

FBI stall protects ADL's 'Get LaRouche' snitches

by Scott Thompson

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is using a bureaucratic "stall and appeal" strategy to block the release of scores of documents that would prove Bureau collusion with the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) in the 1989 railroad jailing of Lyndon LaRouche and in the decades-long persecution of the political movement he founded in the mid-1960s. The concealing of such evidence of government criminality under the guise of claims of secrecy or national security is explicitly forbidden under Executive Order 12356.

Officials at the Bureau's Washington, D.C. headquarters have clamped down on regional offices that had been releasing damning documents showing the FBI-ADL "Get LaRouche" collusion. Two such documents called "airtles," provided by the New Orleans and Chicago FBI field offices, were released early this year in compliance with Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests first filed by this news service way back in 1985.

In one document provided by the New Orleans field office to *EIR*, FBI Director William Webster ordered every FBI field unit to establish liaison with the ADL, going so far as to provide an internal ADL telephone directory to enable the Bureau officials to locate their local ADL counterpart.

That airtel was transmitted on Feb. 4, 1985, just months after Boston U.S. Attorney William Weld had initiated a witch-hunt federal grand jury probe of publications and political committees associated with LaRouche. The Boston grand jury probe represented a major escalation in a "Get LaRouche" campaign that had been initiated in August 1982, when Henry Kissinger sent a personal letter to William Webster demanding that the FBI investigate the LaRouche movement.

In January 1983, Director Webster formally ordered such a probe, after Kissinger cronies on the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, including notably Leo Cherne, Edward Bennett Williams, and David Abshire, backed up the former secretary of state's demands for an "investigation" by making wild accusations about LaRouche having "foreign intelligence" links.

According to internal documents from the ADL's so-called Civil Rights Division, Kissinger's complaints to Webster were crafted with the active cooperation of League attorneys. Moreover, one of the FBI Intelligence Division members, W. Raymond Wannall, who took part in the probe

ordered by Webster, is shown in a March 22, 1974 document released by the FBI (100-530-511) as having then been responsible for the appointment of a regular special agent in the New York FBI field office to be "liaison" to FBI headquarters in that city.

FBI and ADL meetings confirmed

Shortly after the New Orleans office released the Webster airtel, the Chicago field office declassified and released a related FOIA document, dated March 18, 1985. The document, No. 44-0-634B, from the Special Agent in Charge of the Chicago region to Judge Webster, referred to the director's Feb. 4 order to "establish a liaison as well as a line of communication so as to receive any allegations of civil rights matters from the ADL."

The Chicago SAC memo confirmed that a meeting had taken place between FBI officials and regional ADL people. Although the SAC memo made no explicit reference to LaRouche, it did confirm that the ADL had told the FBI "that it has conducted extensive information gathering on certain hate groups in America such as . . . the Lewis Farrakhan [sic] group," and would make their files available to the Bureau on a regular basis. The file name for the ADL black propaganda and libel feed into the Bureau was listed as "ADL information concerning civil rights matters."

The lid comes down

When the FOIA office at FBI headquarters in Washington learned of the New Orleans and Chicago document releases to *EIR*, immediate moves were taken to block any further releases by field offices.

Claiming that the documents in question, in the words of one official, "never should have been released since [they] reveal FBI informants," the boys at the J. Edgar Hoover Building in Washington ordered a "classification/declassification review" of the entire ADL file and established a screening procedure at headquarters before any further damaging papers could be released. The boss of the FOIA office staffer who complained about the released documents admitted to *EIR* that it would take a "long, long time for classification review ever to be finished."

As the result of this maneuver, all FBI documents from at least 1985 onward that dealt with the Bureau's collusion

with the ADL are being centrally held up from release. Neither regional office nor headquarters communiqués are being further processed in compliance with the six-year-old *EIR* FOIA request.

A lot to hide

Lyndon LaRouche has said on a number of occasions that were the government to release the millions of pages of documents presently being squirreled away under phony claims of national security, he would be instantly freed from jail. The paper trail of the FBI-ADL conspiring to shut down the LaRouche political movement and throw its leader into jail for the rest of his life, constitutes one key feature of that government file.

