

## EIR reporters still held without bail

*EIR* Counterintelligence Editor Jeffrey Steinberg and his wife Michele are still in federal prison as we go to press, as federal magistrate Collings of Boston, Massachusetts delayed issuing a ruling on whether the couple will be released on bail, or will continue to be detained on trumped-up charges of “obstruction of justice.” The detention, in violation of the Bill of Rights, is one of several new KGB-style human rights violations being perpetrated by the FBI and the Justice Department.

At a hearing on Oct. 21, the magistrate agreed to take the matter under advisement; yet three days later, no decision had been handed down. Jeffrey Steinberg, after overnight detention in the Braintree, Mass. jail, without a bed, soap, towel, or even toilet paper, was moved back to the Stratford County jail in Dover, New Hampshire; Michele Steinberg remains in the Massachusetts Correctional Institute for Women in Framingham.

Meanwhile, at midnight on Oct. 21, political organizer Michael Billington was arrested at his home in Leesburg, Virginia, on a warrant from Lawrence County, Missouri—although there is no indictment against him—on bogus charges of “selling unregistered securities” and being a “fugitive from Missouri” (although he has never been there!). Billington had been arrested only two weeks before, in the Oct. 6 “Leesburg Panty-Raid,” and released on bail, pending trial scheduled to begin Dec. 1.

### Perjury by federal agent

The original decision to jail the Steinbergs without bond was made by Magistrate W. Harris Grimsley of Alexandria, Virginia, on Oct. 9. Detention without bond is an extreme measure usually reserved for prisoners for whom there is considered a high risk of flight, and occasionally for national security cases. Murderers and others accused of violent crimes are routinely released on bail. Indeed Roy Frankhauser, a former security consultant to the Steinbergs who was also arrested on Oct. 6 in Pennsylvania on “obstruction of justice” charges, was released on his own recognizance by Philadelphia Magistrate Scuderi, who insisted that the government meet its standard of proof for the severe measure of denying bond. Frankhauser is a convicted felon, whereas neither of the Steinbergs has a criminal record.

In the Steinbergs’ case, Grimsley’s ruling was based solely on perjured testimony of FBI Special Agent Richard Egan

of Boston, who lied repeatedly that the six “LaRouche” organizations subpoenaed by a Boston grand jury had produced “no” records. (Assistant U.S. Attorney John Markham, on the contrary, stated at the Boston hearing on Oct. 21 that the organizations had turned over “thousands” of records—“It has never been our position that they did not.”)

Egan’s testimony at the Alexandria hearing was based mostly on statements he claimed to have been made by a disgruntled former security consultant to the Steinbergs, Forrest Lee Fick, as well as by Roy Frankhauser. These hearsay statements were the basis for the charge that the Steinbergs obstructed the work of the grand jury. As William Moffit, attorney for the Steinbergs, argued:

“[Mr. Fick and Mr. Frankhauser] are admitted liars. They [the government] didn’t bring either Mr. Fick or Mr. Frankhauser into this courtroom and let me cross-examine either one of them. . . .

“Every piece of evidence of obstruction in this case, every piece of evidence that they refer to regarding the calling of other people and the intimidation of other people, comes from Mr. Fick or Mr. Frankhauser, and it comes from them under circumstances where we are unable to determine—there is no other witness other than Mr. Fick or Mr. Frankhauser.”

At the continuation of the “detention hearing” in Boston, Egan came up with new lies, this time bolstered by NBC-TV journalists on the scene, who were observed huddling with the prosecution, passing notes back and forth, etc. Egan testified that Michele Steinberg had harassed a lawyer for the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) during proceedings in the *LaRouche v. NBC* case in 1984. The “harassment” consisted of searching the woman lawyer’s pocketbook and allegedly following her to the bathroom.

Then Egan accused Mrs. Steinberg of making a threatening phone call to NBC reporter Brian Ross. Egan testified that he had listened to a tape of the call, played over the phone to him, in which the caller said, “We know where you are, we’re watching you, we know where you live.” Egan testified that he was able to identify the voice as that of Mrs. Steinberg by comparing it to a tape of a telephone conversation between Mrs. Steinberg and Jewish terrorist Mordechai Levy.

During cross-examination and summation argument, it was disclosed that Mrs. Steinberg had searched the ADL lawyer’s pocketbook as part of court-approved security procedures during the deposition of Lyndon LaRouche in the NBC case. Egan also admitted that the threatening phone call was recorded on an answering machine, then played on NBC-TV, then recorded on videotape, then played over the telephone—yet Egan claimed to be able to recognize the voice as that of Michele Steinberg!

In fact, the alleged call was broadcast on Brian Ross’s segment on NBC News in January 1984, and was portrayed by Ross at that time as a call made to Baltimore reporter Mark Arax, not to himself.