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## Profile: Richard Durbin

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# The congressman from ADM and AIPAC

by Kathleen Klenetsky

In early August, during a congressional debate on campaign financing, Rep. Richard "Little Dicky" Durbin (D-Ill.) rose on the floor of the House of Representatives and delivered a vituperative attack on political prisoner Lyndon H. LaRouche and the candidates' movement associated with his ideas. Nearly beside himself with rage, Durbin slandered LaRouche and his associates as "extremists" who were guilty of "racism" and "anti-Semitism."

Ranting about the growth of the LaRouche movement, especially since two LaRouche Democrats had won statewide primaries in Illinois back in 1986, Durbin insisted that LaRouche's constitutional right to "speak out and participate in our political process" had to be curbed.

In putting on this display—only one of several public smears which Durbin has leveled against the LaRouche movement in the last several years—the Illinois congressman was simply doing the bidding of the group of special interests which bought him his congressional seat—and which also happen to have figured significantly in the "Get LaRouche" campaign.

Among the most important of Durbin's "owners" are Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), the powerful grain cartel company, as well as the so-called Zionist lobby, particularly the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).

### The alcoholic congressman

ADM, which is headquartered in Durbin's district, has plied Durbin's successive congressional campaigns with funds, as has ADM's owner, the Andreas family. This is the same Andreas family which finances the Anti-Defamation League (ADL—the American Dope Lobby), and whose patriarch, Dwayne Andreas, is one of Moscow's favorite businessmen.

The investment has paid off handsomely. Durbin has used his office to promote ADM-backed legislation that would require that all gasoline in the United States be blended with ethanol—a grain product over which the company has established a monopoly. He has also fought to ban ethanol imports into the United States, because these would break ADM's monopoly.

The link between Durbin's championing of ADM's pet legislation, and the hefty financial contributions which he

has received from the company and its owners, is so obvious, that even the 1990 edition of *The Almanac of American Politics* was forced to comment on it. Durbin's ethanol initiatives "are positions that help Andreas and ADM," says the *Almanac*.

### Filthy lucre

Dwayne Andreas's close ties to the ADL point to another clue to the question of who runs Dicky Durbin. Durbin was first elected to Congress in 1982 through an illegal conspiracy orchestrated by AIPAC, the registered lobbyist for the Israeli government under the foreign agents registration law.

Durbin ran against incumbent Paul Findley, a liberal Republican whose efforts at promoting a more even-handed U.S. policy in the Mideast earned him the enmity of the pro-Zionist lobby. Durbin ran a "dirty tricks" campaign against Findley, in which the latter was portrayed as a traitor to Israel and the Jewish race.

AIPAC was pivotal in Durbin's election. The organization is legally prohibited from giving financial contributions to political candidates, because it is not registered as a political action committee (PAC) or party. But according to several investigations, including one conducted by the *Wall Street Journal*, AIPAC circumvents these inconvenient legal technicalities by orchestrating the operations of the 90-plus pro-Israel PACs which have sprouted up in the past decade. This gives it a mammoth capacity to intervene in elections, which it uses to the hilt.

AIPAC's fronts poured over \$100,000 into Durbin's campaign coffers, enabling him to narrowly defeat Findley. AIPAC executive director Thomas A. Dine claimed credit for Findley's defeat, saying his forces had brought 150 students from the University of Illinois to "pound the pavements and knock on doors." Dine boasted that "this is a case where the Jewish lobby made a difference." He later estimated that \$685,000 of the \$750,000 raised by Durbin came from Jews.

Findley has written a book documenting AIPAC's power, and has also filed several complaints with the Federal Election Commission charging that AIPAC has had "illegal relations" with its network of PACs in funneling money to such candidates as Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa).

But the dirty little tale of who funds Dicky Durbin doesn't end there. He has taken money from Michael Milken, the convicted junk bond king, and from several of his cronies at Drexel, Burnham.

Durbin has also received contributions from the company PAC of Seagram's—owned by the notorious dope money-linked Bronfman family, which is also big in ADL-AIPAC circles, and which has been active in anti-LaRouche operations.

The next time Durbin demands that someone else be deprived of their constitutional rights because of the political "threat" they represent, ask yourself what special interest he's mouthing off for this time.