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NEWS BULLETIN NO. 550

NCLC TO SUE TO STOP DESTRUCTION OF ROCKEFELLER'S POLICE STATE FILES

NEW YORK, NOV. 28 (IPS)—ATTORNEYS FOR THE U.S. LABOR PARTY (USLP) AND THE NATIONAL CAUCUS OF LABOR COMMITTEES (NCLC) WILL ENTER FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK HERE THIS AFTERNOON TO SEEK A TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER ENJOINING NEW YORK STATE POLICE DIRECTOR WILLIAM CONNELIE AND THE NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES FROM THE FURTHER DESTRUCTION OF NEW YORK STATE POLICE POLITICAL FILES COMPILED DURING THE ADMINISTRATION OF FORMER GOVERNOR NELSON ROCKEFELLER. THE USLP WILL ALSO SEEK DISCLOSURE OF THE CONTENT OF ALL FILES ON SO-CALLED POLITICAL DISSIDENTS THAT HAVE BEEN DESTROYED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR.

THE ACTION FOLLOWS A NOV. 24 DISCUSSION BETWEEN CONNELIE AND USLP ATTORNEYS DURING WHICH THE DIRECTOR TOLD THE USLP THAT THE GENERAL SERVICES AGENCY IS IN THE PROCESS OF DESTROYING THE POLICE FILES, WHICH COVER THE STATE'S 20-YEAR-OLD ILLEGAL SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM. ACCORDING TO CONNELIE, THE FILES HAD ALREADY BEEN "PURGED" OF MATERIAL SINCE JANUARY 1975, THUS LIQUIDATING EVIDENCE IN A PROBABLE SERIES OF CIVIL SUITS STEMMING FROM THE SURVEILLANCE. CONNELIE ALSO INFORMED THE USLP THAT HE HAD RECEIVED FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUESTS FOR THE FILES FROM LABOR PARTY MEMBERS WHICH WERE "SITTING ON HIS DESK."

LABOR PARTY REPRESENTATIVES HAVE PRESSED THE STATE LEGISLATURE'S OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE, HEADED BY ASSEMBLYMAN STANLEY STEINGUT (D-BKLYN), TO STOP THIS FLAGRANT DESTRUCTION OF LEGAL EVIDENCE. THE COMMITTEE, WHICH EXPOSED THE EXISTENCE OF THE FILES IN EARLY NOVEMBER, HAS TAKEN NO STEPS TO PROTECT THE EVIDENCE, HOWEVER.

ACCORDING TO THE NEW YORK POST AND LEGISLATIVE SOURCES, THE ROCKEFELLER-CREATED SPY SYSTEM WAS DIRECTED AGAINST POLITICAL GROUPS THROUGHOUT THE STATE. THE LABOR PARTY WILL ARGUE THAT FURTHER DESTRUCTION OF THE FILES, WHICH THE STATE POLICE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NEW YORK POLICE DEPARTMENT'S "RED SQUAD" TO DISRUPT FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS OF USLP MEMBERS AND CANDIDATES, WOULD HAMPER FUTURE CIVIL DAMAGES ACTIONS BY THE USLP AGAINST THE RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUALS.