

---

## Interview: Dr. Pierre Lamothe

---

# U.S. psychiatric abuses are troubling

*Forensic psychiatrist Dr. Pierre Lamothe of France came to the United States at the request of Lewis du Pont Smith, to testify on his behalf. Although Dr. Lamothe was not permitted to testify by the court, he was able to discuss the case with local Philadelphia television news, which was prominently aired. Dr. Lamothe gave EIR the following interview on March 23.*

**EIR:** Could you tell us a little about yourself?

**Lamothe:** My background is essentially in forensic psychiatry. I was first head of the psychiatric service in a hospital, and now, for almost 15 years, I have practiced in forensic psychiatry, and finally I took service which is with mental health for prison detainees. I have beds in a central prison whose activity is for the whole region of Rhône-Alpes, so that means about 4,000 detainees. Basically this is my activity, but I have therefore become active as an expert, and I've been solicited by various committees in France. I have been named to the French National Commission for Mental Health, which is a committee of doctors appointed by the Ministry of Health who make proposals for rewriting the laws involving mental health. So I have testified about the competency law in France, and the law regarding the penal responsibility, which is going to change.

**EIR:** Can you tell us why you came to the U.S.?

**Lamothe:** It started with *EIR* and the Schiller Institute, as I am much involved in human rights problems, you know. I am always seeking primary sources to understand where problems are, and what kind of problems may be encountered. So that's the way I got in touch with the Schiller Institute, having just mailed something outside the post office in France, and I started to read the literature. At one point, I was asked to meet with the wife of [Michael] Billington [who was sentenced to 77 years in prison for "securities violations"]. So I saw this lady and listened to her. Later, I was asked to go and assist with the case of Lewis du Pont Smith.

I accepted, because I am secretary general of the International Council of Prison Medical Services and a member of the Ethics Committee, and I am also a member of the board of the International Academy of Law and Mental Health . . . and these two academies are concerned with the mental health and the abuse which could be done with psychiatry for political purposes. . . .

So, that's why I flew here after a phone call from Lewis

du Pont Smith.

In France, and in Europe in general, there is a tradition—the ethic is not the same as here. Here, the ethic is, when you are paid to do a job, you do it, even if it is not exactly what you agree with. In France it's the opposite: You first remain as independent experts. I told the people who contacted me, "You know, if I find him incompetent, I will tell him, even if I am supposed to be paid by him!" And fortunately, I found him perfectly normal, and I was ready to tell him, too.

**EIR:** Why were you not allowed to testify?

**Lamothe:** I have not been permitted to testify: I thought for a moment, that I could make a deposition, and be cross-examined by the lawyers of his family. . . . But finally they refused. I had the opportunity to talk during a TV interview about the trial, which I thought was a good thing. I am very happy to have made the trip, because I have seen something from the inside which is troubling, which we must put the accent on. And I think also that I have been useful to Lewis. . . .

To testify, I think it was primarily because [Judge Wood] didn't see how I could be involved with Pennsylvania statutes, and that my point of view would not be useful, would be irrelevant to the case, because I would have a background of French law. But actually our French law is exactly the same. . . . What I would have said, if I had been allowed to make even a deposition, was that what is necessary in order to declare someone incompetent is not only to establish [mental illness], but you have also to establish that this mental illness causes inability to cope with ordinary life, or is directly responsible for dissipation of fortune, or something like that, you see. And that is absolutely unequivocal for Lewis du Pont Smith, who not only does not suffer from any mental disease, but also is perfectly able to cope with demands of life and demands of reality. . . .

**EIR:** Is there anything else you'd like to say to our readers, or any other comments you have on this case?

**Lamothe:** I should say that I have been surprised that psychiatry could be used the way it has been, and that Lewis du Pont Smith could have been declared incompetent. I think that, during all the trial, it has been demonstrated that Lyndon LaRouche's activities could never be compared to a cult, because some say that he was under the pressure and influence of LaRouche. My examinations could not at all conclude that Lewis du Pont Smith is a man who could be under the influence of anybody. I think he's perfectly free.

And the characterization of Lyndon LaRouche's activities must not in any way be compared to a cult. This can be told to your own readers, I think. This is important, because, from the outside, only odd propositions of LaRouche have been channeled out by the papers, and you could think that he is a very crazy guy, who just wants to have a cult around him. It is not true. . . .