

LEAA Gestapo Operations in Reading, Pa.

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U.S. Labor Party

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In 1968, with the establishment of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) by the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act, the Rockefeller cabal began in earnest to consolidate a national police state apparatus in the U.S. Through this "legal" funding conduit, massive criminal activities were generated, including large-scale behavior modification brainwashing; the undercutting of parliamentary democracy through "reforms" in police, criminal justice and prison systems towards computerization, militarization and self-policing methods of small-group control; and the creation of terrorist countergangs.

To carry out this domestic Central Intelligence Agency operation, large numbers of "retired" CIA agents were brought directly into the LEAA and its state and local components. Nowhere is this more glaringly the case than in Pennsylvania. Until March 1974, the state LEAA apparatus was headed by Drexel Godfrey, executive director of the Governor's Justice Commission (GJC). Before coming to Harrisburg as a special Shapp appointee, Godfrey was the Office Director for the CIA. As late as 1972, while officially holding only one job—that of GJC head—Godfrey listed his address in *Who's Who in America* as: "CIA headquarters, Langley, Va."

In 1971, through monies provided by Model Cities and the LEAA, Gerard Fulcher was brought to Reading, Pa. and installed as director of the areawide Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC).^{*} Prior to Reading, Fulcher claimed to have spent five years as a foot patrolman in New York City. Persistent attempts by NCLC intelligence investigators to confirm Fulcher's employ with the NYPD have met with denials by the personnel department that anyone by that name has ever been listed in their employ. As recently as one week ago, the NYPD further insisted that there was no possibility that there was an error in their records.

Reliable sources in New York City have explained this "mystery" by reporting that Fulcher's job with the NYPD was as an undercover agent for the CIA-trained and controlled Bureau of Special Services (BOSS). One of his assignments was to infiltrate the Columbia University student strike as an inside man in the Ford Foundation's wrecking operation.

As early as 1968, with the LEAA first getting off the ground nationally, the ground was being laid locally for the complete LEAA takeover of local government and police operations in Reading. Based on a study by a Philadelphia-based consulting firm, McCann Associates, Paul Goldberg was appointed to a special post as a Lieutenant in the Reading Police Department, responsible for monitoring subversive activities, corruption within the city government, and other areas equally vague in definition. In fact, coverage in the Reading newspapers at the time indicated that no one in city government could explain exactly what Goldberg's responsibilities would be. Only McCann Associates seemed to understand the nature of the new position.

NCLC investigators, however, have been unable to turn up any records of a "McCann Associates" being registered with the state of Pennsylvania during that period. In the same way that the CIA set up New Goals Incorporated as a cover operation for British agent "John Rees" in Newark during the same period, McCann Associates was merely a convenient cover for direct CIA intervention into the Reading city government at a time when the LEAA was not yet off the ground.

^{*}In 1973, Fulcher quit the CJCC and set up a private LEAA funded "think-tank"—the Institute for the Study of Criminal Justice Systems—at Alvernia College, a nearby girl's catholic institution. It has been reported to the NCLC that a large weapons cache is hidden on the campus.

From within the Burks County (Reading) area, other necessary steps were taken to pave the way for LEAA rule. Through a "Watergate" operation funded by the Russel Sage Foundation and directed by Charles Raith, a political science professor at nearby Albright College, the old-line Democratic machine was shaken up by corruption charges. Through his political science seat, Raith was funneled Model Cities and LEAA monies to conduct a series of studies on police and local government reorganization. As City Charter Commission consultant, member of the Police Advisory Board of Model Cities and representative of Reading to the Governors Crime Commission, Raith was directly responsible for the appointments of Goldberg and Fulcher.

With Godfrey, who made frequent trips to Reading to meet with Fulcher, coordinating the statewide LEAA operation, and with Raith, Goldberg and Fulcher set up in Reading, the command and control had been set up through which the LEAA could move with a free hand in central Pennsylvania in the early 1970s.

The Pontiac Bus Bombing

In August, 1971 in Pontiac, Mich., 14 school buses were blown up by the Ku Klux Klan. Several months later, a secret (sealed) indictment was handed down by a Federal Grand Jury in Philadelphia against four Reading area residents, charging them with having provided the explosives used in the Pontiac explosions. These men were Bertram Jones, Thomas Kanger, James Colbert and Roy Frankhouser.

