

U.S. Labor Party Report Documents Federal Harassment Of Political Opposition

Preparatory to Congressional consideration of the new S-1 revision of the U.S. criminal code and proposed foreign intelligence surveillance bills, the FBI and Department of Justice are devoting a good deal of attention to some necessary public relations to the effect that they have "reformed" their earlier illegal tactics of surveillance and harassment of political opponents. The effort however, has been complicated by the fact that the Carter Administration is directing one of the most extensive efforts in recent history to eliminate its political opponents through harassment and Watergate-style frameups.

The U.S. Labor Party is one of the chief targets of this attack from the FBI, Justice Department, Federal Elections Commission and assorted other governmental agencies, as well as a cluster of "left," quasi-governmental intelligence networks like the Institute for Policy Studies. The activities of the Justice Department and the FBI are well documented in publicly available FBI files and other documents, which have been requested already by certain Congressional committees now investigating the effect of the "reforms" under the Levi guidelines. The Labor Party has made the following report available to interested investigators.

Memorandum On Official Investigation Of Illegalities Of the Carter Administration

Despite illusions to the contrary, the conduct of Executive agencies is far more lawless today than it was in the period before Nixon's resignation. Intelligence agencies were deliberately discredited then in the "Watergate" atmosphere, easing their reconstitution as the instruments of the Rockefeller-associated private intelligence networks. Following the revelations of years of "Cointelpro" operations, the FBI, in particular, was "born again" with a reformed image.

Today, 15 months after the "Levi guidelines" were issued, the FBI has become an outlaw federal police force, a branch of the "left-wing" Institute for Policy Studies (IPS).

The Attorney General and FBI's increasing official illegalities with respect to the U.S. Labor Party is exemplary. At the top of the Attorney General's list of "domestic security" investigations is the National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC), the core organization of the U.S. Labor Party. (1) The Attorney General and the FBI facetiously maintain that they do not investigate the U.S. Labor Party, only the NCLC, despite FBI Director Kelley's description of the U.S. Labor Party as "a front group for the NCLC, a violence-prone Marxist organization." (2)

How did the "violence-prone" characterization arise? The FBI first put out the "violence-prone" line in July 1974, trying to cover its tracks after the exposure of an FBI informant who had infiltrated the USLP and run for public office on the Labor Party ticket. (3) The FBI and Justice Department continue to admit no wrongdoing with respect to this incident — they only admit that their informant got caught. (As of June 10, 1977, the Justice Department was still defying a Federal court order to produce certain FBI documents relevant to this USLP case.)

The "violence-prone" slander has been circulated by the FBI to other federal agencies (Secret Service, ER-DA, Federal Elections Commission, State and Defense Departments), and to state and local law enforcement agencies. Through the dissemination of dossiers — much of it inaccurate and falsified information — the FBI has encouraged and justified local police harassment of U.S. Labor Party organizers, usually on such petty trumped-up charges as soliciting or trespassing.

The case of Alan Ogden, currently the U.S. Labor Party candidate for Governor of Virginia, illustrates this process. Ogden has been arrested at least 14 times in the past two years while engaged in lawful political organizing and campaigning in and around Richmond, Virginia. The FBI is known to have circulated a falsified dossier on Ogden to local officials who have carried out the illegal harassment. (4)

The "Levi Guidelines"

After the hearings on illegal FBI activities held by Congress in 1975, then-Attorney General Levi issued a new set of "guidelines" governing domestic security investigations. It is under these "guidelines" that honest FBI officials have found their hands tied when they tried to investigate known terrorists. On the other hand, such restraint has not been present where the USLP-NCLC are concerned.

According to a Justice Department affidavit (5), "these guidelines have governed the ongoing investigation of the NCLC since April 5, 1976. Pursuant to the Attorney General's authorization of August 19, 1976, the current investigation of the NCLC, including the members of its National Executive Committee and National Committee, is a full investigation..."

The Attorney General's August 19 memorandum is a truly remarkable document. (6) Levi admits that the possibility of a violent overthrow of the government by the NCLC is "a very remote possibility" which "does not justify a domestic security investigation under the guidelines." How then does Levi justify the "full investigation" of the NCLC? What follows in the memorandum is a full recitation of the Institute for Policy Studies line

that the NCLC-USLP has attacked members of the Communist Party and Socialist Workers Party, and that the NCLC has conducted "reprogramming" of its own members, with the documentation being 1. a slimy *New York Times* slander article and, 2. as far as can be determined, the fact of exposure of FBI informants by the NCLC-USLP.

