

ADL the target of criminal complaint

by Bruce Director

On April 20, attorneys for Richard Welsh filed a formal criminal complaint with the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights division asking for an immediate federal investigation of Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith's Virginia director Ira Gissen, ADL national commissioner Murray Janus, and other ADL officials for conspiracy to violate civil rights, mail fraud, obstruction of justice, and conspiracy. Welsh, an associate of economist and statesman Lyndon LaRouche, is on trial in Roanoke, Virginia, for so-called securities fraud. The ADL has had a long-standing role in the "Get LaRouche" task force persecuting LaRouche, and has been caught red-handed trying to influence the judge in the Virginia trials of LaRouche associates. (See *EIR*, April 27, 1990).

The complaint requests that the DoJ disclose any influence the ADL might have over the investigation of the complaint so that a special prosecutor could be appointed, as appropriate.

Copies of the complaint were delivered to Reps. Jack Brooks (D-Tex.), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, and Don Edwards (D-Calif.), chairman of the Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights, along with a letter from Welsh asking for a congressional investigation as the only means by which a proper inquiry could be ensured.

ADL pollution exposed in Welsh hearing

The role of the ADL in polluting the "Get LaRouche" task force was further exposed in Welsh's pre-trial Kastigar hearing the week of April 23. The hearing is being held because Welsh testified under a grant of immunity before a federal grand jury in Alexandria, Virginia, and also at both the Boston and Alexandria federal trials of LaRouche and some of his associates. Despite having been granted immunity, the Commonwealth of Virginia is proceeding to prosecute Welsh, but first the state must prove it is not polluted by any direct or indirect access to Welsh's testimony.

In the first three days of testimony, federal and state prosecutors have taken the stand and testified about the collaboration between various branches of the "Get LaRouche" task force. The testimony has revealed that the agents of the ADL have been functioning as integral parts of the task force and polluting the prosecutors, specifically as regards to Welsh's testimony.

The ADL's efforts to tamper with the case were revealed

the previous week when the presiding judge, Clifford Weckstein, disclosed that he had exchanged letters with Gissen. The ADL had sent Weckstein copies of its hate literature about LaRouche and attempted to bribe Weckstein with a promise of support for an appointment of a Jewish judge to the Virginia Supreme Court.

Weckstein has close personal and professional ties to the ADL's Janus, a top-dollar Richmond, Virginia attorney who plays a major behind-the-scenes role in nominating judges in Virginia.

The task force has desperately tried to cover up for the ADL's role in the various prosecutions of LaRouche and his associates. On the first day of the hearing, the Commonwealth, represented by Deputy Attorney General Stephen Rosenthal, strenuously objected to a defense subpoena for Mira Lansky-Boland, the ADL's Washington office director of their Fact Finding Division. Lansky-Boland had been present at Welsh's testimony at both the Boston and Alexandria trials and has maintained close ties to the Virginia prosecution. At the sentencing of Virginia defendant Michael Billington, Lansky-Boland was introduced as "Charlie's friend," referring to Virginia State Police agent Charles D. Bryant.

Judge Weckstein was initially reluctant to issue the subpoena until defense attorney Mark Overland pointed out that the judge himself had already taken judicial notice of the hostile relationship of the ADL to the defendants.

Within minutes of issuing the subpoena, the ADL's Washington office said Lansky-Boland had just left on vacation and could not be reached. Minutes later, a higher official said that Lansky-Boland had left the country earlier in the week and would not be back for two weeks.

Overland then demanded that Assistant Attorney General Russell and Weckstein make a representation on the record that they had not tipped Lansky-Boland off to the subpoena. Overland pointed out that on April 19, there was a conference call between Russell, Weckstein, and two defense attorneys. On the call, the Lansky-Boland subpoena was discussed. Weckstein then announced he had just received a call from Barbara Wall, an attorney for the ADL representing Lansky-Boland, who wanted to inform the court that Lansky-Boland was indeed on vacation and not evading the subpoena.

When Overland renewed his demand for a representation that no one in the court had tipped her off to the subpoena, Russell provided Lansky-Boland with an alibi saying he had talked to her two weeks ago and she had told him at that time she was going on vacation in two weeks.

Russell admitted on the stand he had had numerous conversations with her about the prosecutions of LaRouche and his associates. But he could not remember the content of those conversations except that they were not about the Welsh testimony. Russell also admitted that he had asked the ADL for documents because they had the best archive on LaRouche and could provide materials on request. He could not remember how he learned of this ADL capability.