
30 Years of Menticide: Part I

From MK-Ultra brainwashing to the American Family Foundation

In 1956, a young Air Force major named Dr. Louis Jolyon West published an article in the *American Journal of Psychiatry* with the unambiguous title, "Brainwashing." Dr. West's credentials in that burgeoning field were impressive. As one of the experimental researchers at the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, he was part of a team of psychiatrists carrying out experiments with LSD-25 and other drugs, under the patronage of the CIA. His most recent claim to fame had been his killing of an elephant with a massive dose of LSD, a feat he reportedly documented with photographs that he carried around with him.

The nature of West's activities back then was known to only a handful of people in the most secret corridors of the U.S. and British governments. For most of his colleagues, West was a medical doctor, working in Oklahoma City at the Veterans Administration hospital and holding consulting positions with the University of Oklahoma and the city government of Oklahoma City. Only 20 years later, when congressional investigators discovered the existence of MK-Ultra and other mind-control projects, would West's actual covert career be revealed. And even then, the story would be far from complete. Today, "Jolly" West is as involved as ever in the covert side of mind control.

At about the same time that Dr. West was stalking elephants in the jungles of Oklahoma, Rabbi Maurice Davis was finishing up a five-year stay in Lexington, Kentucky, where, in addition to running a Reform Jewish congregation, he was a chaplain with the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital for drug addicts. The Addiction Research Center (ARC) at Lexington, run by Dr. Harris Isbell, was at the time one of the main recipients of covert MK-Ultra funds to carry out large-scale brainwashing and mind-control experiments on the captive population. Through his chaplain's post at the facility, Davis was reportedly a key player in the MK-Ultra work that went on at Lexington. According to one of Dr. Isbell's staff doctors, Sherman Kieffer, Davis was a bridge between the community and the hospital wards, where "patients" were treated to heavy doses of drugs, interspersed with electroshock and induced sleep: "Rabbi Davis as chaplain functioned as a representative of the outside world, projecting the outside world as 'warm and caring.'"

One of the "therapeutic" approaches taken by the ARC toward their patients, was the encouragement of participation in cults.

In 1956, Davis was moving on to bigger and better things—a post as chief rabbi at the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, the largest Reform synagogue in the state. His work as a community-based patron of mind-bending cults would continue to grow.

Indianapolis is a city whose social welfare and community health structure is dominated by the Eli Lilly Corporation, which at the time was a key element of the secret MK-Ultra work, providing LSD to the CIA out of its pharmaceutical labs. Davis immediately became a fixture of the "ecumenical activist" community there, becoming an intimate collaborator of the Episcopal Bishop Paul Moore. Moore would later move on to the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, where he would emerge as a major patron of the New Age movement, hosting such outfits as the Lucis Trust, Gaia, and the Temple of Understanding (see *EIR*, Feb. 10, 1989, "The Lucis Trust: Satanism and the new world order").

Jonestown, and other projects

One of the most infamous projects on which Davis and Moore teamed up during their stay in Indianapolis was the sponsorship of the career of cult leader Rev. Jim Jones and his People's Temple. Not only did Davis personally intercede with the city government to have Jones installed on the city's Public Housing Commission; Davis also got Jones his first church building.

Dr. West and Rabbi Davis never abandoned their secret MK-Ultra work. By the mid-1970s, their paths crossed, as both men became fixtures in a nationwide network ostensibly committed to helping families to rescue their children who had been recruited into religious cults. If the 1950s was the decade in which brainwashing was the buzzword in the secret back rooms of the Anglo-American intelligence community, the 1970s was the decade in which brainwashing became a subject of near-soap opera fascination among the general public. Between the 1974 kidnaping and brainwashing of heiress Patty Hearst by the terrorist Symbionese Liberation

Army and the 1978 mass suicides of the People's Temple in Jonestown, Guyana, parents all over America were worrying whether their son or daughter would be next.

In the immediate aftermath of Jonestown, the very medical experimenters, psychiatric shock-troops, and community mental health operators who had crafted the fine art of brainwashing in the 1950s and had fathered the counterculture and the proliferation of irrationalist cults in the 1960s, surfaced a nationwide series of organizations bearing such alluring titles as the American Family Foundation (AFF), the Cult Awareness Network (CAN), Citizens Engaged in Reuniting Families (CERF), and the International Foundation for Individual Freedom (IFIF).

