

Special Report:

NSC Reading Terror Ring Ready to Crack

Sept. 9 (IPS) New information received by the U.S. Labor Party in the past week indicates that efforts by the National Security Council (NSC) and allied police agencies to cover up a series of murders and robberies in the Reading, Pa. area have failed, and that a number of key principals in these crimes face imminent imprisonment. If these defendants — each of them directly involved in the Kissinger-NSC drug and gun-running operation headquartered in Reading — are successfully brought to justice, then the whole NSC international terrorist network can be cracked open. All that remains is for the U.S. working class and pro-working class journalists and politicians to focus enough of a spotlight on Reading to guarantee that Kissinger's "spooks" are kept in check.

Tomorrow afternoon, former NSC operative Roy Frankhauser — whose July 28 CBS television interview gave national exposure to the Maoist Revolutionary Union (RU) role in conducting of explosives for the Pontiac bus bombings and other terrorist operations — will be holding a press conference in Trenton, N.J. At that time he will provide previously unreleased evidence of this faltering NSC coverup, as well as further details of the gun and drug running.

The Goldberg Variations

One of the prime actors in the NSC's Reading cabal, Lt. Paul Goldberg of the Reading Police Department Intelligence Division has his head precariously close to the chopping block. Goldberg's testimony at the recently concluded second trial of Clarence Williams — charged with the March, 1975 murder of RU gun-runner Norman DeBooth — opened him up to perjury charges. Charges against Williams were dropped last week when the judge granted a defense counsel double jeopardy motion. Goldberg contradicted testimony already in the court records, identifying him as the liaison man between the LEAA, FBI and Treasury Department to area undercover agents, including Lemond DeBooth, Norman's uncle, who coordinated the transportation of explosives for the RU.

Bertram Jones, head of the Reading RU and Vice President of the United Rubber Workers (URW) local at Firestone Rubber, is now under attack from several directions. Next week, Jones goes on trial on charges of robbing a

warehouse that could land him in jail for 7-14 years. District Attorney Robert Van Hoove, who is also considering the perjury charges against Goldberg and who recently won a conviction of local Mafia boss and FBI collaborator Joe Biancone, is prosecuting the case against Jones.

The warehouse robbery, one of many carried out by the Reading RU group since 1971, was actually a routine method of payment for services rendered to federal police agencies. Police officials would either know about these robberies in advance or would take necessary steps to guarantee that any after-the-fact investigation was unsuccessful. Jones was never supposed to have to stand trial.

Simultaneous with his scheduled day in court, Jones is also the target of a U.S. Labor Party-initiated campaign to recall him from his URW position.

Word of the recall campaign has already expanded beyond the membership of the Firestone local. During a distribution this week in Pottstown, Labor Party organizers were approached by a police official who offered his support in driving Jones and the RU gang out of the area — and for good reason. Dr. Steven Levin, an RU member referred to by Jones as "that wonderful doctor from Firestone," has been using his medical practice as a clearinghouse for large quantities of amphetamines and barbiturates. Levin passes the drugs on to Jones, who — as he has bragged to one Reading area source — sells them to Pottstown area youth for a 300 per cent profit. At least one large shipment of drugs has been tentatively traced to Hartford, Conn., where it was exchanged for explosives and firearms.

Special Watergating Team

To protect these gun-runners, a team of at least ten new FBI and Treasury Department agents have been deployed into Reading's Berks County. A ranking Pottstown police official reports that he was contacted by Edward Sleman, head of the local office of the Treasury's Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) divisions and ordered to call off further investigations of a recent bombing in the town. The explosives used have been identified as coming from Jones.

Such FBI-ATF illegal interference

with the legal process dates back to 1971. At that time, DA Van Hoove's investigations into organized crime in Berks County brought him dangerously close to putting the FBI and ATF in a compromising position. Orders came down from FBI officials in Washington, D.C. to get Van Hoove. Both the Organized Crime Task Force and the ATF were put under the direct control of Reading FBI bureau chief David Allen Raley, who in turn worked in coordination with reporters of the Reading Times in preparing a "watergating" of Van Hoove on the eve of his re-election campaign. Despite break-ins and wire-tappings of his home and office, nothing more substantial than innuendos could be pulled together.

In the face of pending convictions against agents Jones and Goldberg and the scheduled sentencing of Biancone, the NSC drug and gun-running department in Reading stands in immediate danger of being shut down. It is crucial that there be no illegal FBI-ATF interference with the upcoming trial of Frankhauser himself, who is charged with selling explosives while an agent of the ATF. An unimpeded Frankhauser trial can only expose for destruction more of the NSC's Reading operation.