
Alabama Tour

LYM Joins Amelia Robinson To Organize For Truth and Beauty, Against Fear

For ten days in November, as EIR reported on Dec. 1, four members of the LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) travelled through Alabama and Georgia with 95-year-old civil rights heroine Amelia Boynton Robinson, the vice-chairman of the Schiller Institute. They attended a week-long celebration of the life of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. On Nov. 15, the group addressed a meeting at the Butler Chapel AME Zion, in Tuskegee, Alabama. Here are their remarks, which were warmly introduced by Rev. John Alfred, a civil rights activist and former president of the Southern Christian Leadership Council.

Amelia Boynton Robinson: Fear Is What Destroys Us

I'd like to take just a few minutes to talk about fear. And I imagine some of you know more about fear than most of the older people, because they just accepted what came to them. But you know, that's a handicap. Fear is really a handicap. Children fear the dark. And I jotted down a few things about what fear does to people. Fear is something that, one time or the other, I think we have all encountered. But as a rule, I think, when we are children, we're afraid of everything. And then people tell us, "That dog will bite you," or "Don't go out in the dark." They used to say, when I was small, "The devil will get you if you don't do right," and we feared the devil.

We don't look at fear as something that can be conquered, yet so much of it—all of it—is in our minds. My mother used to say, "And darest thou to beard the lion in his den?" meaning that you don't fear anything. And I think, also, kids who start sometimes by saying, "I hate you!"—it's a word that they just take so commonly—that "I hate you." But many people keep that in their minds, and that grows into a reality.

But I think also of our being afraid and yet not trying to do anything about it. Let's take for instance, two adults: They went through school together; then finally they taught together. And one was actually afraid to challenge anything she thought was wrong. But the other would. The other went right on up to the top, became the superintendent, and then finally she got even a better position. And while we would say, "Henrietta" and "Jan": Jan just stayed in the same position that she was before, because she was afraid to even step out and go up

to the top. She wouldn't even go and help herself in school to become even greater than she was before, in her field.

When we are afraid, mentally, we are destroying ourselves. People become withdrawn. They won't discuss things that are political. They won't discuss things that will help to bring to fruition something that is wrong in the classroom or in the school, or on the playground. And not only that, they get to the place that they are afraid, and then they feel like, "I don't know what to do," so they become a gossip. And not only do they become a gossip, they become jealous, because "Henrietta's going up the ladder, and I'm not." And that jealousy is because of fear: fear because of the fact that they will not try. We just accept. Our minds are open, and we accept anything that anybody tells us, without finding out what it's all about. We're afraid.

And then, if you ask: "What about Jack over there?" "Oh, I don't like Jack!"

"Well, why?"

"I don't know. I don't know. They say. . . . They say that he drinks heavily."

And instead of finding out whether it's true or not, they push Jack back. And by pushing Jack back, they push themselves back. And they become jealous, jealous of everything that goes on, and they haven't a part of.

We think that we have everything made. Go to the mirror and look at ourselves, and see what that guy has to say! Have a conversation with ourselves, and find out how we can improve ourselves. Because if we don't, hate's going to take over like a cancer, and nobody can cure it, but God and the individual.

Hate doesn't only do that: Hate becomes like a cancer. And that cancer is like a beaver. A beaver will dam up a hole, a small body of water, a creek, anything that they can get to. And God has so supplied them that they can get old pieces of wood, sticks, and even leaves, and put them together. It's dam, and you know what a dam is. So, this is the way hate does: It dams up our minds to the extent that we cannot even think for ourselves.

And naturally, when that happens, it stops growth. Growth of the mind. We can't even think—why? Because of the fact that our minds are so corroded now with dislike, or hate, or dissatisfaction—oh, we're dissatisfied with everything! And we have a terrible temper, and all because of the fact that we fear.

And I'm saying to each and every one of you: We've got



Wesley Irwin

Amelia Boynton Robinson (right) and the LaRouche Youth Movement join a rally on Nov. 5, 2006, at the steps of the one-time Confederate White House in Montgomery, Alabama. On the left is the LYM's Kesha Rogers.

to free ourselves. Because as long as we hate, as long as we are afraid to step out, as long as we take what everybody else said, rather than to go and find out for ourselves, we can't grow. And when we don't grow, there's no such thing as freedom. We have got to free ourselves.

And the freedom is there. We have to challenge it! It's ours! God made us to be free. The Constitution frees us, and then, we are going to enslave ourselves.

Look to the Youth!

I am so proud that of all the people, you are a *special* people! And you are special, because you are fighting against injustices, against all of the evils that keep people down. And by doing so, you will be free, free yourself. And I am so happy to know, and I appreciate what you said about me, but my age and the ability to even stand up, I owe so much of that to the organization that I belong to: the Schiller Institute. And I not only owe a lot of it to them, I deal with young people. And when I think of what's happening to this world, now—and I didn't bring the letter, but I've got a letter from Bill Clinton, giving us five weeks before the walls will come tumbling down. So we had better look out—and this is politically, and more so, it is economically. So, look out, for what's going to happen between now and five weeks from now.

