
The 'Get LaRouche' Task Force

How the New York Times jumped into bed with Roy Cohn

by Jeffrey Steinberg

In the spring-summer of 1979, for the second time in five years, the *New York Times* was preparing a major slander against Lyndon LaRouche, in league with corrupt elements inside the U.S. Department of Justice and the FBI. But, unlike in January 1974, when the *Times* published a front-page smear against LaRouche, to divert attention from a failed FBI assassination plot against the New York City-based economist and political activist, utilizing FBI assets inside the leadership of the Communist Party U.S.A., the 1979 scheme was "spiked," when LaRouche security personnel caught two *Times* reporters red-handed, and then exposed the whole sordid affair.

Caught in the act of attempting to foist an illegal Justice Department frame-up of LaRouche, the *Times* turned to New York City mob lawyer Roy Cohn, the "bosom buddy" of Sen. Joe McCarthy, who immediately activated a campaign of slanders and violence against LaRouche and his political associates, which drew upon the resources of organized crime, the terrorist Jewish Defense League, the drug-trafficking Yippies (later implicated in an assassination plot against President Ronald Reagan), the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL), the East Side Conservative Club, and other riff-raff.

The *New York Times* collusion with Cohn flew in the face of all popular misconceptions that the "respectable" folks at New York's "newspaper of record" don't mess around with ultra-rightist gutter snipes such as Cohn.

The events of the summer and autumn of 1979 demonstrated, definitively, that, when the London-Wall Street crowd placed LaRouche on their enemies list, Roy Cohn was one of the first people they turned to, to "take care of business."

A 'spiked' operation

In the spring of 1979, LaRouche was preparing for his second campaign for the U.S. Presidency. He had gained increasing international prominence in the mid- to late-1970s, when his proposals for a new, gold-based world monetary system, to replace the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, had won broad interest among developing sector na-

tions, and among some leading European industrialists and bankers. By 1975, he was moving up to the top of then-Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's personal hate-list. LaRouche's efforts to expose the dangers of the Jimmy Carter Trilateral Commission-run Presidency had, additionally, catalyzed resistance among traditional "FDR" Democrats to the Carter-Mondale lunacy; and LaRouche was soon to be asked to join the Democratic Party and campaign against Carter for the 1980 nomination.

Against this backdrop, the editors and publishers of the *New York Times*, in league with top officials of the Carter Justice Department, and such Congressional figures as the ADL's Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman (D-N.Y.), had decided to launch a new slander campaign against LaRouche, aimed at instigating a criminal frame-up. The botched FBI-CPUSA assassination attempt in late 1973, and a second failed effort to physically eliminate LaRouche in West Germany in 1977, had prompted LaRouche's most die-hard enemies to, for the time being, opt for a judicial railroad, rather than outright murder.

LaRouche associates learned of the ongoing *Times* effort in June 1979, after a former LaRouche colleague was approached by reporters Howard Blum and Paul Montgomery. LaRouche security chief Paul Goldstein arranged for a staff researcher to make a pretext call to the two *Times* reporters, posing as a disgruntled LaRouche associate thinking about "defecting." To sweeten the bait, the would-be defector promised to deliver a second man, a National Committee member of LaRouche's U.S. Labor Party, to the *Times*.

The *Times* reporters bit on the story, and on July 23, 1979, Blum and Montgomery met with two LaRouche "defectors," Goldstein and Charles Tate, at a New York City restaurant. Unbeknownst to the two *Times* reporters, the conversation was being taped, and the meeting photographed.

During the lunch, Blum and Montgomery acknowledged that the bulk of their phony story had already been written, and that the objective was to foster a Justice Department probe of the LaRouche movement. All they needed to finish off the smear-job were some quotes alleging criminal misconduct.



Roy Cohn receives an Israeli bond at a ceremony in New York City in 1983, co-sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. Left to right: George Steinbrenner, owner of the New York Yankees; Kurt Quinton, vice president of the Bank Leumi Trust Co.; Sen. Al D'Amato (R-N.Y.); Cohn; Stephen Sobel, managing partner of Stephen I. Sobel and Co.

Representative Holtzman had already vowed to use the *Times* smear as a pretext for staging hearings in the House Judiciary Committee, to further build the drum-beat for a “legal” assault against LaRouche.

When one of the undercover LaRouche operators feigned concern over his safety, Blum assured him that “arrangements” could be made to have the two would-be defectors placed in Justice Department protective custody. “When the *New York Times* calls,” Blum boasted, “the Justice Department listens.”

After several days of further discussion over the telephone, in which additional incriminating evidence against the *Times* was assembled, the LaRouche investigative team terminated the operation, and held simultaneous press conferences in New York City and Washington, D.C. on July 27, 1979, exposing the plot. Audio-tapes and transcripts of the conversations were released, and blow-up photographs of the July 23 lunch meeting displayed.

