

The LaRouche method: follow the money trail

In 1978, when Lyndon LaRouche first commissioned the investigation that led to the publication of *Dope, Inc.*, no U.S. government agency had developed an accurate estimate of the dollar value of the world's illegal narcotics trade. After months of reviewing current and historical documentation, and debriefing scores of anti-narcotics officials from governments all over the world, the *EIR* team concluded that the annual revenue of *Dope, Inc.* exceeded \$300 billion.

Based on this estimate, the *EIR* team drew the only possible conclusion: Many of the world's key financial institutions had to be wittingly involved in the laundering of illegal dope money. How else could such enormous volumes of cash be shuttled from one corner of the globe to another in a nearly continuous cycle of drug production, processing, marketing, and refinancing?

This view was buttressed by mountains of historical evidence showing that by no later than the nineteenth-century British Opium Wars against China, major City of London banks, trading companies, and shipping lines had been officially engaged in the opium trade. Public archives revealed that the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking

Corp., a conglomerate established by the big five London banks, had been created as the clearinghouse bank for the world opium trade.

When the same HongShang bank attempted in late-1978 to buy up Marine Midland Bank, the eighth-largest commercial bank in New York, *EIR* investigators began seriously questioning whether the British banking establishment had ever gotten out of the opium business. The conclusion: No!

In fact, *EIR* researchers soon discovered that an international web of off-shore unregulated financial centers had been established for the primary purpose of facilitating money laundering, and that many of the major banks dominating these centers were the original British and American opium financiers.

These facts may seem far from startling by today's standards. The Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) indictments are but the latest in a string of recent scandals linking such financial giants as Merrill Lynch, American Express, and the Bank of Nova Scotia to big-time dope money. But, back in 1978, the *Dope, Inc.* charges were electrifying.

And then, as now, Lyndon LaRouche has argued that the most efficient way to destroy *Dope, Inc.* is to follow the money trail and hold the banks responsible for the illegal cash that passes through their accounts. Thirteen years later, the world is still waiting for a single government to adopt the LaRouche method for crushing *Dope, Inc.*

A May 1986 memo from White House Iran-Contra operator Gen. Richard Secord to National Security Council staffer Oliver North confirms that the Contra support apparatus—what Sen. David Boren (D-Okla.) labeled the “secret, parallel government”—was gathering “information against LaRouche.”

Dope, Inc. runs ‘Get LaRouche’ force

By the spring of 1986, following dramatic electoral victories in the statewide Illinois Democratic Party primary by two LaRouche-backed candidates for lieutenant governor and secretary of state, the “Get LaRouche” forces inside the government had built up momentum, especially inside the deeply corrupted Department of Justice and the FBI.

Two of the most zealous of the Justice Department “Get LaRouche” activists were William Weld and Arnold Burns. Weld was the U.S. Attorney in Boston who led the federal government's pioneering strike force against LaRouche. He became head of the Department of Justice Criminal Division in September 1986, the number two position at the DoJ. Now governor of Massachusetts, Weld is the scion of a prominent blueblood family that made its fortune in the China opium trade.

Arnold Burns, the deputy Attorney General, was a director of the ADL's Sterling National Bank, an outfit founded by mob cronies of Meyer Lansky and implicated in hot-money dealings in the United States, Italy, and Israel. Burns himself was nearly indicted in a money-laundering scheme run by Israel's secret service, the Mossad. It would later emerge that Burns's partners in that scheme were part of the Jonathan Jay Pollard Israeli-Soviet espionage ring.

In October 1986, an army of over 400 federal and state police, accompanied by helicopters, fixed-wing planes, and an armored personnel carrier, conducted a raid against the offices of several LaRouche-associated publications in Leesburg, Virginia. This was the largest domestic paramilitary action by the federal government since the urban and student riots of the late 1960s and early 1970s. The purpose was simply to execute two search warrants and make four arrests of people who had no criminal records!

Over the next several years, LaRouche and dozens of associates were arrested and put on trial. A prosecution of LaRouche and a dozen co-defendants in a Boston federal court ended in a mistrial on May 4, 1988. The Boston jury had heard 92 days of testimony from government witnesses.