

The Federal Elections Commission Scandal

The Federal Elections Commission (FEC) created by Congress to guarantee honest election fundraising and to safeguard the legal disbursements of federal matching funds, has instead proved itself, during the course of the 1976 elections and since, to be an agency of subversion of the constitutionally guaranteed right of U.S. citizens to support and vote for the political party of their choice.

Actions this week by the FEC against the Lyndon LaRouche presidential campaign and the U.S. Labor Party, show conclusively that the FEC is functioning as a covert operations "plumbers" unit on behalf of President Carter and his supporters on the Trilateral Commission.

In Boston on Jan. 25, two FEC representatives appeared without prior announcement at the Boston office of the Labor Party and demanded information on contributors to the 1975-76 LaRouche campaign. They identified themselves as William C. Yowell, FEC badge number 041 and Elmo Allen, FEC badge number 024 and asked for phone numbers of specific contributors. They refused to specify to the U.S. Labor Party National Committee member present what they intended to interrogate these people about.

This is in violation of standard FEC procedures. By usual FEC practice checks of contributors are conducted only after written notification is mailed to the candidate and the contributor in question. Trying to cover their tracks, Charles Steel, chief counsel for the FEC called

the Committee to Elect LaRouche (CTEL) legal counsel in Washington, D.C. to apologize for the incident. The Boston visit, however, occurred amidst other Commission harassment of the USLP:

*At 7:45 Jan. 25 FEC agent Keith Vance and another agent arrived unannounced at the home of Delaware Labor Party member Leroy Jones, and demanded for two hours that he and his wife produce check stubs proving their contribution to CTEL. Vance interrogated Mr. Jones on whether he gets a stipend from the Labor Party and how he could afford to make a contribution.

*At 11, the same agents badgered a student member of the Labor Party with questions, "Who is the Delaware Labor Party Chairman... when did he give you the money for the contribution, how much did he give you?" After getting negative answers on these questions, the agents coerced the member into signing a statement on his replies. Shortly afterward, the agents staked out the home of a third contributor to question him when he walked out the door.

*In Boston, agents Yowell and Allen visited the Lahey Clinic where a U.S. Labor Party member is employed to get information about his contribution.

The FEC is ostensibly checking LaRouche contributors to determine the legality of CTEL's claim for primary matching funds. The records for the LaRouche campaign were thoroughly audited by the FEC in November 1976. Since then, the disbursement of approximately \$120,000 in primary federal matching funds to the LaRouche Committee has been illegally held up by FEC stalling tactics.

Carter Ordered Phony FEC Probe Into Labor Party Finances

Continuing investigations by the U.S. Labor Party into the harassment campaign being illegally conducted by the Federal Election Commission against contributors to the Committee to Elect LaRouche (CTEL) today confirmed that the so-called eligibility check on CTEL's applications for over \$100,000 in federal matching funds is a containment and frameup operation ordered by Jimmy Carter. Informed Capitol Hill sources told the Labor Party that the Committee to Elect Carter-Mondale requested the Justice Department probe CTEL funding on the eve of the presidential election, following a paid political broadcast on nationwide TV Nov. 1 by the Labor Party's presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. At that time, LaRouche detailed a conspiracy by Carter's backers — the Trilateral Commission of David Rockefeller and the then still-secret Committee on the Present Danger — to seize the U.S. presidency by using vote fraud.

Court Case Readied

Attorneys for CTEL are preparing a suit against the FEC for Federal Court next week for their refusal to reach a decision on the eligibility of the Committee for matching funds. The Cointelpro-style visits to contributors is a further step in the administrative stall that the FEC has used to deny the LaRouche campaign its legal funds since October 16.

The initiation of this harassment confirms the information received by the Labor Party last week from highly reliable Washington sources that Carter backers were preparing to begin harassment against the Labor Party including investigation of the records and funding of the Labor Party and business interests associated with Labor Party supporters, frame-ups of Labor Party supporters in connection with a contrived espionage scare, and FBI-Cointelpro style dirty tricks and terrorism against Labor Party supporters.

In addition to initiating investigation of the LaRouche contributors, the FEC has demanded that the CTEL submit its expenditure records to a reaudit this week. They further made the demand, unprecedented in business and campaign practice, that CTEL obtain for them the books of its creditors — to prove CTEL had transactions with them. The FEC asked in particular, to look at the books of Campaigner Publications, Inc.,