All four of these men, as well as Charles Simms, who actually planted the bombs, were working for Federal agencies at the time. The Pontiac KKK and the National Action Group (NAG) run by Irene McCabe were FBI and LEAA created countergangs whose actions were intended to trigger a nationwide wave of violence around the bogus issue of school busing. In this "Operation Chaos," LEAA-run Reading, Pa. was slated to be a key depot point for the guns and explosives used by left and right-wing terrorist groups throughout the country.

Over the past four years, six to nine tons of explosives have been conduited through Reading to the KKK, the Weather-underground, Puerto Rican nationalist groups (believed to include the FALN—Armed Forces for the Liberation of Puerto Rico), black terrorist groups and other right-wing formations in the Midwest. The Revolutionary Union (RU) Maoist gang, of which Jones, Kanger and Colbert are members, has worked in coordination with Reading-based Special Agents of the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms division of the Treasury Department, with LEAA-controlled local police including Goldberg, and with area underworld figures in carrying out this gun-explosives running operation.

How It Operates

Jones, Colbert, Kanger—along with two other RU agents Norman DeBooth and Leymond DeBooth—made frequent trips to the Anthracite Coal Company, DuPont Chemical plant, and the Herculese and Trojan plants; where they would fill out dummy invoices and remove cases of explosives including Superprimer No. 50, electric regulator caps and dynamite. Leymond DeBooth, who was the driver on these pick-up trips, had access to government trucks, which were used on occasion.

Sources in Reading have reported that this operation is funded by the LEAA through a special "drop fund." The money is actually passed on via ATF agents Mario Carcello and Edward Sleman, who in turn work closely with Goldberg.

Some of the guns and explosives are conduited through local "Mafia" figures. In 1973, part of a shipment of 15 cases of M-16 rifles stolen from a Pittsburg area armory were funneled into Reading through Arlen Shadler. Identified as a key employee of Reading bail bondsman Joe Biancone (whose

other activities include running cigarettes, clothing and guns on the black market), Shadler is also employed by the ATF, FBI and CIA on a special-assignment basis.

Among Biancone's other business associates are Goldberg's two brothers—Michael and Melvin. Michael is a Federally licensed gun retailer, and a major source of guns for Mafia operations. Melvin is the major bookie in the Burks County area. He has been arrested twice in the last 15 years.

Through their "official" positions as the local and Federal police agents charged with investigating all cases of gun-explosive running, Goldberg—who now heads a special ten-man unit of the Reading police department called the "72 Squad"—Carcello and Sleman have up until now kept a lid on any serious investigation into the Reading operation. On at least one occasion, local police had obtained information that Bertram Jones' house was being used as a storage point for guns, explosives, etc. and were prepared to make a bust. Through Carcello and Sleman, word came down "from above" to call off the investigation.

The Current Coverup

Since March, 1975, a number of individuals directly involved in the gun-explosives conducting, and therefore potentially key witnesses in any open inquiry, have been silenced.

Charles Simms, the Pontiac FBI operative who planted the August 30, 1971 bombs and who also made two trips to Reading to purchase the necessary explosives from Jones, was arrested last year by Detroit police, when a stolen truck that he was driving was found to contain explosives and machine guns. Simms was placed in Springfield, Missouri Federal prison—notorious as a behaviour modification brainwashing center run by the LEAA. He was briefly sent to Terre Haute prison where he was severely beaten while allegedly trying to enter a Black Muslims meeting. As the result of injuries sustained in that incident, Simms was secretly returned to Springfield where two brain operations were performed on him. Simms has been officially judged to be psychologically unfit to serve as a witness in the case by prison physicians.

On March 13, 1975, Norman DeBooth was murdered at 537 Franklin Street in Reading. Charles Clarence Williams, who shared that address with Leymond DeBooth, was charged with the murder and placed on trial on June 18. Two days later, the proceedings mysteriously ended in a mistrial. Based on new information received by District Attorney Robert Van Hoove after both attorneys had finished their closing statements, Judge James V. Bertolet dismissed the jury, remarking, "I know you have been inconvenienced, but by the end of this year, the panel will remember this week more than any other."

Immediately following the Judge's ruling, Van Hoove impounded all of the Court records, banned any statements by any participants in the case and began interviewing witnesses. One of the first witnesses was Lt. Paul Goldberg.

