

Smith, Diano appeal to Church in Rome

On Oct. 22, Lewis du Pont Smith, with his fiancée, Andrea Diano, took his fight for constitutional rights to Rome, where he made a direct appeal to the Vatican to intervene on his behalf with U.S. authorities.

Smith arrived from Paris, where, only a few days after the massive and illegal raid of Oct. 6 by 400 police against businesses of associates of Lyndon LaRouche in Leesburg, Virginia, Smith, an heir to the centuries-old du Pont de Nemours fortune and a LaRouche supporter, denounced the flagrant violations by corrupt American judges of his basic rights. Smith was addressing an Oct. 14 press conference organized by the Schiller Institute in Paris.

"I have become a prisoner in my own country, one of the first 'American dissidents,'" Smith said, after recounting how he was railroaded at the hands of his family and American justice. A court in Chester County, Pennsylvania declared that Lewis Smith, a 29-year-old history professor who had taught at a prestigious private school in Philadelphia, is "mentally incompetent." The sole basis for that judgment was Smith's financial and political support for the controversial LaRouche and his wife, Helga Zepp-LaRouche.

Smith told the Paris press that he had thereby lost the fundamental rights: 1) to administer his fortune and goods; 2) to vote; 3) to finance politicians of his choice, including his cousin Pierre du Pont; and even 4) to marry the woman of his choice, Miss Diano.

In the course of his presentation, he emphasized that those responsible for what he called his "judicial set-up" were also behind the witchhunt against LaRouche.

Du Pont Smith underscored that he does not wish merely to retain his money and reverse his own case. He had traveled to Europe to publicize his case because he wants, above all, to be the voice of all those who, like himself, are attacked specifically for supporting LaRouche. He gave the example of an 82-year-old woman, of perfectly sound mind, whose Philadelphia family is attempting to have a court declare her "mentally incompetent" for exactly the same reason. This, said Smith, is a flagrant, KGB-style violation of the right to free speech.

Ask Vatican to defend rights

According to an Oct. 22 UPI wire, Smith and "his fiancée, Italian-American Andrea Diano" arrived in Rome to "ask help from the Roman Catholic Church . . . and outmaneuver a U.S. court decision [that] the duPont heir is mentally incompetent to handle his financial affairs."

Smith told the conference, attended by UPI and AP wire services, the largest family weekly of Italy, *Oggi*, the economic daily *Ore 12*, and a journalist from the Italian prime minister's office, among others: "This outrageous injustice is more in keeping with the Soviet Union than the United States." He again outlined the legal problems that began when he loaned money to "an organization associated with controversial politician Lyndon LaRouche."

Miss Diano said that the court decision forbids Lewis from marrying her. "This was something I could not believe," she said. "I have been subjected to racism because I am Italian and a Catholic. I am making an appeal to the Church at the highest level so that we can marry. I want Lewis to convert to Catholicism."

Smith followed up: "In the eyes of my family and the Eastern Establishment, I have committed two crimes. I have exercised my God-given constitutional right in two ways my family did not approve. And I have announced the intention to marry the woman I love who is Roman Catholic."

Smith said his father is a cousin of Princess Diana and had gone to London to get advice on how to "trump up this case." E. Newbold Smith also approached Henry Kissinger during the legal dispute with his son, whom he had once told: "If you must marry a Catholic or a Jew, make it a Jew. At least the family stands a chance of passing that off as chic."

At one point, Smith contrasted his family's earlier, patriotic history in France and the United States. He praised some among his ancestors—Pierre du Pont de Nemours and his two sons—who fought at the side of the Americans during the Revolutionary War, among the associates of Lafayette. He denounced the corruption of his family in the 19th century by the Venetian-linked Swiss family of Antoine Cazenove. Du Pont Smith revealed a few of the "secret" sick ideas of this family today, a leading part of the U.S. financial oligarchy: 1) The Episcopal Church is the sole and uniquely sacred church; 2) Catholics are "racially inferior," because "Mediterranean" cultures suffer too much from the heat; 3) Blacks are equally racially inferior, because their skulls are reduced in size.

When the press conference was opened for questions, the first came from an old member of an aristocratic family linked to the Vatican: "It seems to me that a political issue was transformed in a fake issue of mental health. Are there behind this the powerful Freemasonic families that control the international political scene?" After several other questions, some people expressed their best wishes to the couple directly in English, and fervent applause ended the press conference.