

Editorial

The tyranny of the media

The U.S. Constitution guarantees freedom of speech and freedom of the press. Of course, these freedoms were not intended to give cover to malicious libels or slanders, but to assure that all citizens would be able to fully inform themselves on public issues, and to take part in public dialogue. Thus the founders hoped to preserve the vitality of the democratic republic which they had created, by rewarding the pursuit of *truthfulness*.

Today the press has by and large been commanded to serve precisely the opposite purpose. It is not merely that newspapers, radio, and television serve as the vehicle for libels and slanders. Today the mass media are a vehicle for applying the methods of psychological warfare against their own people, in a manner pioneered by the Soviet KGB.

While this perversion is most extreme in the United States, in the recent British election campaign, managers openly admitted that the three contending candidates for the Conservative, Liberal-Democratic, and Labour parties were being packaged to sell, that the creation of image rather than substantive discussion of issues was their strategy. The idea is to play upon voters' irrational emotions, rather than to foster a reasoned consideration of ideas.

In the U.S., the media campaign against Lyndon LaRouche is another example of the same methods. Not only do the media deny him a fair hearing, but most mentions of him in the press or on radio and television are carefully scripted, down to preceding his name by the epithet, "political extremist." In France, a country where falsehood alone used to be sufficient grounds for a successful libel suit, the media appear headed in the same direction.

On April 24, the head of the left-wing Radio Lucrèce, one Claude Palmer, broadcast an hour-long attack against the European Labor Party (POE) a French political party known for its defense of the policies and person of Lyndon H. LaRouche, and a German co-thinker group, known by its acronym EAP. The French broadcast may even have been intended to incite violence against members of the EAP by the terrorist Red

Army Faction, by inventing the fantastic lie that the party may have ties to Bavarian medical and scientific circles close to the infamous Nazi doctor Mengele.

Palmer is a well-known leftist, and his tirade was intended to inflame and confuse working people and members of minority populations living in France. The explicit theme of his show was that associates of LaRouche should be banned from the French airwaves.

Fortunately, there are some journalists in France who remember the proud traditions of their nation and the real meaning of freedom of speech and the press, which is to seek the *truth*. Thus, four days later, on April 28, the head of Radio Paris, Dennis Clerc, aired a half-hour editorial statement in defense of his right to interview LaRouche's leading spokesman in France, Jacques Cheminade, and Cheminade's associates.

Clerc stated on the air that Palmer had given him a copy of his anti-LaRouche dossier, but that he, Clerc, did not find it to be convincing. He went on to announce that Radio Paris would host a 90-minute interview with Cheminade on April 29.

An even more grotesque instance of slander cropped up recently in Germany, in the pages of the *Wiesbadener Kurier*, in the form of an attack on world-renowned violinist Norbert Brainin for a concert given last Jan. 26, which at the time was favorably reviewed in the same newspaper. Dr. Brainin was attacked for performing at a concert hosted by the Academy for Humanist Studies and demonstrating the C-256 tuning advocated by LaRouche and his associates, who, according to the article, are tainted with "Nazi" ties. As Dr. Brainin pointed out in a letter to the newspaper, these lies are especially preposterous and offensive, in view of the fact that he himself was a Jewish victim of Nazi persecution, forced to flee Austria at the age of 15.

We must guard the hard-fought right to a free press, but we must also oppose those who would cynically use the media as an instrument for brainwashing people to accept a one-world, fascist tyranny. One way in which *you* can directly engage in this fight, is to help us to expand the circulation of *EIR*.