

## Ramsey Clark: 'This case is number one'

*Public hearings were convened on Aug. 31 and Sept. 1, 1995, in Vienna, Virginia, by an independent commission to investigate allegations of gross misconduct by the U.S. Department of Justice. The following are excerpts from the testimony before the commission of former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who represented Lyndon LaRouche in his appeal.*

I'll start and end with the case of Lyndon LaRouche and his co-defendants, not because it's the Alpha and Omega—although it's about as close as a case gets to the potential perfdy of justice—but because it shows how bad it can be, and yet, it has, as so very, very few of these cases ever do, a positive side that we have to consider. . . .

I had followed the earlier case in Boston, which, by any measure, was an extremely peculiar case, both in its charges and its prosecution, and in its history. I knew the judge there as a fellow Texan, and his brother, Page Keeton, had been dean of the law school where I started out, down at the University of Texas. The Boston judge is one of the old school, that doesn't like tricks, falsity, or injustice, and he became outraged with the prosecution, and did a lot. I can't tell you he did all that a judge could have done. I believe [LaRouche's attorney] Odin [Anderson] would agree, though, he did a lot. And not many judges, who come through a political conditioning and process, have the courage to stand up to the power of the Executive branch, to the FBI and others, and say the things that he did. And that was almost an early end to a malicious prosecution.

But in what was a complex and pervasive utilization of law enforcement, prosecution, media, and non-governmental organizations focussed on destroying an enemy, this case must be number one. There are some, where the government itself may have done more and more wrongfully over a period of time; but the very networking and combination of federal, state, and local agencies, of Executive and even some Legislative and Judicial branches, of major media and minor local media, and of influential lobbyist types, the ADL preeminently, this case takes the prize.

The purpose can only be seen as destroying—more than a political movement, more than a political figure—it *is* those two; but it's a fertile engine of ideas, a common purpose of thinking and studying and analyzing to solve problems, regardless of the impact on the status quo, or on vested interests. It was a deliberate purpose to destroy that at any cost. . . .

In the LaRouche case, they're book people. I have to confess to an intellectual weakness: I find reading easier than

thinking, so I read constantly, nearly blinded myself from too much reading. I've got 15,000 books at home, read most them, unfortunately. As you can tell, I haven't learned much, but I haven't stopped yet. These are book people. They had publishing houses going on. Important publications. Non-profit stuff. This is what they were about: *ideas, information, social change*. Meeting the needs of human people all over the world, humanity all over the world. We're going to have a billion more people before the end of this millennium, century, decade, and the vast majority, 80%, are going to have beautiful, darker skin. And they're going to live short lives, *short lives* of sickness, hunger, pain, ignorance, and violence, unless we act *radically*. And these books have ideas. Some will work, some won't work, but they're ideas. They can be "tested in the marketplace," as we used to say.

And the government came in with a *false* bankruptcy claim, against a non-profit publishing house, and *shut 'em down!* What's the First Amendment worth? "We'll silence you, you'll have no books out there."

And not only that: Then they took people who were contributing and supposed to be paid back their loans to the publisher, and tried to prosecute, falsely, on it. They put on witnesses, to give false testimony. From the tens and tens of thousands of contributors, and thousands of people who gave loans, they come up with a baker's dozen, roughly, 13, 14, 15 people, who got their feelings hurt, perhaps, and some who were mean-spirited enough to lie about it, and who didn't get their money back, although they were being paid back. Because anybody can have a financial crunch, where you can't pay back.

Imagine what would happen to political campaigns in this country, if you enforced law strictly against those who are raising money like this, by inquiring about all the people who gave money, whether they got what they wanted, what they expected and whether they were misled about it, or anything else. Nobody could run for office. . . .

Absolutely no evidence to support a conviction there. If you take it all, if you exclude the parts that were false or venomous, there's not even a shell. But they had to say that this noble enterprise, agree or not with it, was corrupt. Corrupt. "Have nothing to do with it. It's corrupt." Nobody respects financial or other corruption. Destroy 'em that way. They were put to trial, without any chance to prepare their case, and they made a valiant effort, and got consecutive sentences. Unbelievable! When the government will use that much force, that much energy, that much of its resources, to destroy an idea or movement of people. . . .

Talk about getting heavy bodyblows! This Lyndon LaRouche and his supporters and people who work with him—heavy bodyblows. *Five mean years in prison*. Constantly worried about health, and all the rest. Continuing prosecutions, with *unbelievable* sentences: 77 years, 44 years. You can't say draconian. They're essentially *psychological death sentences*, if not physical death sentences. . . .