

## Abscam on trial as NBC prepares a 'Reagangate'

by Jeffrey Steinberg

A high-level source within the News Division of NBC-TV has leaked the fact that the major networks are already in the advanced stages of unleashing a flurry of scandals aimed at wrecking the Reagan administration within its first 100 days in office.

According to the source, detailed scandal sheets are being prepared linking the President to California-based organized crime elements, and these scandal sheets will be saturating the national media within 60 days, creating a scandal climate around Ronald Reagan that will "put Abscam and Brilab to shame."

The efforts of Kennedy hatchetman Walter Sheridan to block the confirmation of Ray Donovan, a respected New Jersey construction executive, to the post of secretary of labor represent the currently operational feature of this effort. Sheridan, a 30-year asset of a subversive network housed in the National Security Agency and its allied FBI Division Five, has been working in league with NBC since 1967 when he played an out-front role in smearing then-New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison after Garrison indicted the NSA-linked Permindex for the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

### 'Extremist methods'

In effect, Donovan's confirmation, according to the NBC source, is being determined in Brooklyn federal court hearings to determine whether or not the Department of Justice and the FBI used unconstitutional and illegal methods in obtaining the Abscam indictments of Rep. John Murphy, Rep. Ozzie Meyers, Mayor Angelo

Errichetti, and others.

This Pratt hearing, which has now recessed until Feb. 2, has already cast a dark shadow on the methods of the Criminal Division of the Justice Department and particularly on Brooklyn Organized Crime Strike Force chief Thomas Puccio. Justice Department and FBI documentation has already been presented before Judge Pratt showing massive violations of federal criminal codes by Puccio, who has acknowledged to officials of the Newark, New Jersey U.S. Attorney's office that "without those extremist methods, Abscam would have never been possible."

The NBC source reports that Puccio has already obtained a grand jury indictment against Donovan relating to sewage contract kickbacks on Long Island, N.Y. Whether the NBC information is accurate or just so much hot air, the implication is clear that Puccio is himself working in league with NBC—in further violation of federal criminal statutes.

What is at stake in the Brooklyn courtroom is the very question of the United States' viability as a constitutional republic. On Nov. 4, 1980, in a massive demonstration of popular will, the American electorate swept Jimmy Carter and the entire Trilateral Commission administration out of office. That result represented a mandate to the incoming administration to not only restore economic growth, but to halt the persecution of constituency-based leaders who make the American System work.

Judge Pratt is in a position to restore the Constitu-

tion to its rightful place as the law of the land by overturning the Abscam verdicts and placing the full burden of criminal responsibility on the relevant figures in the Department of Justice and the former Carter administration. Evidence already exists that a thorough prosecution of those criminally complicit in Abscam frameups and coverups would lead directly to the Plains, Georgia doorsteps of Jimmy Carter and to the Baltimore law offices of Benjamin Civiletti.

Such a bloodletting may very well be the only basis for ensuring that the apparatus deeply entrenched in the Department of Justice since the decade of Robert Kennedy, Nicholas Katzenbach, and Ramsey Clark does not succeed in deploying its legion of criminals and frameup artists to bring down the Reagan administration before it even has the opportunity to implement the electoral mandate of Nov. 4.

### **Carter justice**

Under the Carter administration, the Office of the Attorney General was turned into a protectorate for terrorists, drug traffickers, and persons flagrantly involved in actions tantamount to treason against the United States.

- By executive order, on the personal “humanitarian” appeal of Attorney General Civiletti, no fewer than 20 hardcore terrorists were either freed from federal prisons or let off scot free from 1977 through 1980. In no case were these terrorists released on the grounds that they had been rehabilitated and had reversed their prior commitments to violence. In the case of the four Puerto Rican nationalists who attempted to assassinate President Harry Truman and successfully carried out an armed assault on the U.S. Congress, Attorney General Civiletti authorized their release from federal custody with full foreknowledge that they were committed to immediately returning to their pro-terrorist agitations.

- Beyond his public statements in support of legalization of marijuana, Attorney General Civiletti personally intervened on documented occasions to block federal enforcement agencies from cooperating with state officials in pursuit of known narcotics smugglers.

- The attorney general further put his personal stamp of approval on the decision to block prosecution of FBI Division Five asset Philip Agee for his public actions to illegally expose CIA station personnel abroad and for his blatant turning over of classified information to Cuban and Soviet intelligence services.

- Under Civiletti, the Community Relations Service project of Ramsey Clark was deployed to incite at least one riot, in the Liberty City section of Miami, Florida, and to lay the groundwork for a nationwide string of civil disorders within the first six months of the Reagan presidency.

At the same time, under Civiletti Justice Department policy guidelines, the Federal Bureau of Investigation was transformed into a full-blown political police, conducting frameup and extortion campaigns against perceived political opponents of the Carter administration. According to the Annual Report of the Attorney General, the four-year tenure of President Carter saw over 20,000 Americans jailed as the result of over 85,000 separate “white-collar crime” investigations launched by the FBI and DOJ. During the same period, while the nation experienced an overall escalation of drug addiction, the number of arrests and convictions on narcotics violations was halved.

There is compelling evidence that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been so contaminated by the methods of Abscam and Brilab that it is beyond repair as a viable law-enforcement agency. Contributing Editor Lyndon LaRouche has called for the disbanding of the FBI and the return to more constitutionally viable forms of national crime prevention (see page 53).

### **What Smith faces**

As the hearings before Judge Pratt indicate, there are elements within the Justice Department and the FBI itself who have been appalled at the criminal methods adopted by those agencies in the pursuit of “Carter justice.” These elements themselves, according to highly reliable sources in the nation’s capital, are being hounded by Puccio and other corrupted elements in the department who fear that a public airing of evidence in the Abscam matter could result in their own conviction for “white-collar crimes.”

Attorney General-nominee William French Smith, a respected California lawyer with tough conservative credentials, will be walking into a Justice Department building peppered with land mines following his anticipated confirmation. The Civil Rights Division, the Community Relations Service, the Organized Crime Strike Force section, and the associated FBI Division Five are all deeply encrusted political baronies broadly associated with the Kennedy-McGovern machine and the Eastern liberal establishment.

It is these protected networks-in-place that represent the critical “fifth column” resources for NBC and those related powerful interests intent on using smear and frameup tactics against the incoming administration as a means of smothering the Reagan mandate in the mud of organized crime. A long-overdue purging of these networks, best achieved through a thorough investigation into the practices of Abscam and Brilab—including the role of the media agencies presently engaged in a rigorous blackout of the events in Judge Pratt’s courtroom—is perhaps the number-one priority for the incoming attorney general.