

Italian press amazed at U.S. rights abuse

The Italian family weekly *Oggi* (circulation 800,000) and the daily *Giornale d'Italia* have championed the cause of Lewis du Pont Smith and his fiancée, Andrea Diano, political supporters of Lyndon LaRouche who went to Rome last month to appeal to the Pope to intervene against the violation of Smith's civil and human rights by a Philadelphia court.

In a two-page article in the Nov. 12 edition, *Oggi* interviewed Smith, "the 30-year old scion of the powerful American financier dynasty, deprived of his civil rights by his family: Now he cannot freely dispose of his own wealth, nor marry, nor vote, nor enjoy any civil right." *Oggi* notes that the du Pont heir "does not seem at all mentally incompetent, as the ruling of a Philadelphia court establishes." A similar article and photograph were run in *Giornale d'Italia* on Nov. 12.

"My problems started when, at Christmas two years ago, I decided to contribute \$212,000 to the Schiller Institute, a cultural association founded by Mrs. Helga Zepp-LaRouche, which fights against drugs, pornography, usury, and in defense of peace and human rights," the magazine quotes Smith. "Without even consulting me or warning me, they sued in court to deprive me of my civil rights."

Issue was support for LaRouche

Who is behind the Schiller Institute, *Oggi's* interviewer asked. "A man I greatly esteem, Lyndon LaRouche, 64 years old, who is likely to become the next President of the United States. He is a famous economist and is running in the Democratic Party. His popularity is spreading in America; he is the bogey of the establishment, a man who does not mince words or accept compromises. He recently published a report accusing high finance of complicity in the drug traffic, and also naming names. It is clear he has many enemies: all those who are on the side of the establishment, such as my parents. But the working citizen trusts him."

"Among the motives that induced the du Ponts to deprive their son of liberty is the pretty Italo-American girl," Andrea Diano, *Oggi* reports, quoting Smith that the family told him, "Catholics are of an inferior race, as well as those of Mediterranean origin, like Andrea." Thanks to the court ruling, Lewis and Andrea cannot marry.

Oggi reported, in Smith's own words, how his father



Under the headline, "Deprived of civil rights for love," this picture ran with *Oggi's* article on Lewis du Pont Smith and Andrea Diano, shown at the Spanish Steps in Rome.

spent thousands of dollars in genealogical research to prove a blood tie to Princess Diana (Spencer) of England, and tried to send him to England to seek a wife among London high society. "I said I already had my Lady Di—Andrea's last name in fact is Diano. And they freaked out," Lewis told the interviewer.

Another issue used to "prove" Smith's alleged mental incompetence in court, was his effort to prevent family members from removing life-sustaining equipment from his hospitalized grandmother. "My mother belongs to the 'death with dignity' movement, which favors euthanasia," he reported.

Oggi quotes Smith in conclusion: "Except for Judge Lawrence Wood, I do not think anyone could blame me for having taken \$212,000, out of so much wealth accumulated making nylon stockings, gunpowder, and plastic articles, to dedicate it to a movement that defends life."