It appears that the same secret government funding conduits that had been used to fuel the MK-Ultra efforts were back at it again, funding the army of erstwhile "anti-cult" networks. Back in the mid-1950s, an Air Force lieutenant colonel named James Monroe, on loan to the CIA, had set up the Society for the Study of Human Ecology in New York City as the principal money conduit for the scores of hospital- and university-based drug experiments conducted under MK-Ultra.

By the 1970s, the money-laundering infrastructure had been built up around a handful of tax exempt "philanthropic" family foundations. When AFF got off the ground in 1979, its principal patrons were the small New York City-based Bodman Foundation and the Scaife Family Foundation. By the early 1980s, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, longtime sponsors of Rabbi Davis, had gotten into the act as well. The Swig Foundation of San Francisco, run by ADL national committeeman Marvin Swig, joined the elite list of AFF contributors.

The Bodman Foundation counted among its small list of recipients some of the key centers of New Age and occult activity, including the Cathedral of St. John the Divine of Bishop Paul Moore, the Temple of Understanding, and the Henry Street Settlement House. Leo Cherne's International Rescue Committee, a longstanding covert arm of the social democratic wing of the CIA, also enjoyed Bodman's largesse.

The Scaife Foundation, run by Richard Mellon Scaife, is another well-known covert conduit of special funds, linked to the Project Democracy apparatus. During the heyday of MK-Ultra, another heir of the Mellon family fortune, Billy Mellon Hitchcock, had been a major funder of LSD experimentation and manufacturing.

License to kidnap

In the post-Jonestown climate, the American Family Foundation, with "Jolly" West on its board of directors, and the Cult Awareness Network, linked to Rabbi Davis, became clearinghouses for a nationwide network of kidnapers, targeting members of what are in some cases genuinely dangerous cults for kidnappings and brainwashing. The fact that these dangerous cults, such as the Unification Church, Scientology, and EST, were all outgrowths of MK-Ultra and related

covert projects, underscores the point that the "anti-cult" networks were a continuation of the very same experiments.

AFF and CAN adopted the euphemistic term "deprogramming" to describe their activities. Ironically, the term "deprogramming" likely derives from one of the most primitive and brutal forms of brainwashing developed under the MK-Ultra funding umbrella, "depatterning."

Developed at the Allan Memorial Institute in Montreal, Canada by Dr. Ewen Cameron, an intimate collaborator of Tavistock Institute brainwashers Dr. John Rawlings Rees and Dr. William Sargant, "depatterning" initially involved the use of drugs, sleep therapy, electro-convulsive shock treatments, and sensory deprivation torture to break patients of their behavior patterns and beliefs. Cameron's efforts were so heavy-handed and so incompetent that the CIA wound up paying out millions of dollars to victims of his "depatterning" lab to cover up the full horror story. Other more "reasonable" brainwashers, like Sargant, argued in books bearing such titles as *Battle for the Mind* and *The Mind Possessed*, that the same results could be achieved by replicating the process of religious conversions—without having to get into the kinds of heavy drug and electro-shock techniques that have only limited applications in an institutional setting.

To prove that point, under AFF and CAN, armies of kidnapers were sent out into the field to profile both the distraught parents and the cult recruits. Operating under what one longtime deprogrammer characterized as a "license to kidnap" from witting local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, these kidnaping teams operated with impunity from coast to coast throughout much of the 1980s.

Given this new phase of the covert mind control war, a certain degree of operational control apparently was shifted from the CIA to the FBI. The FBI's Training Academy at Quantico, Virginia established a fulltime staff of behavioral scientists. And at the nearby University of Virginia, an Institute of Law, Psychiatry, and Public Policy began receiving funds of the Criminal Justice Institute, to set up as a reservoir of professional forensic psychiatric personnel, many veterans of the MK-Ultra wars (see article, page 64, for the story of how this institute figures in an attempt to subject Michael Billington, an associate of Lyndon LaRouche who is currently on trial in Virginia as a political dissident, to Soviet-style psychiatric abuses).

Up until last year, Dr. Park Elliot Deitz, formerly of the MK-Ultra-linked Maclean Hospital and the Bridgewater State Institution for the Criminally Insane in Massachusetts, was the chief guru at the institute. Deitz was apparently a liaison between the FBI and the CAN and AFF. In at least one instance, CAN-sponsored kidnaper-deprogrammer Ken Connor was deployed through Deitz in an arm's-length operation run for Quantico.

Part II will take up the question of why the American Family Foundation really hates LaRouche, and how it has deployed against his political movement.