And the organization is fighting in order that we can hand something decent to these young people. We *owe* them something! We owe—a country that owes over a hundred and some odd trillion dollars, that's the United States of America. And we are now borrowing money from countries that we have tried to destroy—Japan, for instance. We're in trouble. And the only way we're going to get out of trouble is, that we are

going to have to attack the problem, not just talk about it. And not just write letters.

We may not able to go to the Capitol, and collar these people and say, "The Constitution says this, the Constitution says that. You are going to have to do according to your constituents and according to the Constitution." But these young people can do it!

And I am going to present to you a group of the LaRouche Youth Movement, which has caused the entire Congress and Senate to turn completely around, because they have been out there fighting. And that's just the base. They didn't fight only to put people in office because of their political notoriety, but they're going to put their hands on those people and say, "Here: This is the Constitution. You have got to go back to the Constitution. You are going to see that we go back to the plan and the program of Franklin Roosevelt, where every man is able to have a job. And if he is not able because he is physically or mentally, or economically, unable, like Roosevelt did, we're going to put all of those people back to work. But these young people are going to be responsible. And I am going to turn it over to these young people and let them give you their names—and they're going to sing for you!

So, I present to you, the LaRouche Youth Movement.

Wesley Irwin: Change This Culture, as Dr. King Did

You know Martin Luther King said that, if a person has not found something for which he is willing to give his life, he is not fit to live. And Amelia, her entire life, has searched for things for which she was willing to give her life. And I think that's why she's lived so long. And I think she's going to live a lot longer. I was shocked to be woken up this morning—I'm 26 years old—I was woken up this morning by a 95-year-old woman telling me to put my boxing gloves on and go out into the world and fight for justice.

We didn't expect to be here. Jeremy, Ardena, Kesha, and myself, we found out that we were invited to this blessed event, this week of action, less than 24 hours before it was to begin. But we knew it was important that we come—Amelia invited us—and we knew that there was some work to be done down here in the South. The South, as many of you may have experienced in the amount of time that I have, is still very much segregated.

Our contribution this past week has largely involved organizing on the campuses. We started off at Alabama State University, we then went to Auburn, and ended up today, organizing here. And what we found was backwardness of all sorts. When we went to Alabama State, we found kids dealing drugs on the campus. We found kids mumbling "gangsta rap" lyrics, about death and killing. And when we went to Auburn, which is also segregated on the other side of things, we found



*Amelia Robinson
and Wesley Irwin in
front of a statue of
George
Washington Carver
in Tuskegee,
Alabama.*

EIRNS

kids who would argue the *Confederate* economic model to your face—and *tell you that Lincoln was a totalitarian* for trying to stop the Southern states from doing as they wished!

There's a backwardness in the educational system today, isn't there? Isn't that shocking in a certain sense?

We've Destroyed Our Economy

But it's not just the South; let's look at the North. Look to the North, look at the backwardness we have there! What does it say, when we allow our auto sector to be outsourced, and our manufacturing industry to be destroyed? Do you know, in the last six years, under Bush and Cheney, we've lost almost half of our manufacturing sector? And what happened to those jobs? What happened to the pensions? What happened to the health care of those people? What happened to those skilled workers, who now have to be "greeters" at Wal-Mart? Or flipping burgers? In this great consumer/entertainment economy of ours, hmm? Or, perhaps, they get laid off, and the only option is to enlist, in the great imperial wartime economy of Bush and Cheney.

We spoke with many young people over the course of this week, who had siblings that they had lost in Iraq. Or they had siblings who are in the military right now, who could be shipped off to Iran, or Syria, or Lebanon, or North Korea, or who knows where? *If we don't stand up and do something!* This Administration has got to go.

Now, if the Democrats won't do something about it, the LaRouche Youth Movement will. And we have pledged ourselves to give the Democratic Party the correct sort of—what do we say?—motivating kick in the pants, shall we say, to get them moving in the right direction. And so, I can tell you, there is a lot of work to be done, but we plan on being part of the change, and we want to work with all of you to be part of the change that has to happen.

Now, I want to touch on one point on economy before I

turn it over to my friend, Kesha. If we look at what occurred after the deaths of John F. Kennedy, and then later, in '68, Bobby Kennedy and Martin Luther King, who were shot down, one after another; if we look at the change in economy that occurred as a result of the fear that was spread after their deaths, look at what Nixon did to the economy: We ended the FDR system! We ended the system that allowed us to have a productive economy. And we went to what's called the "floating-exchange-rate system." Where now the bankers decide that we're going to have derivatives, and hedge funds, and credit cards, and gambling, and we can now run the world, through the supposed wealth of the dollar which has physically nothing backing it up! That's what we envy.

And overall, if you look at the time from '71 to the present, the *physical* standard of living—health care, productive jobs, real wages, our education system—it's gotten worse, and worse, and worse. Even though you can still buy stuff with your dollar, your credit card, the overall *physical* standard of living has become worse and worse.

And now we've come to a point where it sounds like now Bill Clinton has pointed out—and others, LaRouche, he's been saying it for 30 years: If we don't get rid of free trade and globalization, it's going to get rid of us. So, we've got to get rid of it.

