

# ADL promotes prison labor, Chinese-style

by Leo F. Scanlon

The United States Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation have begun a series of seminars to train local police in new techniques of crime statistics reporting, which for the first time in American history will tabulate crimes on the basis of race. The closed-door sessions, which integrate local police forces with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), are hosted by the FBI and held to implement the "Hate Crimes Statistics Act" which was written by the ADL.

These law enforcement officials are reflecting the corrosive effects of the "privatization" of U.S. law enforcement, a phenomenon which has accelerated during the era of George Bush and Attorney General Richard Thornburgh. The problem is not limited to the ADL's efforts to systematize racist analysis of crime in America, but also includes open support from ADL-sponsored law enforcement officials for a prison labor system modeled on the slave camps of Communist China.

Chicago Police Chief Leroy Martin, the keynote speaker at the FBI seminar in Chicago, has been praised by the ADL for his role as a pioneer in the area of racial crime statistics—but he is better known for his controversial statements in support of the Chinese slave labor system. This is not a far-fetched notion. It is a little known fact that the U.S. prison labor system, Federal Prison Industries (which trades as FPI or Unicor), is one of the largest public corporations listed on the American stock market and deploys its 13,000-plus pool of conscript labor to put the prison system on a paying basis.

Unicor is aggressively utilizing its legal authority to claim first bid on federal contracts, especially defense contracts, and is now one of the largest defense contractors in the country, doing more business with the Pentagon than Motorola and other private sector giants.

Upon his return from a tour of the Chinese prison system, Chief Martin told WBBM radio that the slave labor practices and starvation diets which are standard in those jails should be emulated in the United States. Among the prisoners in those jails are numerous freedom fighters arrested after the crack-down in Tiananmen Square, and two of them are staging a hunger strike to protest the conditions of their incarceration. In spite of that, Martin told an interviewer that "I don't think everything the communists do can't be copied, there are some things they do that are better than what we do." He added, "Jail should be such a place that once you are released, you don't want to come back again."



*Illinois Attorney General Neil Hartigan*

The obstacle to creating such a system in the United States is the remaining elements of the Bill of Rights, and Martin shares the Bush administration approach to overcoming it. "We need to take a look at it [the Constitution] and maybe from time to time curtail some of those rights because they have gotten us into a position where we're living in an armed camp." The Constitution should bow to "community opinion," Martin commented. He brushed off comparisons to the Nazi use of such tactics against the German Constitution, by observing that "they had a low crime rate then."

## **Hartigan's affinity for Chinese tyranny**

Chief Martin is not the only official in Illinois who has an unusual affinity for the Chinese tyranny. State Attorney General Neil Hartigan led a delegation of 850 top legal and economic leaders to China in 1987, in order to explore areas of trade, investment, and economic law. Hartigan had been involved with China while serving as a senior vice president of the Bank of Chicago. On the 1987 trip, he chaired a panel which introduced the Chinese to American state laws and legal procedures. Hartigan's knowledge of China, and his position as the top law enforcement officer in the state, puts Martin's comments in perspective.

The U.S. Congress has been vocal in its opposition to trade in goods produced by the Chinese prison labor system. The same legislators are curiously silent when challenged by the hundreds of industry associations and labor unions who are now petitioning Congress to curb Unicor and stop it from bankrupting American businesses.

Aggressive arm twisting by the Thornburgh Justice Department has kept the Congress in line on this issue, but it is the ADL which is calling the tune in Illinois. Support from Chicago law enforcement officials for slave labor prison systems is directly related to the fact that liquor magnate Edgar Bronfman, a financial angel of the ADL, is using Chinese prisoners to package wine coolers sold in Asia.