

Vendetta against LaRouche is charged

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Copley News Service

WASHINGTON—Let me say first that I hold no brief for Lyndon LaRouche, his political movement, or the organizations and publications he has engendered. In writing what follows, moreover, I open myself to attack from individuals who froth at the mouth if you dare so much as to say that the man is not Satan incarnate.

Let me also iterate my conviction that whatever we may think about LaRouche and his political movement, they are entitled to the full protection of the law and the Bill of Rights. If they transgress, they must be tried and convicted under the laws of the United States and not in star chambers.

What seems self-evident, however, is that the Justice Department is engaged in a conspiracy to silence Lyndon LaRouche and his movement, to destroy the organizations he heads, and to suppress the newspapers and magazines they publish. Under the circumstances, we will never know whether the LaRouche movement is guilty as charged or whether it is

subject to a frame-up.

LaRouche and the other defendants may be thrice-guilty of the charges leveled at them, but this does not warrant the vendetta mounted against them by the Justice Department or its campaign of thought-control.

“Conspiracy” and “vendetta” are rough words, but I consider them justified by the all-points litigations, the deprivation of due process, and the violation of First Amendment rights by our law enforcement agencies.

Consider that a judge in California set bail for one defendant at \$500,000 simply because he was, in the judge’s words, “part of that Lyndon LaRouche national and international organization.”

Note too:

A phony contempt-of-court citation was slapped against LaRouche’s political party and three of his organizations in order to padlock them and put them out of business.

Executive Intelligence Review, a LaRouche publication, was locked out of its offices and its property seized even though it was named in no indictment.

Legal techniques never heretofore dreamed of were devised to harass the LaRouche movement and its organizations.

The editorial offices of two LaRouche publications were seized and their staffs barred from entry, in direct violation of the First Amendment.

Promissory notes—loans to aid LaRouche’s quadrennial presidential campaigns—were deemed “securities” by the government, with 16 LaRouche party officials indicted for unlawfully engaging in the sale of securities.

The catalog is long, with some actions taken by the government hard to believe but for the fact that even a media hostile to LaRouche has reported them, and it continues.

Now, as I pointed out, Lyndon LaRouche is a highly controversial political figure who has made many enemies.

His rhetoric, and that of his publications, is frequently abrasive and sometimes highly abusive. He has fought the traditional political parties with a passion. He conducts an intelligence operation that has high-level contacts with Central Intelligence Agency and with other intelligence services, and is more often right about what is going on in the Soviet Union than the State Department.

Whether LaRouche and his movement are on the side of the angels or against them is, in my book, irrelevant. The government has the right and the duty to move against them if they have cut legal corners—but no right to throw the Constitution and the U.S. Code out the window in order to intimidate and suppress them.

I am frightened by the behavior of the Justice Department. If it can throw away the book in dealing with one “unpopular” movement, it can do it against anyone.

Ralph de Toledano, a nationally syndicated columnist, is the author of a biography of Richard Nixon.

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