

Fabian congressman routed in fight over 'KGB mole' aide

by Jeffrey Steinberg

A scandal has broken out on Capitol Hill that implicates ultraliberal Rep. Paul McCloskey (R-Cal.) and FBI Director William Webster in a coverup of the activities of an alleged KGB "mole."

On Jan. 30, Charles Fager, a legislative aide to McCloskey, was fired from his staff position on the House subcommittee on Maritime and Fisheries. McCloskey was himself demoted from his post as ranking minority member of the subcommittee. Sources close to the subcommittee have told *EIR* that the actions resulted from a heated behind-closed-doors fight in which conservative members demanded the ouster of the staffer whose connections to the KGB were the subject of a widely circulated dossier during December 1980.

That dossier, issued by New Solidarity International Press Service (NSIPS) as part of a series on "KGB moles" working with the nominally Tory Heritage Foundation, documented Fager's late 1960s part in a Boston-based deserters' network closely linked to KGB-Cuban asset Philip Agee. Fager's role on Capitol Hill, the dossier documented, centered around the circulation of disinformation against political figures involved in expanding the United States' advanced scientific program.

Within 48 hours of the subcommittee shakeup, McCloskey, flanked by Fager, gave a Capitol Hill press conference attacking Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., a former candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, who commissioned the dossiers on Heritage Foundation-KGB collaboration. These included profiles of McCloskey aide Fager and Rep. Larry McDonald (D-Ga.) aides John and Sheila Rees. On Jan. 16, McDonald—ultraright-winger and dupe of the John Birch Society—placed an equally scurrilous attack on LaRouche into the *Congressional Record*.

At their Capitol Hill press event, McCloskey and Fager made dramatic use of a letter from FBI Director William Webster stating that a search of the files showed no evidence of Fager-KGB links.

Far from exonerating Fager, this document-waving performance placed FBI boss Webster in a highly precarious position.

During 1974, security investigators associated with

Lyndon LaRouche met with the FBI's New York City office. The subject was the activities of the American Deserters Movement, the Boston-based Resist organization, and the associated Boston *Real Paper* and *Boston Phoenix*. All of these organizations were associated with CIA defector Philip Agee and with espionage activities positively linked to Cuban and East bloc intelligence services. Despite an overall adversary position to LaRouche and his associates, the FBI special agents emphatically acknowledged the existence of the Boston-centered networks and indicated ongoing file maintenance on their activities.

Such close monitoring of the circles that included *Real Paper* writer Charles Fager was not the sole proprietary of the FBI's counterintelligence and counterespionage divisions. Similar files may be maintained by the Central Intelligence Agency and the Defense Intelligence Agency, at least.

The question, therefore, is: did Webster wittingly execute a coverup of existing file material to protect Fager and McCloskey, or did other channels bypass the director? The answer falls within the jurisdiction of the congressional Judicial Oversight subcommittees.

Dossier material now being compiled on Paul McCloskey strongly suggests that Fager may not be the only "mole" candidate in the office.

According to media accounts, in February 1971, McCloskey was the first public figure to call for the impeachment of President Richard Nixon. In April 1971, McCloskey reportedly was the recipient of a set of documents from Daniel Ellsberg. In June, they were leaked to the *New York Times* from still-unidentified sources and became the infamous "Pentagon Papers."

Simultaneous to the Pentagon Papers scandal, during which McCloskey reiterated his demands for Nixon's ouster, the Californian announced his intentions to run for President in 1972, but dropped out of the race immediately after New Hampshire under charges of financial mismanagement of his campaign funds.

As late as 1966, McCloskey was a strong supporter of the war in Vietnam and had even requested military or State Department assignment to South Vietnam. In 1967-1968 he took a Damascus road conversion to become the leading Republican antiwar spokesman and joined Sen. Gaylord Nelson (D-Wisc.) in sponsoring Robert O. Anderson's Earth Day. Today, McCloskey is a leading figure in the zero-growth Sierra Club and has been identified as a leading American spokesman for the equally antitechnology World Wildlife Fund.

More sophisticated minds in the nation's capital are now beginning to raise more serious questions about the congressman since his overboard defense of Fager. It is now speculated that a thorough inquiry into the early 1970s Pentagon Papers affair could lead to revelations far eclipsing the Capitol Hill "mole" scandal.