

'LaRouche' trial in Roanoke got out some of the truth about the ADL

by Nancy Spannaus

The Roanoke revelations began with a judge, Virginia Circuit Court Judge Clifford R. Weckstein. Having learned that Weckstein was a beneficiary and colleague of Murray Janus—national commissioner of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and a leader in the national "Get LaRouche" task force—friends of LaRouche associates on trial in Weckstein's court put out tens of thousands of leaflets on this blatant corruption of a presiding judge. They hit the bull's eye!

On April 12, when Weckstein had to respond to a defense motion to recuse himself from the case because of the animus he showed by, among other things, giving LaRouche associate Michael Billington a 77-year sentence for alleged "crimes" which would have gotten Ivan Boesky a 5¢ fine, Weckstein felt compelled to make some disclosures: He released letters he had received from, and sent to, the ADL!

This was only the beginning of a whole series of letters—nine in all, which were presented to the defense in the trial of LaRouche associate Richard Welsh. It finally came out that Weckstein himself had initiated the correspondence. And, most revealing, one letter included an official ADL resolution seeking to get the Commonwealth of Virginia to appoint a Jewish judge to the state supreme court. Right there in black and white, the ADL was attempting to bribe Judge Weckstein, who is Jewish!

But even though on May 25 Weckstein closed hearings on the ADL's involvement in government prosecutorial misconduct by dismissing the defense's evidence as "moonbeams" and "stardust," the issue is still far from settled. Judge Weckstein had refused to recuse himself, at the end of two pre-trial hearings in which the ADL was center-stage. He and the Department of Justice refused to acknowledge that the ADL carried out a crime by attempting to influence, or bribe, a judge.

Round one

The first pre-trial hearing was a so-called Kastigar hearing, dedicated to showing that prosecution of Welsh would violate his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination, since he had been compelled to appear as an immunized witness in several previous trials. What came out of this hearing, was that none other than the ADL served as the transmission belt by which members of every "Get LaRouche" prosecution team across the country were both

plied with anti-LaRouche propaganda, and filled in on what had happened in other courtrooms in the so-called LaRouche cases.

The individual representing the ADL was one Mira Lansky Boland, a member of the staff who worked under Fact-Finding Division head Irwin Suall. Boland had begun appearing around the "Get LaRouche" prosecution task force in the aborted Boston federal "credit card fraud" case against LaRouche and associates in 1988. At the Roanoke hearing, through the course of examination of federal and state prosecutors and investigators, it was proven many times over that they had all been in regular and continuous contact with Boland for years. Boland had provided them with reviews of other cases, abstracts of testimony, and even witnesses for their use. In the case of the local officials in Loudoun County, Virginia, where LaRouche resides, she provided the first "information" about LaRouche "illegal activities" they ever received.

Yet, despite five days of hearings along these lines, Judge Weckstein did not force Boland, who had apparently fled the country in order to avoid his subpoena, to appear as a witness. And despite full documentation of how the prosecution had been thoroughly polluted by the ADL's renditions of Welsh's immunized testimony, Weckstein ordered that the trial should go ahead.

Round two

At that point, Welsh decided to make a plea agreement with the prosecution. He made an "Alford plea" to a felony (securities fraud)—a plea which states that he believes the evidence will lead to a conviction, despite his belief that he is innocent—and to three misdemeanors. The plea was conditional, however, on his getting a 7- to 10-day hearing on another motion to dismiss the charges, this one stating that he was the victim of selective, and vindictive, and bad faith prosecution. He also preserved his rights to appeal the conviction, should the motion be denied and the plea go ahead.

Thus on May 14 began a hearing in which the defense sought to prove that the prosecution was selective, vindictive, and in bad faith. In the course of the next seven days of proceedings, the defense put on at least a dozen witnesses to demonstrate that the government had acted against LaRouche

and his associates because of political animus stirred up by the ADL and other individuals opposed to their policies, rather than because of any evidence of violation of law.

The testimony provided the following shocking information about ADL activities:

- Virginia State Corporation Commissioners relied upon venomous ADL brochures, among other “information,” in putting together their case against LaRouche associates.

