

## ADL facing grand jury probe and a new civil suit

by Jeffrey Steinberg

The year-long probe of illegal spying by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) is now before a San Francisco grand jury. For the first time in the investigation, in anticipation of possible felony indictments, the scandal is grabbing nationwide headlines.

On Oct. 19, the *Washington Post* published a front-page story on the ADL spy scandal, the first time that any major daily newspaper outside of California has given prominent coverage to the ADL's illegal spy operation. The *Washington Post* reported that the ADL has been "waging an aggressive public relations campaign" to block any media coverage of the San Francisco spy probe. One week later, the NBC News broadcast "Dateline" devoted 15 minutes to an interview with one of the prominent players in the ADL spy ring, Roy Bullock. The NBC story highlighted Bullock's spying for hire on anti-apartheid organizations on behalf of both the ADL and the South African government.

On Nov. 9, the first ADL official, Sue Leroy, will be grilled by a grand jury convened by San Francisco Assistant District Attorney John Dwyer. Leroy is the personal secretary to ADL San Francisco regional director Richard Hirschhaut, who has also been subpoenaed to appear before the grand jury on Nov. 16, according to the *San Francisco Examiner*.

### Felony indictments expected

The decision to convene a grand jury signifies that San Francisco authorities are preparing to hand down felony indictments—unless the ADL agrees to a pleading that would involve a permanent injunction and the public release of thousands of dossiers on American citizens and political groups seized from ADL offices on the West Coast last December and April. ADL officials have admitted that the disclosure of the spy files would bolster civil suits against them that carry tens of millions of dollars in potential fines. One

such civil suit, a California class action suit, was filed last May by former Rep. Paul N. McCloskey (R-Calif.), and is already in the discovery stages. A federal civil rights action was also filed against the ADL on Oct. 21 by a dozen political organizations and seven individuals, including former Rep. Mervyn Dymally (D-Calif.) and former Los Angeles City Councilman Robert Farrell.

Under California law, a district attorney is not required to present a case to a grand jury before handing down a criminal complaint, because all felony defendants are guaranteed a pre-trial evidentiary hearing at which the government presents its evidence. In this case, one defendant, former San Francisco Police Inspector Tom Gerard, was already indicted last May without a grand jury. The purpose of presenting the evidence to a grand jury now is to lend greater weight to the charges, given the political clout of the ADL and its massive effort to arm-twist prosecutors into dropping the case.

In the raids on ADL offices in San Francisco and Los Angeles and on the homes of Bullock and Gerard, San Francisco police seized documents showing that the ADL was illegally accessing confidential police computers, Department of Motor Vehicle files, FBI internal documents, and even data from Israeli intelligence services on thousands of American citizens. Some 950 political, religious, labor, and ethnic organizations were being spied upon by a nationwide network of ADL undercover "fact-finders," rivaling the "enemies list" operations of Joe McCarthy and President Richard Nixon.

Many prominent Jewish activists who support a peaceful solution in the Middle East found themselves targeted by ADL dirty tricksters, who gathered confidential data, conducted financial warfare, and even instigated violence. One group, the Los Angeles Simon Wiesenthal Center, was a

target of ADL dirty tricks aimed at getting members of the White Aryan Resistance to physically attack and possibly even murder staff researcher Rick Eaton. The two ADL "fact-finders" involved in that effort were David Gurvitz and Bullock.

Although Gurvitz was fired when the FBI came to the ADL with evidence of the plot, top ADL officials, including national fact-finding director Irwin Suall, Hirschhaut, and Los Angeles regional director David Lehrer, threatened to quit if Bullock were dumped. Suall wrote a memorandum praising Bullock as "our best investigator." In his interview with NBC, Bullock acknowledged that he is still on the ADL payroll, receiving a weekly paycheck for \$550.

Those paychecks could be yet another source of legal problems for the League. The San Francisco district attorney has acknowledged that the ADL could be prosecuted on 48 separate felony counts of tax evasion for having hidden Bullock's employment by laundering his salary through a dummy bank account managed by Bruce Hochman, a Los Angeles tax lawyer and an ADL regional president.