On June 9, 1975 an obituary for Thomas Kanger was printed in the Reading Times, reporting that he had been murdered in Palo Alto, Pa. According to the Schuylkill County coroner's office, Kanger died of a shotgun bullet in the throat.

A further NCLC inquiry through the Reading District Attorney's office revealed that Kanger had been killed by Zabe Besco in an argument over Besco's wife. Besco has been identified as a collaborator of Arlen Shadler in the M-16 theft. He was subsequently released from jail, his actions classified as justifiable homicide. However, James Colbert, who witnessed the murder of his brother-in-law, was placed in Dallas County, Pa. prison on the basis that his presence at the scene of the murder was a parole violation. Colbert is still in jail.

Roy Frankhouser, who was arrested by Carcello in February, 1974 and charged with possession of 931 lbs. of explosives (although Carcello actually confiscated 4.5 tons in

the raid), was targeted on July 15, 1975 for potential assassination by CIA journalist Hilferty of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. In an article entitled "How a Nazi-Klan'er Became A U.S. Agent," Hilferty identified Frankhouser as a key government witness in not only the Pontiac case but a second sealed grand jury investigation into Arab terrorist Black September activities.

Hilferty's article cited a triple sealed Grand Jury transcript on Frankhouser's infiltration of the Black September operation. Orders for that seal came directly from the National Security Council, headed by Henry Kissinger. No one below top NSC level, therefore, could have authorized the leak to Hilferty. This desperate move, which enables the NCLC to make direct connections between Kissinger and the Black September CIA operation, was aimed at diffusing the NCLC's disclosure of information received on exactly that connection. Hilferty's weak coverup merely forces the Labor Committees to somewhat prematurely release its full documentation of direct National Security Council-RAND Corporation planning and coordination of all major international terrorist operations; including the slaughters at the Munich Olympics, the Hague bombings and the recent murders of two French DST agents.

A secondary but significant feature of the Hilferty piece was the setting up of Frankhouser for CIA assassination, which would be passed off as the act of an angry right-winger, incensed that Frankhouser had been turned by the CIA.

NCLC sources have identified Frankhouser's role in the CIA as that of a high level security checker. Assigned by the CIA, FBI, ATF to infiltrate "enemy" organizations to gather information for criminal charges, Frankhouser's reports were used to determine whether there were any potential leak points through which activities could be traced directly back to one of the intelligence agencies.

It is likely that Frankhouser only became aware of the actual nature of his assignments after several years and that his February, 1974 arrest was actually a frame-up aimed at placing pressure on him to keep his mouth shut. It is a common practice within the "intelligence community" to use Mafioso blackmail and terror tactics as a method of control over agents whose activities put them in possession of too much "classified information." Frankhouser, whose involvement in the explosives raid was probably that of an unwitting "fall-guy" setting up a "buy-bust," was locked up on \$150,000 bail; Kanger and Colbert who were arrested with him were let out on \$500 each.

The Hilferty Connection

Hilferty was a perfect source for the CIA black propaganda "leak" that appeared in the June 13 *Inquirer*. A close collaborator of Charles Raith, Hilferty wrote a series of articles at his request that "exposed" the corruption within the Reading Mayor's office and Police Department at precisely the point that Raith was moving in for the kill on the old line Democratic machine in Berks County.

At that time, Raith was working for E.J. Charter Corporation of Philadelphia. Charter, housed in the office of the Philadelphia National Bank, specializes in "Watergating" operations against intransigent political organizations. It is funded by the Russell Sage Foundation, notorious as a funding conduit for "studies" in counterinsurgency.

In the case of the Reading "study," the preconditions were set through the corruption exposures for the dumping of the old Democratic machine and its replacement by the Berks County Independent Democrats (BID)—run by Raith, leading Reading banker Sidney Kilne and Mark L. Brown, a labor relations "expert" and personal collaborator of Leonard Woodcock and CIA agent Ed Schwartz.

Reading RU

The NCLC full exposure of the Reading-based LEAA gun-running operation was precipitated by an error of overreaction by the police agencies there in June, 1975. At that time, the Reading branch of the U.S. Labor Party reactivated a campaign that was initiated in Fall, 1974 to drive drug-pusher, brainwasher Dr. Steven Levin out of the area. Levin is an LEAA operative who runs the RU "cell" in Reading. He was deployed there in approximately 1972 from Lincoln Hospital in Bronx, New York, where he was involved in setting up the brainwashed terrorist Black Liberation Army.

