

Heir wants Du Pont to boycott Russia

Lewis du Pont Smith, an heir of the du Pont family and a supporter of the policies of Lyndon LaRouche, announced April 6 that he was launching a stockholder's initiative to force his family's firm, E.I. Du Pont de Nemours and Co., Inc., to suspend "all economic and financial activity" with the Soviet Union until the Soviets recognize the sovereign rights of the Republic of Lithuania and withdraw their troops from Lithuanian territory. The initiative will be launched at the April 25 annual company meeting.

Smith's announcement, on the steps of the West Chester County, Pennsylvania, courthouse where Judge Lawrence Wood declared Smith mentally incompetent in 1985 because of his political support for LaRouche, coincided with his announcement of an independent bid for the U.S. Congress from the 5th District of Pennsylvania.

Smith elaborated on his demands to the company board of directors at the National Press Club in Washington on April 10. Continued trade in the face of the Soviets' brutal tactics in Lithuania "flies in the face of the traditional commitment to freedom and national sovereignty which gave birth to the company in the 19th century," he said, noting the firm conducted over \$250 million worth of trade with the Soviet Union in 1989.

Smith demanded that the firm also launch a public relations and lobbying effort to ensure that the U.S. immediately recognize the sovereignty of Lithuania.

Smith also demanded that the company triple its approximately \$30 million of humanitarian outlays that it made last year and deliver a \$100 million aid package President Vytautas Landsbergis for the people of Lithuania.

Smith challenges Bronfman

Smith personally challenged Edgar and Charles Bronfman, the brothers who sit on the board and whose Seagrams Ltd. owns 25% of Du Pont stock. He challenged Edgar, who works closely with Gorbachov, to use his personal connection to force a shift in Soviet policy. Smith warned that if Bronfman and the company do not back this initiative, it will signify that they "recognize the Hitler-Stalin Pact as valid, and still in force."

Twelve reporters attended National Press Club briefing including Gannett News Service, Federal News Service, KYW all-news radio of Philadelphia, Radio Marti, Voice of America, the Spanish news agency EFE, States News Service, CBS radio, a Turkish daily newspaper with a circulation of 350,000, AP photo, the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*,

Agence France Presse, and NBC radio. Smith also gave interviews to Reuters, ABC News, NBC News, and to all the papers and four radio stations in his district.

Press questions ranged from his court challenge to restore his constitutional rights, to questions about LaRouche, the implications of his information on the financial collapse, whether his latest initiative will succeed, and whether he had discussed it with his family and other stockholders. The Turkish reporter, who remarked that LaRouche is highly regarded in Turkey, asked what Smith thought about Du Pont opening trade with Azerbaijan. Agence France Presse wanted to know why he focused on Lithuania, and not also Latvia and Estonia.

Smith endorsed LaRouche's congressional campaign statement "The Lesson of Appeasing Hitler was World War II," saying that LaRouche is the only statesman in the West to insist upon the sovereignty of Lithuania. Smith stressed that the only solution for all of these crises is the "European Triangle" program of LaRouche and outlined the role he foresaw of the Du Pont Co. in that context. This is the proper focus of the tradition of Du Pont, he said.

Smith outlined his campaign platform for a return to "competence in economic policymaking"; to effect judicial reform and restoration of the rule of law including his own constitutional rights, especially his right to "put his money where his mouth is"; and his campaign motto, "Rebellion against tyranny is obedience to God." Smith called for the immediate recognition of Lithuania, and the dispatch of an ambassador; repudiation of the Hitler-Stalin Pact; and the release of the 5,000 pages of exculpatory documents by Bush, which would free the jailed LaRouche. He said that as long as the Hitler-Stalin Pact stands, in effect there is no international law. The behavior of the United States in failing to recognize Lithuania is symptomatic of the collapse of law, he added.

In Delaware, the *Wilmington News Journal* ran an article in its second section headlined, "Du Pont wants company to drop Soviet Business." It reported in its coverage that Smith is a major company stockholder.

Soviet representatives reacted sharply to Smith's action. "Yes, I know about the du Pont heir's press conference yesterday. It's reminiscent of the Cold War," Vitali Verzhbitsky, the Third Secretary of the Soviet Embassy in Washington who handles trade matters, told *EIR* at a conference entitled "On Doing Business in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union" co-sponsored by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Department of Commerce. "It's a dangerous precedent," Verzhbitsky said. "Lithuania is an internal affair. I hope no one else follows it. Du Pont's been doing business in the U.S.S.R. for a long time, since the days of Lenin."

Robert N. Ruzanov, Trade Representative of the U.S.S.R., responded similarly and stressed that Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze had told Secretary of State James Baker not to meddle in Soviet internal affairs.