Sources close to the ADL say that there are other ADL operatives paid through similar laundering schemes. One such operator, James Rosenberg, has been an ADL infiltrator inside radical right-wing movements since the mid-1970s. Using the name "James Mitchell," Rosenberg is currently parading himself as the leader of a white supremacist group called the National Front of America, formerly known as the Catholic Defense League. Rosenberg had penetrated so deeply into the radical right that his name reportedly appeared in Gerard and Bullock's computer files, and he was alerted by the San Francisco Police Commission that he had been a victim of ADL espionage.

### Poetic justice

In 1984-85, the ADL played a prominent role in soliciting smears against economist and then presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche by both NBC News and the *Washington Post*. The slanders were part of a broader concert of action involving the ADL, Henry Kissinger, the FBI, and some officials of the Reagan national security apparatus who pushed through phony criminal prosecutions against LaRouche and scores of associates. After a series of NBC News slanders, LaRouche filed a federal libel suit against the network and the ADL in 1984, naming Suall and NBC reporter Brian Ross among the defendants.

Ironically, it was Brian Ross who conducted the interview with Bullock for the Oct. 26 "Dateline" broadcast. Ross pilloried Bullock for spying on honest American citizens simply because they were Arab-Americans or opposed the inhuman apartheid policies of the South African government. He interviewed Israeli peace activist Yigal Ahrens, son of a former Likud Israeli defense minister, who was a victim of ADL spying and who is now suing Bullock and the ADL. "Dateline" host Jane Pauley admitted that the ADL had been a source to NBC News in the past.

The *Washington Post* story of Oct. 19 was even more damning. It detailed the role of ADL Washington, D.C. fact-finder Mira Lansky Boland in the efforts to railroad LaRouche to prison. Boland led an ADL junket of law enforcement officers to Israel in May 1991, involving Gerard and Loudoun County, Virginia Sheriff's Lt. Donald Moore. Moore was indicted last year for conspiracy to kidnap long-time LaRouche associates Lewis du Pont Smith and his wife Andrea. Although acquitted on that charge, Moore is now facing indictment in another kidnapping. The *Washington Post* detailed the collusion of Boland and Moore in illegally gathering data on LaRouche, and it described Boland as "widely known among police as a source of reliable tips, sometimes from 'snitches' who infiltrate hate groups."

According to sources close to the San Francisco probe, in September police sent letters out to 30 police and sheriffs' departments across the country informing them that their classified files had been found at the ADL offices on the West Coast and inviting them to review the material for possible criminal investigations.

The ADL was also faced with a Nov. 1 deadline to submit documents to the Virginia State Corporation Commission to defend its right to continue operating in the state. The commission opened a probe of the ADL in response to a complaint filed by Norfolk-area civil rights leader Roy Perry. Perry sent a complaint to the commission in August on the basis of the San Francisco spy revelations and the evidence of Moore's collusion with the ADL in the kidnapping plot against the Smiths.

### New civil action

A second civil suit was filed against the League on Oct. 21 in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles. Filed by a wide range of political groups led by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, the National Association of Arab-Americans, the International Jewish Peace Union, the National Conference of Black Lawyers, the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, and the American Indian Movement, Colorado, the suit charges the ADL, Suall, and Bullock with violating the civil rights of the plaintiffs.

At a press conference in Los Angeles the day the suit was filed, former Congressman Dymally expressed shock and outrage that he was a target of ADL spying, pointing out that he, along with the late civil rights activist Bayard Rustin, had been criticized by many black leaders for their strong pro-Israel public stances. Dymally landed on the ADL "enemies list" by hosting a delegation of anti-apartheid activists.

American Indian Movement leader Russell Means charged that the ADL had taken over the FBI's Cointelpro dirty tricks program after congressional investigations forced the Bureau to formally shut down the program in 1977. Means told how the ADL had sued an Indian rights group, the American Indian Anti-Defamation League, for copyright infringements and successfully bankrupted the group.