
TEXAS

Drug mafia moves on Houston police

by Harley Schlanger,
Houston Bureau Chief

Houston Mayor Kathy Whitmire has won the first round in her campaign to dismantle the Houston police department with her appointment of Lee Brown, the Atlanta Public Safety Commissioner, as Police Chief of Houston. Brown's appointment was confirmed by the City Council in early April with only three dissenting votes from the 14-member council, by members who fear that Houston is on its way to becoming a major drug center if Whitmire is not stopped. She was elected in a landslide last November on a platform of "fiscal conservatism and social liberalism," largely due to support from Houston's large homosexual community and the environmentalist coalitions.

The support which put her in office, with covert support from the Schlumberger-de Menil interests, and open backing from city and national media, has helped Whitmire in her coup against the Houston police department.

What's at stake

The state of Texas is hotly contested territory. Local law-enforcement sources report that Caribbean drug traffic using Texas as a port of entry grew considerably in 1981 and is expected to increase further in 1982. Arms trafficking through the Texas Gulf ports has also increased massively, despite record seizures by U.S. customs officials of weapons intended for both left- and right-wing terrorist operations in Central and South America.

Houston and the Dallas-Fort Worth areas have become dumping grounds for a large part of the drug-money cash flow, as evidenced by the "building boom" in office buildings and luxury condominiums of the past two years. A Hong Kong-based firm, Deanlake Investments, recently bought out the Houston-based Allright Parking Lot Company, which has large real estate holdings in Houston and other major American cities.

To counter the growing drug traffic, the Texas legislature, under the direction of Republican Gov. William Clements, passed a packet titled "War on Drugs" during the 1981 legislative session, granting unusual power to law-enforcement officials to shut down "head shops" and use wiretaps against suspected

drug pushers. A nationwide attempt to watergate Governor Clements was launched as soon as these laws went into effect, spearheaded by an early March article in *Playboy* magazine announcing the intention of *Playboy* representatives, in conjunction with the American Civil Liberties Union, to overturn this legislation.

'Reforming' the police

Mayor Whitmire launched her attack on the Houston police department at the same time. Houston has long been a target of the "police reformers" along with New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles. A leading figure in this operation is Patrick Murphy, president of the Ford Foundation-funded Police Foundation, who has made a career of "police reform." Murphy was appointed by President Johnson's Attorney General, Ramsey Clark, to head up the Office of Law Enforcement Assistance, the precursor of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA). The LEAA was established in 1968 to "federalize" the police system, and, despite its ultimate failure (Congress cut all appropriations this year), opened the doors to many of the destructive operations of the 1970s.

Murphy served as Police Commissioner of New York City from 1970 to 1973. He virtually eliminated foot patrols in New York and greatly undercut the power of precinct detective squads. Crime grew at an unprecedented rate as police morale was eroded. Chicago Mayor Jane Byrne has replicated these methods; she fired four police chiefs in her first term of office.

In 1979, the U.S. Civil Rights Commission released the so-called Fleming Report on "Who is Guarding the Guardians?" The report, charging both the Philadelphia and Houston police forces with incompetence and brutality, was based on inaccurate reports and unconfirmed complaints, as project director Gail Garabencis was later forced to admit. However, its charges of police misconduct against minorities, poor training, lack of discipline, and racial and sexual bias within the forces were dredged up by Mayor Whitmire for her attack on the Houston department. In a series of interviews with the *Houston Chronicle* in mid-March, she charged members of the police department with unspecified corruption and brutality, and alleged that there was no communication between the leadership of the department and the rank-and-file. Whitmire's interviews were followed by a report of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, prominently reported in the Houston press, claiming that Houston had the second largest total of complaints against the police force of any American city. At this point, Whitmire announced the Lee Brown appointment.

Who is Lee Brown?

Lee Brown is a long-term protégé of the Murphy

networks. He received a Ph.D. in criminology from the University of California at Berkeley, a department which also graduated Italian Red Brigades organizer Giovanni Senzani. Senzani was professor of criminology at the University of Pisa, until forced underground in 1980 by the discovery of the Italian police that his prison visits to conduct "criminological research" were actually used to conduct Red Brigades business. He and 11 other terrorists were arrested when the police raided three hideouts in Rome in January, just as a massive new terror wave was about to be launched in Italy.

Another member of the "police reform" network is British subject Leslie T. Wilkens, who formed the Eurogroup for Deviancy and Social Control in the 1960s, an organization directly linked to the Propaganda-2 Freemasonic lodge and the Red Brigades. Wilkens was one of the promoters of setting up the Berkeley Criminology Department, and its policy that terrorism and violent crime are "sociological phenomena," the result of injustices committed by the state.

Brown, described as a "professional job jumper," has been deployed to several police departments to implement the "managerial reform" and "community relations" programs pushed by Berkeley, including San Jose, California, and Portland, Oregon. One of Brown's key policies has been to decentralize each department, undermining established chains of command and demoralizing career officers. In Atlanta, he issued orders banning the questioning of his policies; as a result, he was found guilty for illegally firing, without a hearing, a police major who questioned some of his directives. One veteran law-enforcement observer remarked that, under this system of management, "The Atlanta detective division was destroyed, which prolonged the successful conclusion of the child-murder cases."

When his appointment was announced, Brown immediately joined Whitmire in attacking the Texas civil service code, which would restrict his ability to "clean house" of his subordinates. Before this code was passed in the early 1950s, each new Mayor could bring in his own people, and there was no continuity or job security in the police department. The civil service code grants some degree of autonomy to the department from the municipal government and limits the degree to which the police chief can start or stop investigations. Both Brown and Whitmire have pledged to overturn this code.

The opposition to Brown, though strong, has not been able to counter the powerful campaign Whitmire has run. Opposition from the police was neutralized by wide-spread reports of corruption, and the media has claimed that opposition to Brown was motivated by racism, since Brown is black, a charge which has increased racial tensions within Houston.

EIR

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*The U.S. Depression:
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**10:00 a.m. Comparison of EIR and
Leading Econometric
Projections for U.S.
Economy Since
October 1979**

David Goldman, Economics
Editor, *EIR*

**1:30 p.m. 'Mathematical Basis
for Successful
Economic Forecasting'**

Uwe v. Parpart, Research
Director, Fusion Energy
Foundation

**3:00 p.m. 'Why Only a Two-Tier
Credit Policy and
Regulated Banking
Can Foster Recovery
From the Present
General Depression'**

Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.,
Founder, *EIR*

**7:00 p.m. Chamber music
featuring the
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