

## Editorial

### *Outlaw institutions*

When Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.'s nationwide television address calling for the declaration of a national defense emergency by the United States was aired Jan. 21, the broadcast took place despite coordinated attempts by Federal Elections Commission, NBC, and the FBI to prevent it. Charles N. Steele, general counsel of the FEC, issued a memorandum to the FEC Jan. 18, urging denial of matching funds to The LaRouche Campaign, which sponsored the television program, on the basis that LaRouche (like the Reagan and Kennedy campaigns) is still being asked for nit-picking audit repayments. That memo completely ignored the fact that LaRouche and his 1980 campaign committee are presently in federal court challenging the FEC's rulings concerning the 1980 campaign.

According to FBI-linked NBC "investigative reporter" Brian Ross, the denial of matching funds was to have been used by CBS-TV as a pretext to deny the air time the LaRouche Campaign had purchased. But the FEC was forced to announce on Jan. 19 a one-week postponement of its decision on certification of LaRouche for primary matching funds.

Steele acted despite the favorable recommendation of the Audit Division of the FEC, which ruled that The LaRouche Campaign had met the threshold requirements. On Dec. 30, The LaRouche Campaign submitted over \$137,000 in contributions from 22 states for matching funds certification.

Especially disappointed by the FEC action was the Kissinger-linked NBC television network, which had conspired with the FBI and the FEC to try to generate a nationwide "news" scandal against LaRouche, which was to have been broadcast as a prelude to LaRouche's address on Jan. 19. The campaign would then culminate on Jan. 20 with a ruling from the FEC that The LaRouche Campaign was not entitled to receive federal funds to "match" financial contributions made to LaRouche's campaign by private citizens. Under this scenario, the cry would go up that "LaRouche is not a bona fide candidate" and the CBS broadcast would be cancelled.

For months NBC has been preparing a slander pro-

gram on its "First Camera" show under the immediate direction of NBC reporter Pat Lynch. Lynch has admitted to LaRouche's representatives that she is working with lobbyist "Chip" Berlet of *High Times* magazine and Dennis King, who has built his career on slandering LaRouche and the political organizations with which he is associated.

FEC commissioner Thomas Harris and Steele have both been involved since 1977 in blatantly corrupt political harassment against LaRouche campaign organizations. Harris was for 25 years an official of the AFL-CIO, which has tried to prevent its state and local officials from supporting LaRouche; Steele is Harris's protégé.

Steele consulted with the Justice Department in his attempt to block the LaRouche matching funds, sources told *EIR*. And on Jan. 17, NBC reporter Brian Ross appeared at a LaRouche campaign event in New Jersey to claim that the CBS show would be cancelled. Ross has been on the receiving end of FBI leaks for the past decade. He was the reporter who appeared on the doorstep of former New Jersey senator Harrison Williams—the night before the Justice Department handed down its Abscam indictment against Williams.

"The FEC should use this week to clean up its political corruption immediately," said Edward Spannaus, treasurer of The LaRouche Campaign, commenting on the FEC decision. LaRouche's own response was that Thomas Harris had acted as a contender rather than an arbiter. "If he wants to be a contender," LaRouche challenged, "he should resign from the FEC and run for office against me like an honest man, rather than contrive to carry out illegal, unethical, libelous political vendettas from his position at the FEC."

"Steele has engaged in blatant misrepresentation," said Spannaus. "In particular, LaRouche's 1980 committee has charged in court papers that the FEC fraudulently induced LaRouche's committee to settle the 1980 investigation and pay a civil penalty while at the same time the FEC was working against LaRouche behind the scenes with the only U.S. government agency which may be more corrupt than the FEC—the FBI."