- The ADL had coached witnesses against LaRouche—in one case having at least two dozen conversations with a witness.

- The ADL had actively recruited witnesses against LaRouche associates, and in one case actually introduced the so-called victim to a law enforcement official in ADL official Mira Boland’s office.

- The ADL had been involved in instigating attempted extortion by the family of a contributor to LaRouche’s political cause, in collaboration with Virginia state police investigator C.D. Bryant.

- The chief ADL case officer against LaRouche, Mira Boland, was so integrated into the prosecution that she was the only non-government official who attended the “victory party” of the government after the LaRouche’s December 1988 “railroad” conviction in Alexandria, Virginia.

The revolving door

The two witnesses who gave the most new evidence on operations against LaRouche, were Boland herself, and Richard Morris, an aide to former National Security Adviser William Clark. They were supplemented by extensive testimony by LaRouche himself, who told of his political campaigns, and the counter-operations which he encountered.

Boland’s most revealing statement concerned her history. She acknowledged that in 1978 and 1979, she had been an agent of the Central Intelligence Agency. Following that, she worked as a subcontractor for the Defense Department’s Office of Net Assessment, an office run by Albert Wohlstetter, a bitter foe of LaRouche and the LaRouche-authored Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) policy adopted by President Reagan in 1983. Boland went to work for the Anti-Defamation League in December 1982—just as the multi-agency “Get LaRouche” strike force was about to be authorized through the President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (PFIAB).

She also admitted that she knew Roy Godson, a staffer for the National Security Council, whom she met at a meeting sponsored by Project Democracy organizer Walter Raymond in the spring of 1983. That meeting, held at the home of New York financier John Train, pulled together an array of intelligence operatives and ADL stringers in the media, and organized the international slander campaign against LaRouche. This media assault was conceived to lead directly to the federal prosecutions.

As the individual in charge of the anti-LaRouche efforts,

Boland wrote articles for the *ADL Bulletin*, in which she not only took credit for successful prosecutions, but also declared, after the Alexandria case, that the next step was to stop outright financial contributions to all entities associated with LaRouche’s philosophy—including the legal defense fund which has paid attorneys’ fees in LaRouche cases.

Boland followed through on her intentions, through her direct involvement in soliciting suits by contributors in Illinois and Pennsylvania. In these cases—of the elderly supporters Harriet Driver, Elmer Yoder, and Helen Overington—there is evidence that Boland was involved in applying extraordinary pressure, and the form of brainwashing called deprogramming, in order to “change the mind” of the contributor.

The testimony of Richard Morris added a new aspect to the picture of operations against LaRouche. After identifying the contributions which LaRouche and his associates made by providing intelligence to the National Security Council on the SDI and economic policy, Morris was asked to identify any persons who objected to this input. He identified three individuals—Roy Godson, Walter Raymond, and Kenneth DeGraffenreid. Morris noted that LaRouche’s input was against the Contra policy, which Raymond, as head of the Project Democracy operation, was handling. He also remarked that Godson called LaRouche everything from a communist to a fascist, in order to argue that his input should not be heard. No evidence for any of his charges ever appeared in writing, Morris said in response to a question.

The government is corrupted by the ADL

Now there is nothing wrong, of course, with a fair political fight. If the ADL, Project Democracy, PFIAB, or the Socialist International chose to debate with LaRouche or his associates on various elements of foreign or economic policy, that would be fair indeed.

But the reality is, these agencies have chosen instead to hide behind and use other institutions—government institutions—in order to try to destroy LaRouche and the political ideas for which he stands. They have spread lies in the media and defamed him and his associates through contacts with prosecutorial agencies. They have instigated secret, *ex parte* court proceedings, and have launched secret national security investigations, all on the basis of their desire to destroy. They have threatened judges and lied to potential witnesses. They have effectively corrupted whole sections of government, who have worked with them in this effort.

It is time that this corruption came to an end. Back in the spring of 1988, Boston federal Judge Robert Keeton ordered a search of then-Vice President George Bush’s files, for material exculpatory to LaRouche and his associates. Bush never had to comply. Now the cry must be made to carry all the way into Bush’s White House: Open up the files of the government on LaRouche, and let the world see who is guilty of corruption.