

Why my family is out to get me

by Lewis du Pont Smith

I feel compelled to issue this statement in response to various recent reportage in the national media that has seriously misrepresented the issues in the case of *E. Newbold Smith, et al. vs. Lewis du Pont Smith*, as well as misrepresenting facts about my life and beliefs.

At the outset, let me repeat what I have stated previously. The fundamental issue in this case is whether I will be allowed to exercise my constitutionally guaranteed rights, or whether my family's feudal power will be able to annul them. My family is merely attempting to use the power of the court to exercise what they believe to be the privilege of their power to force me to say, do and act as they see fit.

I am not, as the press has misrepresented, fighting for the right to control my financial estate. The control of this money, no matter how large that sum may be, is really a secondary issue. I am fighting for my constitutional rights. If I should lose this case, it will have an impact on every citizen whose family, like mine, is powerful enough to use the courts to force their will and judgment on their sons and daughters.

I do not ask, and have not asked, my family to support the policies and politics of Lyndon LaRouche, Jr. I only ask that they accept my constitutionally guaranteed rights to exercise my own political will and judgment, to associate with whom I choose, and to work for political causes that I believe in.

The media, acting on behalf of my family's interests in this case and more generally, have misrepresented my recent relations with family and friends. I did not break off contact with my family. They chose to act in an infantile and irrational manner following my association with the policies of LaRouche. This is a political disagreement. But that disagreement has been manipulated by enemies of LaRouche outside the family, including Henry Kissinger and William Weld, who have counseled my father. I did not break off relations with my family until they instigated legal action against me, and then on advice from my legal counsel.

I would have hoped that my family would at least honor my wishes to take no actions that would interfere with either this case or my personal life. However, this has not been the case. For the last several months, members of my family and alleged friends have harassed me at all hours of the night, appearing at my doorstep, pounding on my windows, phoning the family of my fiancée, all in an attempt to disrupt my normal life. I have never harassed members of my family.

Why do they seem to feel that they have the right to harass me?

My family has alleged that I am mentally ill, and, using their power to influence the courts, have sought to have the legal system confirm this judgment. I am not mentally ill and never have been—no matter what my family might pay psychiatrists to say otherwise.

However, I think it is about time that somebody should start looking at my accusers, the family of E. Newbold Smith.

Let's start with my father. He has a provable history of violent bouts of alcoholism. He has spent large sums of money having expensive "sex-enhancement" operations in Texas. One might say that he has first-hand experience with mental illness, but that does not make him competent to pronounce me as "mentally ill." My mother has had at least four nervous breakdowns, two of which required extended periods of hospitalization and which were largely a consequence of living with my father's irrationality. In addition, my brother Stockton N. Smith has received psychiatric care, including in the current period. How can any sane person conclude that these people should be competent to judge me?

It has been said by my family and their media spigotts that I have made some poor investments. So have many other individuals. . . .

I have never stated that I intend to turn over my entire wealth, or even large portions of it, to organizations associated with the policies of Lyndon H. LaRouche. But if I should choose to do so, does that make me mentally ill? If this be the case, then this country has become much like the Soviet Union, where those individuals who disagree with the KGB are shipped off to Siberia, after being declared insane.

But if one wants to speak of poor financial management and erratic financial behavior, one need only look at my family—the du Ponts. I cite the case of Lammot "Motsey" du Pont Copeland. This individual, a proponent of right-wing "fringe" groups with which I do not agree, parlayed a \$13 million estate into the largest personal bankruptcy in the history of the United States—\$50 million. They called "Motsey" eccentric, but no one ever tried to take his money away or certify him incompetent. . . .

But the great power and wealth of the du Ponts appears to be on the ebb. The du Ponts don't even control the company that bears their name any more. They have become the towel boys of Edgar Bronfman, whose family fortunes date from running whiskey and drugs across the Canadian border for mobster Meyer Lansky, and who is an avowed enemy of Lyndon LaRouche. There was a time when a du Pont wouldn't be caught dead in the same room with the likes of such people; now they sit at the same broad boardroom table.

I ask, who should stand trial? I, who have done nothing but act on my political beliefs, or my family, whose motive, the press says, is my well-being, but whom any sane citizen should look at as highly suspect?

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