Indeed, among the trickle of FBI documents released to date concerning the ADL, many of the redactions reflect the Bureau's official classification of ADL officials as "informants" and "sources."

Although the ADL has a long history of collusion with the FBI, during the long reign of J. Edgar Hoover as FBI director, the Bureau was careful not to get itself too tangled up with the League. The major exception to that rule was during World War II, when the ADL flooded the FBI with information on alleged Nazi spies, at least some of whom were no closer to the Nazis than holding membership in America First or other groups opposed to the United States entering the war. Yet, the FBI continued to accept ADL reports at face value until an Assistant Attorney General ordered them to stop, claiming that ADL information was often little more than gossip.

As late as the 1960s, the FBI files were replete with references to top ADL officials being linked to the Soviet Union and communist front groups, as well as to organized crime. Dory Schary, the national director of the ADL from 1963, was listed in FBI files as a member of several Hollywood Communist Party fronts, and as an intimate friend from childhood of Jewish organized crime boss Abner Zwillman.

Due to these notorious links of the ADL chairman, Director Hoover always rejected League requests for him to speak at its public events.

The Webster era

By the time Judge Webster took over the Bureau during the Carter administration, however, all of those cautions had been thrown to the wind. Judge Webster became a frequent speaker at ADL conventions, and a regular recipient of ADL awards.

As early as 1979, shortly after Webster was named FBI director, he was already meeting personally with top ADL officials to discuss how to "get" LaRouche.

Investigations by this news service at the time revealed that Justin Finger, then the head of the ADL's Civil Rights Division, along with the League's new chairman, Burton Joseph, had met with FBI Director Webster to pressure him

to take action against the LaRouche political movement.

Finger told an interviewer in early 1979 that the Webster meeting had focused largely on the U. S. Labor Party, the party on whose ticket LaRouche had campaigned for President in 1976:

"I mentioned U. S. Labor Party and he wouldn't commit himself and wouldn't go into details with me, but it was very clear to me from what he said and what he did not say that this is an active investigation and that they are watching these people very closely because I said to him 'Look . . . we're saying . . . these guys are crazy and they are capable of acts of violence in their nuttiness.' . . . He indicated that he was aware of the organization and they were also concerned. . . . We have a full exchange of files."

EIR complained to then-Attorney General Griffin Bell about the ADL-FBI pact against LaRouche and his associates, but it was the FBI that was ordered to carry out the investigation of its own director, and so no evidence of the arrangement turned up.

However, documents finally released to *EIR* this spring, in the last of the FOIA disclosures before the FBI bureaucratically froze the process, proved that indeed such a pow-wow had occurred.

FBIHQ Main File Number 100-530-518 is a letter from Justin Finger to William Webster dated Jan. 9, 1979, in which the ADL official summarized the meeting with the director: "To reiterate, we are ready to be of such assistance to the Bureau, within the area of our competence and authority, as is possible."

The sequel document, Number 100-530-519 is Webster's response to the ADL letter, memorializing the working meeting. Webster's reply is dated Feb. 5, 1979, and reads in part: "Any information which you might wish to share with us should be communicated to Deputy Assistant Director James O. Ingram at FBI Headquarters. . . . With respect to security measures for your prospective headquarters in New York, I suggest that you contact Assistant Director Neil Welsh at our New York office. He will be pleased to assist you."

Webster addressed this letter to Nathan Perlmutter, who was then national director of the ADL and who FBI officials in New York report helped organize the meeting in 1985 that caused Director Webster to issue his airtel ordering FBI-ADL liaison. An FOIA request for the Bureau file of Nathan Perlmutter after his death was denied in its entirety by the FBI on the basis of exemption loopholes applied to FBI informants.

The handful of FBI papers revealing the collusion with the crime-infested ADL that have been released to date only serve to underscore LaRouche's assertion that a full disclosure would reveal sufficient evidence of government criminality to win him his immediate release. Such disclosures would also lay the basis for sending many senior FBI and ADL officials to jail for a long while, for their wild abuses of government power to conduct a private war against a great American patriot.