commitment to a development perspective for what then were the ruined nations of Europe and the so-called Third World. His Administration formulated that policy in the original intent of the Bretton Woods agreement and the establishment of a place for sovereign nations to meet and discuss their national and regional concerns for their populations and relations among one another: the United Nations.

Lyndon LaRouche recognized the dangers inherent with the death of FDR, and, following his service in the China/Burma/India Theater, returned to the U.S. with the intent to create a force for FDR’s vision of our nation and our people as serving a role for cooperative development among nations.

I think this short history should make it plain why the so-called intelligence agencies have taken such an interest in Mr. LaRouche over the course of his long life and contributions.

The current ferocious attack against the Schiller Institute by the Center for Countering Disinformation, a government entity in Ukraine, financed by the U.S. State Dept and supported by many in our Congress, has taken the form of a Black List (called by Scott Ritter, a hit list) of over 70 individuals, of which the first 31 names are people associated with the Schiller Institute, including its founder, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, number 2 on the list. The people on the list are being called war criminals, because we oppose Fascism, and spell out the bloody crimes being committed by the successors of Stepan Bandera, Hitler’s butcher in Ukraine, who make up the controlling element of the armed forces of Ukraine’s military, since the State Department coup in 2014; and because we insist that Ukraine is being used cynically as a surrogate for war between the U.S. and Russia. Some of those on this and other lists have already been murdered.

The ADL, the FBI, our nation’s media, and our elected officials that have attacked the LaRouche Movement, have thus, knowingly or not, declared their commitment to those who wish the U.S. to be part of the Empire, as opposed to the vision of our founding fathers to create a nation dedicated to ending Empire once and for all.

*Dianne Bettag’s Councilman interceded to grant Diane a few minutes to complete her testimony after the three-minute “gong.” After two more presenters, Jennings stepped up to the mic:*

**Joe Jennings:** Good Afternoon! I’m Joe Jennings and I come here today to direct your attention to an extreme threat to free speech and safety coming from the so-called “Center for Countering Disinformation,” ostensibly based in Ukraine, but really a front for Global NATO, in its proxy war against Russia. Sustained by U.S. tax dollars through the Civil Research and Development Foundation, the Center demands that governments silence any opposition to this war, which could soon go thermonuclear.

On July 14, acting head of the Center, Andriy Shapovalov branded all opponents of NATO’s war narrative as “information terrorists,” who, he said “will have to answer to the law as war criminals.” He then released a hit list of 76 targeted individuals to be silenced, by whatever means. The list included former Democratic Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, sitting Republican Sen. Rand Paul, investigative journalist Glenn Greenwald and former U.N. weapons inspector Scott Ritter. Ignored in most media accounts is that the first 30 individuals on the CCD’s target list are all friends and associates of the Schiller Institute, most having spoken at the Institute’s conferences for peace and development, and a negotiated end to the conflict. Number Two on the list was Helga Zepp-LaRouche, founder and president of the Schiller Institute.

Those of us who oppose racism and anti-Semitism should consider that the CCD defends the notorious Azov Battalion, which, in 2019, were rightly condemned by forty members of the U.S. Congress, including two from Texas, as white supremacist and anti-Semitic. The Azov Battalion trace its lineage back to the 1940s Nazi occupation of Ukraine, when Hitler’s partisans in that country committed some of the vilest anti-Semitic atrocities. Most of these networks were never prosecuted after the war, but rather, were protected by U.S., British, and NATO intelligence services as assets against Russia during the Cold War. In 2014, with some $5 billion of support money flowing in from the West, these networks organized the violent overthrow of the Ukrainian government, which had sought an even-handed stance between East and West, in accord with the majority of Ukrainians who voted in two national referenda for neutrality.

The Schiller Institute abhors racism of any sort, especially the economic racism which condemns much of the Global South to perpetual hunger, poverty and backwardness. It champions peace through development. For 20 years the Vice President of the Institute in the U.S. was Mrs. Amelia Boynton Robinson, who, for decades, risked everything to register African-American voters in Selma, Alabama.

The brutal beating she suffered on the Edmund Pettus Bridge on March of 1965 sparked the conscience of Congress and President Lyndon Johnson, to push through the Voting Rights Act. After the Berlin Wall came down in 1989, Mrs. Robinson journeyed to eastern Germany, speaking for the Schiller Institute, bringing her message of non-violence and East/West cooperation to the people recently freed. It is that message that the Institute speaks for today. For doing so, we should not be branded as war criminals, or Putin puppets, or threatened with elimination by the Azov Battalion’s friends in the Center for Countering Disinformation.

*Again, Councilman Edward Pollard granted Joe a few minutes to complete his remarks.*

**Jennings:** Three proposals: Everyone here has a Congressman or woman. Call them! They must investigate this. Sheila Jackson Lee (TX 18th CD) sits on the House Committee on Homeland Security. She signed the 2019 letter to then Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. Secondly, I respectfully ask Councilwoman Abbie Kamin to reconsider her ill-informed slander she put forward last week. And finally, everyone present here are invited to participate in the Schiller Institute’s online conference September 10th and 11th, working through the solutions for this very classic moment.

If anyone would like to borrow this excellent autobiography by Amelia Boynton Robinson, it’s here for the taking. It’s quite a fascinating read. Anybody like to borrow it?

*Jennings delivers the book to Councilman Pollard, who thanks him for it.*

**Mayor Turner:** We’ll try not to read it during this session, so we can stay focussed on the speakers.

*Mayor Sylvester Turner and each Council member received a package which included the testimony, the Schiller Institute release directing calls to the Congressional committees, the 2019 congressional letter to Pompeo with 40 signers, and the invitation to the conference. Clipped to the front was a photocopied photo of Amelia Robinson singing “We Shall Overcome” with young people in eastern Germany, and a signed personal note to Joe and Betty Jennings: “As a fighter for freedom and justice, I commend you—keep up the good work. Amelia B. Robinson.” Betty Jennings took videos, and circulated Schiller material among the attendees.*

*In compliance with Council rules, citizens are given 3 minutes “to speak to the council relating to agenda and non-agenda items. To comply with provisions of the Open Meetings Act, the City Council may not deliberate on items discussed under this agenda item.”*

*All City Council meetings are videotaped by the Council and are made available on Houston Television (HTV) via (Comcast Ch 16), Phonoscope (Ch. 73 & 99), Sunndnlink (Ch. 14), and AT&T’s U-verse (Ch. 99), and in archive by date at* [*https://www.houstontx.gov/htv/citycouncil.html*](https://www.houstontx.gov/htv/citycouncil.html)