

Environmentalist setback at Seabrook

An eyewitness report by the man who blew the whistle

Over this past Columbus Day weekend, the American environmentalist movement suffered a severe and demoralizing setback, when only 1,500 of an expected 10-15,000 persons appeared in Seabrook, New Hampshire for a planned assault and occupation of the nuclear plant-construction site there. The significant aspect of the defeat was not the small size of the attacking force, or their failure to accomplish the demonstration's goals as such. The defeat occurred beforehand, on the political plane. The environmentalist movement's nature and purposes had been heavily discredited in connection with a growing political debate over America's economic future, focusing on the role of nuclear energy.

The issue was all the hotter in New Hampshire, a state in the midst of a presidential primary campaign; and it was a presidential primary campaign, that of Democratic candidate Lyndon LaRouche, a staunch nuclear advocate, that defeated the environmentalists long before they arrived at their deployment site.

The fight is far from over; but we can breathe a sigh of relief that what might easily have become the starting-point for a nationwide wave of terrorism against nuclear energy and economic growth, instead flopped badly in the marshy lands surrounding one of our nation's finest nuclear projects.

I was in Seabrook this weekend, to witness the demonstration that had been months in planning. It was to be an occupation, by "human wave" assault, of the massive plant complex, dismantling the partially built installations in favor of what environmentalist initiates dub an "alternative community," remaining in place until the nuclear project was permanently cancelled. It was to be the biggest, the best publicized, and the first really violent action taken by United States environmentalists.

As I watched the first signs of action early in the morning of Saturday, Oct. 6, it occurred to me that I knew a great deal more about the situation than most law enforcement officials on the scene. My wife and I had done extensive research on the individuals and groups involved, with startling results. I knew who the demonstrators were, much better than they themselves knew. I knew where the money came from, who con-

trolled the leading organizers, and who stood to benefit. Moreover, whatever path or link we traced, we came back to the same place: Ted Kennedy.

I had done everything in my power to spread this knowledge. I passed all information to executive and law enforcement officials in New Hampshire and elsewhere. I also passed the information to the campaign staff of Lyndon LaRouche, whose New Hampshire effort is easily the most vigorous of any candidate's. LaRouche put the story out everywhere in the weeks prior to the demonstration: terrorism was planned under cover of the "masses" scheduled to participate, and the controllers at the top were known. He named them, in print, and on television. I also passed the information to this journal, which regularly published the findings of our ongoing investigation.

As the demonstrators assembled at their appointed spots, the political task—placing the penalty of public exposure at the doorstep of the Kennedy machine behind the terrorists—had been accomplished. The demonstration itself, I could only leave to the national guardsmen and the police.

The action

The "human wave" assault failed miserably. Thirty-six hours into the planned invasion by a little over a thousand muddy, would-be occupiers, law officers concluded that the threat of violence had passed. At that point, 1,000 highly disorganized and demoralized environmentalists milled about the marshlands adjacent to the core construction, their first assaults repulsed with few injuries or arrests, and their numbers too small to try again.

In the first attack, with gas masks, shields and wire-cutters, the ecologists were impelled to retreat when, through each hole cut in the perimeter fence, police or guardsmen emerged to gently confiscate their tools. At least three additional assaults were made during the afternoon, each time with the same result. By 2:00 p.m., all were disarmed, and thoroughly disorganized. They convened a meeting on the marsh where high tide had stranded them. A six-hour debate led to no decisions. Obviously, the entire incident was at an end.

Terrorist "observers"

I had done some checking during the course of the afternoon. I discovered that several key groups who were to have been in the phalanx of the assaults had not participated at all. I found them all present, however, as "observers." The "Black Rose Collective" that operates out of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, under the close supervision of RAND Corporation associate Noam Chomsky, was committed to "violence as a principled part" of the movement's strategy, and backed plans for Seabrook. But a short time beforehand, they had withdrawn, as the political publicity about the terrorist threat reached a pitch. They had concluded that the "movement was not ready" for their activity.

Similarly, several of the more battle-trained "affinity groups," into which demonstration participants had been organized for training long beforehand, had withdrawn, and only observed, including the "Hard Rain" faction in the Coalition for Direct Action at Seabrook. The "Midnights Note Collective" was to have participated through a front group, the "Brooklyn Anti-Nuclear Group." This group shares members with the "Defense Committee" for Tony Negri, who had been arrested as a controller of the notorious "Red Brigades" terrorists in Italy during the assassination of Aldo Moro.

I had discovered such connections, and *EIR* made them public. As a result, the terrorist "professionals," who knew battle tactics and who knew how to use a crowd to make violence happen, had withdrawn.

In a related way, respectable non-terrorist elements had distanced themselves from the event. Tom Hayden and Jane Fonda, who had toured the nation to build for the action, suddenly withdrew support a week beforehand. That was understandable. Jane Fonda's activities are run by one Don Rose, who also ran Chicago mayor Jane Byrne's election campaign. Don Rose and Jane Byrne have both been Kennedy machine properties for a long time. Jane heat. The heat was on Kennedy.

Ted Kennedy wants to run for president. But Kennedy personally addressed the founding convention of the Citizens Labor Energy Coalition, which was key in

preparations for the Seabrook action—but which later, like Fonda, distanced itself. Kennedy bases his energy speeches on information provided by one Vince Taylor, a leading figure in the MUSE Foundation (Musicians United for Safe Energy), which had brought together a gaggle of rock musicians, Jane Fonda, and others to stage bacchanalian drug-rock events to raise money and recruit bodies for Seabrook. The funders, as well as the activists in this, were closely tied to either the Kennedy machine in general, or the "Draft Kennedy" electoral effort in particular.

By Saturday, Oct. 6, such realities were known everywhere through the LaRouche campaign and the *Executive Intelligence Review*.

Presidential-hopeful LaRouche himself summarized them, even as what remained of the Seabrook "human wave" was dissipating.

"The small size of the attacking force is chiefly the result of my own campaign of exposure. By threatening to expose the direct links between the planners of violence and the left wing of the so-called Kennedy machine, that campaign forced the Kennedy machine itself to act to defuse the demonstration for fear that otherwise, major violence would terminate the ambitions of the so-called Draft Kennedy effort then and there. It is a proven principle, in dealing with terrorists and related forms of antinuclear activity in Europe, that public political exposure of high level circles behind the antinuclear shock troops is an indispensable part of the required package for minimizing violence. In this case, the staff's exposure effort, combined with official law enforcement and other precautions, proves once again the proper method for dealing with terrorism and related forms of violence by antinuclear shock troops."

The exposure of Kennedy-linked persons saw the withdrawal of public support from the Seabrook action by those persons, including the most prominent antinuclear spokesmen. The terrorist "professionals," employed by the same circles, also naturally pulled out. It was with a certain sense of deep satisfaction that my wife and I watched as the remnant cannon-fodder of the anti-nuclear coalition flopped around in the New Hampshire mud.

—Ernest White