Now, the idea that I want to leave you with tonight, concerning the solution—because we can't talk about these problems without putting forth some ideas for solutions—is that, if we have the sort of idea that the Founding Fathers had, that all human beings have inalienable rights, that they're endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, and among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and if we fulfill that intention by them, which was expressed by Martin Luther King, in his speeches—not just "I Have a Dream," but his other speeches, "Beyond Vietnam," "I've Been to the Mountaintop," etc.—if we have that conception of mankind, that we are all equal because we have a mind, that some of us are not born to rule and some of us to be ruled, but that all of us have the potential for creative reason, that all of us can make a profound discovery, like Kepler's discovery of universal gravitation, or Bach's discovery concerning Classical musical composition; if we have that sense that every human being is special and sacred because they have the potential to add a principle, a scientific or cultural principle, to the body of knowledge of man, then nothing can stop us.

This culture can be changed. The way people think in its core can be changed. And if nothing else, a dialogue around that quality of idea that King had, that came from reading the King James version of the Bible, that came from reading Plato's *Republic*, that conception, that conception can get us out of this mess.

Now, I want to introduce to you a fellow member of the LaRouche Youth Movement, Kesha Rogers. And I prefer to introduce her as a very intelligent and gifted human being. But I would also like to say, that she is the first black woman

to run for the state chairmanship of the Democratic Party of the state of Texas in our nation's history.

Lakesha Rogers: Our Generation Has To Take Up the Fight

Thank you very much. I'd like to thank Judy and Rev. John, and everyone here, for being a part of this historic moment. I think about what we are doing today and the history that we're making, and I have to say, that as I look at the strength that I've been given from Mrs. Robinson, Miss Amelia—you know I think back to my campaign where I came up against a lot of opposition, running in Texas. You know, still controlled by the "good ol' boys." And you know, at 29 years old, being the youngest person to ever run, I found out that what Miss Amelia, what Mr. LaRouche, and others have been saying, even what Mr. John just said today, it is going to be our generation that has to take up the calling, take up the mission right now, that's being passed on to us from our parents' generation. Because there has been a real, real operation to try to destroy our generation from being a part of this historic fight, that we're more concerned about entertainment—drugs, and sex, and everything else we can get our hands on. And it's been the mission of the LaRouche Youth Movement, and hundreds of people in the Schiller Institute around the world, to reverse that trend. To go back to a policy, where we have the understanding, as Wesley said, of all being created equal.

And you look at what's happening around the world right now: The economic collapse, the continuous guerrilla warfare, the threat of nuclear war are taking precedence over the world at this moment in time; the destruction of nations, economic development being destroyed. And I think, as we look at this moment of living the dream of Dr. King, he said, "An individual has not lived until he can rise above the narrow confines of the individualistic concerns to those higher concerns of all human beings, of all mankind," and that's what we have to do. That is the mission that we have to take on.

Now, I have the special privilege—I don't want to take up too much of your time, because I know that Wesley has done an excellent job in conveying the principle and the role that we've played. I'd just like to share one thing with you. I think about how our generation has no understanding of our history. As he said, we've been going to the university campuses, speaking with young people, and you'd think that individuals who live here, young people, right in Alabama, where the struggle was fought, where history has been made, you know, young people from Selma, Alabama, from Tuskegee, would know the history of Mrs. Robinson and others in the struggle that they have endured. They don't know that! And that really got to me. When I'm at Alabama State University, and you tell students, "Look, there's a group of people that's



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The LYM team in Selma, Alabama (left to right): Wesley Irwin, Ardena Clark, Amelia Boynton Robinson, Kesha Rogers, and Jeremy Cowen.

here and they're fighting for justice. They're walking, they're marching." You tell them about what we're doing. You tell them about recruitment of young people to a fight to revive the history that this country has lost! And—it was interesting, because I'm asking people, "Do you know about Mrs. Amelia Boynton Robinson?" And they say, "Uhm, no never heard of her. I don't know." And these people come from Selma, Alabama! The frightening thing is that there's a memorial and a history of Mrs. Robinson sitting right in their library! And they don't know! I mean, that's scary.

Bring in Real, Classical Culture

And I commend everyone for being here. But—I have to say, this room should be much fuller with young people right now. Because it is going to be our generation taking up the fight and the mission. And what we have found, is that throughout our march, and throughout our organizing on university campuses, and the fight to recruit and break through the cultural corruption that has dominated our young people today, that it has been the revival of Classical composition, of real ideas, going back to the fight of people like Bach and Beethoven—those individuals that our generation knows nothing about, if it's not bouncing around, and hip hop and rap and everything else, we know nothing about true beauty. Because beauty has been destroyed from our generation. And the only way that we're going to go back to living the dream of Dr. King, is to bring back a society of beauty.

And that is why it is my honor to present to you the group here, of the LaRouche Youth Movement, that's going to give you a small selection of the work that we've been doing to revive the beauty of Classical composition.

[The youth conclude by performing a selection from Bach's motet "Jesu, meine Freude."]