Through a private medical practice in Pottstown, Pa. and a part-time staff position with Chit-Chat, a behavior modification center for Pennsylvania and New Jersey steel and auto workers funded by the LEAA, Levin has been a conduit for drugs to area youth. This was confirmed in Fall, 1974 when on two separate occasions, Labor Party organizers were attacked by gangs of white lumpenized youth who identified themselves as supporters of Levin and who accused the USLP of attempting to "dry up their source of drugs."

In mid-June, 1975, one day after Reading Labor Party organizers began circulating a poster-leaflet identifying Levin as a murderer, six members were arrested by Goldberg on blatantly phony charges of "using a bullhorn to express political ideas." The organizers were held in jail for several days when bail bondsman Joe Biancone refused to place bond.

On June 24, Labor Party mayoral candidate Mike Brennan was kidnaped by two carloads of federal agents. He had a sack placed over his head and was interrogated at gunpoint before being released.

Although as early as November, 1973, the NCLC had identified the Revolutionary Union as a fascist organization heavily infiltrated by the FBI, and as early as Summer, 1974 had established that the RU was originally created by the FBI and LEAA as a police countergang, the extreme measures taken by the LEAA in defense of the Reading RU operation were the first "hard evidence" leading to the full exposure presented here.

The core membership of the Reading RU are all agents: Jones, Levin, Kanger (deceased), Colbert, DeBooth (deceased). Jones' home at 321 South Sixth Street, Reading has a concealed room in which guns, explosives, drugs are stored; a printing press is also kept there.

Jones is currently Vice-President of the United Rubber Workers (URW) local at the Firestone Rubber plant. He was elected as a member of the Interested Member caucus, made up of RU'ers and members of the Reading area KKK. An ex-Marine, Jones was described by one Reading area source as a "gangster and a virulent racist who justifies his membership in the Maoist RU by claiming 'workers must be revolutionized!'" Jones' election to union office was made necessary when the previous union leadership endorsed the U.S. Labor Party's Emergency Agricultural Production Act of 1975 (EAPA). Although no hard evidence has been produced to date, it is likely that the election of the Jones slate was a fraud.

From a number of sources in Reading, cross-checked with previous NCLC investigations, William Hinton has been identified as the "controller" of the Reading RU operation. Hinton is a close personal friend of Raith. The Awareness Seminar at Albright College, set up by Raith—whose activities as an LEAA operative and a back-room political boss have not prevented him from establishing a cover as a leader of the area peace movement—has been the primary vehicle through which Maoism has been fostered among Albright College students and faculty.

Hinton's activities are not by any means restricted to Reading. He is a key figure in the international Maoist movement, whose involvement in the State Department-CIA "China Lobby" pre-dates Mao Tse-tung's seizure of power.

During the Second World War, Hinton was part of the Of-

fice of War Information (OWI) white-propaganda unit in China. From 1947-52, he remained in China as part of the United Nations' UNNRA contingent, training the Chinese in tractor technology. During this period, Hinton was also reported to be in the employ of the CIA's Agency for International Development (AID).

Hinton's famous book, *Fanshen*, a manual of labor-intensive agriculture and Chinese forms of "soft" brainwashing techniques, was released in the United States during the early 1960s following a much publicized court battle with the U.S. Immigration Service (which had confiscated the original manuscript). The publication of *Fanshen*, coming on the heels of the open Sino-Soviet split, marked the initial implementation of the Allen Dulles-RAND Corporation program for creating a Maoist movement internationally as a "left flanking" maneuver against the Soviet Union.

Along with Heide Bollinger, identified by several Burks County residents as a former East German Citizen, Hinton set up a GI coffeehouse in West Reading in 1967. It is through the coffeehouse—called *The Source*—that Hinton and Bollinger's Reading activities intersect with those of RAND operative Noam Chomsky. Through his position on the executive board of Resist, Chomsky was a major funding conduit for the GI (soon to be Maoist) movement.

Through Raith's Awareness Seminars, Hinton and Bollinger have been known to hold weekend sessions with area college students at which Maoist posters are hung, film slides of China are shown and "self and mutual criticism"—Chinese forms of Lewinite small group brainwashing—are conducted through which prospective recruits into the RU are screened. While most RU locals are composed of, on the average, 50 per cent dupes—usually drawn from anarchist petit-bourgeoisie student layers—the Reading RU is maintained as a totally agent operation. Student recruits from the Reading area are reportedly channelled into Philadelphia.