This justification is unique in the history of "subversive" investigations! For the first time, a group is being investigated for allegedly attacking "other left-wing groups" and for uncovering FBI informants in its ranks. The Levi memorandum demonstrates clearly the interface between the Justice Department and FBI, and the Institute for Policy Studies networks which are retailing the comparison between the U.S. Labor Party and the "Moonie" brainwashing cult. (7)

Financial Warfare

Since the 1976 elections, "financial warfare" has been the chief harassment tactic directed against the USLP and NCLC by the FBI, the Federal Elections Commission, and other official and private intelligence agencies.

According to portions of the 5303 pages of FBI files on the NCLC-USLP released under the Freedom of Information Act, the FBI closely surveilled the organization's financial affairs during 1975 and 1976. An FBI report makes note of when the Committee to Elect LaRouche (CTEL) opened a bank account in New York. (8) Another report from San Francisco reported the launching of the CTET matching funds drive. (9)

FBI investigative reports on the NCLC-USLP routinely include financial surveillance, FBI interviews with landlords, telephone companies, the U.S. Postal Service, and other creditors. (10) What the files reveal is a widespread FBI practice of encouraging creditors to put the

financial vise on the USLP or to cut off services altogether.

Closely coordinated with this is the FEC's harassment of CTET contributors and creditors, which was renewed on June 15 with four visits by FEC investigators in Indiana.

Subversion of FBI Functions

The FBI's enthusiasm for their investigation of the NCLC-USLP is scarcely matched by its actions with respect to actual criminal terrorists. Under the Levi guidelines the FBI has refused to investigate such terrorist networks as the IPS-run July 4 Coalition, alleging that they cannot investigate until *after* a crime has been committed. The FBI's coverup of IPS terrorists networks has gone so far as to systematically expunge references to IPS terrorist networks from FBI reports of briefings provided to FBI officials by USLP personnel. (11)

In short, the FBI has been "reformed" into a tool for partisan political manipulation far exceeding the actions for which President Nixon was nearly impeached and his aides sent to prison.

The Labor Party since its founding has been committed to the notion of industrial progress, and opposed to all policies of austerity and zero growth. Today, the Labor Party is the most active and committed proponent of the Federalist-Whig principles of technological progress upon which this nation was built. It is such notions of progress that our modern-day Tories find so offensive and "subversive" that they are willing to rip the Constitution to shreds in order to attempt to contain the Labor Party's growing influence.

The Labor Party is fully prepared to assist in any investigation to bring to a halt such official misconduct and perversion of federal law enforcement. Full documentation is available to the appropriate Congressional committees and government agencies upon request.

FOOTNOTES

1 1976 Annual Report of the Attorney General, p. 155.

2 For example, see the letter from Clarence Kelley to Congressman James Martin, Oct. 29, 1976; also the appendices to FBI reports.

3 The "violence-prone" characterization was issued in July 25th, 1974 (FBI files, NCLC serial No. 331), following a policy shakeup after the discovery of FBI informant Vernon Higgins in Detroit. The Higgins incident is the subject of the case *Ghandi v. Detroit Police Department and FBI*, (W.D. Mich.). See also, "Michigan Radical Party Lists Informer on Ballot," *New York Times*, Nov. 4, 1974.

4 The Justice Department has "flagged" Ogden's file and has disseminated information that Ogden is a terrorist, is violent, is a member of the SWP, etc. Ogden was jailed on June 15 on a two-year-old trumped-up "trespassing" charge in Richmond.

5 Affidavit of AUSA Nathaniel Gerber, dated September 1976, filed in case of *LaRouche v. Kelley*, (Southern District, New York).

6 Memorandum from Attorney General to Director, FBI;

dated August 19, 1976, obtained in discovery in case of *NCLC v. Banks*, (D.N.J.).

7 FBI report from Assistant Director in Charge, New York, to FBI Director, dated June 28th, 1976, pp. 34-39; see also FBI dissemination of *New York Times* slander article of January 20, 1974, "How a Left Radical Group Moved Toward Savagery," and "CounterSpy" article, sent by FBI to "Legat, Paris" (legal attaché at U.S. embassy), December 16th, 1974.

8 FBI memorandum, SAC New York to Director, January 22nd, 1976.

9 FBI case summary, San Francisco, March 4th, 1976, pp. 5-6.

10 For example, see the FBI telex, SAC New York to Director, July 8th, 1975, re: NCLC financial crisis and threatened phone cutoff; Philadelphia case summary, April 13th, 1976, pp. 12-13; Chicago case summary, June 7th, 1976, pp. 1-5; Seattle case summary, March 31st, 1976.

11 FBI memoranda, Assistant Director in Charge, New York, to Director, June 8th, 1976; HQ memorandum (names deleted), June 1st, 1976.

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