The Times turns to Cohn

With its frame-up operation blown, the *Times* turned to Roy Cohn to recycle the unpublishable Blum-Montgomery slander through a “plausibly deniable”—and litigation-proof—tabloid. Cohn deployed a convicted felon in his stable of crooks, Ed Kayatt, who ran a weekly throw-away paper, *Our Town*, distributed gratis on the East Side of Manhattan. Cohn was the attorney for *Our Town*, which was reputed to

serve the interests of the mob. The paper had been underwritten by John Loeb, Jr., the brother-in-law of ADL bigshot, LaRouche-hater, and Seagram’s magnate Edgar Bronfman.

On Aug. 22, 1979, *Our Town* came out with the first of a 13-part slander series on LaRouche, published under the by-line of Dennis King. King, an accused plagiarist and low-level informant and provocateur on the payroll of the ADL, had reportedly been given the *Times* investigative file; access to ADL data, which was based on at least five years of League dirty tricks against LaRouche; and broad license to slander.

During the months leading up to the *Times-Our Town* affair, the ADL’s general counsel, Justin Finger, had solicited the cooperation of FBI Director William Webster, a Carter appointee, in the “Get LaRouche” drive. Finger indiscreetly boasted—on tape—to another LaRouche undercover investigator, that Webster had agreed to fully cooperate with the ADL campaign. When a formal complaint was filed by LaRouche attorneys against the FBI director, Judge Webster denied the charges, but admitted that he had met with Finger and an ADL delegation.

The first of the *Our Town* slanders was titled “Nazis on the Rise,” and it was accompanied by two other articles, provocatively titled, “Why LaRouche Is a Threat to American Jews,” and “CIA Linked to Nazis.”

On Oct. 7 and 8, 1979, the *New York Times* ran front-page articles “reporting” on the ongoing *Our Town* slander series. The authors of the *Times* “reportage”? Howard Blum and



Roy Cohn's flunky Dennis King (inset) leads a demonstration outside the New York headquarters of Campaigner Publications, LaRouche's publisher, in 1979. In October 1980, after King went on WBAI radio with an incendiary attack against LaRouche, the threat shown here was found painted in front of Campaigner's offices. The NCLC, or National Caucus of Labor Committees, is the philosophical association founded by LaRouche.



Paul Montgomery.

On Oct. 8, 1979, the *Times* also published a lead editorial, "The Cult of LaRouche," which, after summarizing the Blum-Montgomery-King trash, concluded: "Fortunately, America's prized permissiveness has its limits. How the U.S. Labor Party trains militarily, deals with the tax laws and treats its members and alumni seem to be subjects for official inquiry. The party needs to be examined . . . for what it does beyond soliciting votes."

The loop had been sealed. The bed-sharing between the *New York Times* and America's most notorious and hated pervert, Roy Cohn, was a matter of public record.

Triggering murderous attacks

As the *Our Town* series was spread around New York City, the ADL, the FBI, and Cohn were busy soliciting violence against LaRouche and his associates. In late 1979, a "demonstration" was staged outside the mid-Manhattan offices of Campaigner Publications, LaRouche's publisher. Dennis King led a mob, made up of Jewish Defense League members, Yuppies, and a few stray Jewish War Veterans on Cohn's payroll. The building was vandalized, and New York City police had to be called out to prevent a full-scale riot.

A few weeks later, a team of Jewish Defense League would-be assassins, armed with hand-guns equipped with silencers, attempted to break into LaRouche's apartment in the Riverdale section of the Bronx. LaRouche was traveling at the time.

The pattern of violence against LaRouche and associates emanating from the Cohn syndicate continued for several years. By August 1982, Kissinger began to personally devote a tremendous amount of energy to the frame-up drive against LaRouche, obtaining a greater commitment from FBI Director Webster to wipe out the LaRouche movement.

Even after LaRouche was, ultimately, railroaded into federal prison, in January 1989, the Cohn-ADL-King effort was not terminated (Cohn, however, had meanwhile died of AIDS in 1986). In 1989, Doubleday, a subsidiary of the German publishing company Berthelsman (owned by a longtime Kissinger friend), published a book by Dennis King, *Lyndon LaRouche and the New American Fascism*. It was a rewrite and update of the original 1979 *Our Town* stories, but even more absurdly embellished to fill out 401 pages of agonizing, fictional text.

The book was a flop, selling only a small number of copies, despite published reviews in many of the country's "newspapers of record," including the *Times*. However, the publisher has "inexplicably" kept the book in circulation. Anonymous buyers of bulk orders have peddled the book to libraries all across America, insuring that anyone seeking to learn about LaRouche, will invariably run across the King-Cohn smear. Still, to this day, copies of the King book find their way into the offices of congressmen, cabinet officials, and other Washington prominent. In almost every case, the recipients of the filth have no idea that they are brushing up against the moldy remains of Roy Cohn.