The Hartford-Brooklyn Connections

In late 1973, the Labor Committees received information that the LEAA was responsible for running guns and explosives through Hartford, Conn. and the Bedford-Suyvesant section of Brooklyn. Both of those operations were traced back to agents trained at the Chicago Saul Alinsky Institute. Before his death, Alinsky had done an extensive study of the structure of organized crime in the U.S. That study was used by the CIA both in that agency's takeover of the Mafia and in the creation of a parallel structure of ghetto street gangs, to be used as LEAA shock-troops, drug-pushers and gun-runners in the inner city.

The Chicago-based Black P. Stone Nation, one of the first and largest of the CIA street gangs, spawned both the Hartford and Brooklyn operations identified earlier. In Hartford, Leonard Sengali set up a Black P. Stone Nation. In Brooklyn, Chief Simeon formed a Black Israelite Temple affiliated with the Chicago B'nai Zakeem, itself an Alinsky spinoff.

The material uncovered by the NCLC in Reading has not only provided further corroboration of the LEAA-Mafia-Maoist nexus of gun and drug conduiting initially picked up on in Hartford and Brooklyn in 1973; but has provided the concrete leads through which similar investigations are now being conducted in those areas.

Vernon Higgins

On June 19, 1974, Vernon Higgins, then a U.S. Labor Party Congressional candidate in Pontiac, Mich. confessed to NCLC Detroit regional executive members that he was an FBI infiltrator. In the lengthy debriefing that followed, Higgins admitted to having previously infiltrated the Pontiac Ku Klux Klan during the period in which they were carrying out the bus bombings. In a signed affidavit dated June 20, 1974 Higgins stated that he had been directly involved in planting

the bombs under the buses. Hard confirmation that Higgins was working for the FBI was provided the following day when a Detroit Police-FBI raid on the Detroit Labor Party office was carried out on the basis of a warrant that identified Higgins as an FBI "informer."

In fact, Higgins' activities with the FBI went far beyond those of an informant. An NCLC investigation into the Pontiac bus bombings established it as a joint FBI-LEAA operation. Higgins' personal training in demolition, photography and electronics traced back to Naval Intelligence and CIA Bay of Pigs experience.

The Pontiac indictments against Jones, Kanger, Colbert and Frankhouser—taken in the context of the 1974 Higgins revelations—establish a hard chain of evidence of LEAA-FBI gun-explosives running between Pennsylvania and Michigan.

This connection was further substantiated on Thursday, July 3, 1975 when NCLC investigators David Hilty and James Khatami visited the home of Vernon Higgins to photograph him as evidence in both a Federal suit against the FBI and as part of the ongoing Reading investigation. Upon being photographed, Higgins screamed out, "You're from the Labor Party!" and then walked to his car, took out a revolver and fired six shots into the Labor Committee members' car as they drove away. Although Hilty and Khatami filed attempted murder charges against Higgins within hours of the incident, and although Higgins admitted that he fired the shots to both the Pontiac Police and the Oakland County,

Mich. newspaper (which ran a story citing Higgins' confession), it took nearly two weeks of pressure to get the Oakland Police to make an arrest. Higgins was immediately released on his own recognizance.

Addendum

Since the NCLC broke the Reading story in the June 30 edition of *New Solidarity*, further evidence has been gathered on the LEAA gun and drug running operation. A notebook was given to NCLC investigators containing the names of Mafia figures including "Gibraltar" Joe Biancone, Mario Carcello, members of both the left and right wings of the LEAA-FBI terrorist network, and local politicians. The names, addresses and phone numbers were compiled by Donna Natelle, a Reading prostitute and drug-pusher who is also suspected of being an FBI informer. Once before, in Fall, 1973 the NCLC came into possession of a journal compiled by an FBI informer. Gwen Decker had been sent into the Detroit RU by local FBI Special Agents who had instructed her to use any methods necessary to gather damaging personal information on the leadership.

On July 16, a story was run in the *Reading Eagle* leaking the fact that Paul Goldberg was directly responsible for the coverup of the murder of Norman DeBooth. The exposure of Goldberg's role represents the first public response to the NCLC disclosures and portends a far more serious fissure in the LEAA's control over Reading.