

ping fueled by trillions of dollars of worthless junk bonds.

LaRouche told viewers, "The last time the United States actually witnessed a broad social movement for a better America, was during the civil rights movement of the 1960s, especially under the leadership of Martin Luther King, up to the time he was shot. In that period, many Americans, inspired by our successes in aerospace development, were prepared to fight for justice, and for economic equality, and for a better education for *every* American, whatever their skin color or national origin.

James Bevel's role

"One of the leaders of that 1960s civil rights movement, who is still fighting today, is the Rev. James Bevel. Jim Bevel was one of the founders of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and was the organizer, assigned to this work by Dr. Martin Luther King, to lead such things as the famous civil rights campaign in Mississippi, and in Selma and Birmingham, Alabama. I am honored that James Bevel has accepted my nomination for him to be my vice presidential running mate."

LaRouche warned voters not to believe "that we've been shelling out money to countries all over the world. Well, we've been giving some money to Israel, but to most everybody else, we've been giving nothing—we've been *taking*. . . . And the countries from which we've been taking support, such as Mexico . . . are now collapsing, and can't support us any more. If we continue with this so-called free trade policy, with this post-industrial policy, there is no hope for a recovery of the U.S. economy, ever—*ever*."

In the concluding segment, LaRouche assured voters, "On the day that I am inaugurated as President of the United States, I will act immediately to halt this depression, and to get the United States back on the road toward recovery." The show then detailed the concrete monetary and economic investment policies to do this.

Why have Americans not implemented these programs before the present debacle? LaRouche said: "You American voters wish to blame Washington for your troubles. You've got to accept part of the blame. It is you, so preoccupied with your television soap opera and your other cheap recreations, and not paying attention to business, who have consistently turned out on election day—thoughtlessly, almost—to vote for what you consider the lesser evil. And, every time you've voted, what you've done is, you've brought in evil."

Since Labor Day, vice presidential candidate Bevel has focused his campaign in the Mid-Atlantic states. On Sept. 8, he addressed a rally in Richmond, the Virginia capital, protesting the pending execution of Willie Leroy Jones, a poor black man, in the electric chair. On Sept. 15, Bevel led a larger anti-death penalty rally in the same city, called on that date to honor the memory of four black children murdered by a bomb attack on a Birmingham, Alabama church during a civil rights meeting, on Sept. 15, 1963 (see article, page 60).

Inslaw Case

House committee seeks special prosecutor

by Jeffrey Steinberg

On Sept. 10, the day that the House Judiciary Committee publicly released its long-awaited final report on the Inslaw affair, committee chairman Jack Brooks (D-Tex.) forwarded a letter to Attorney General William Barr signed by 20 other committee Democrats formally demanding the appointment of a special prosecutor to probe the decade-old Department of Justice corruption scandal.

Inslaw, a Washington, D.C. computer software firm, was driven into bankruptcy in the early 1980s when the Department of Justice (DOJ) stopped payment on a \$10 million case-management software contract involving a copyrighted version of the firm's Promis program. Investigations by Inslaw President Bill Hamilton and the company's lawyer, Elliot Richardson, turned up evidence that senior Reagan administration DOJ officials, including Attorney General Edwin Meese and Deputy Attorney General Lowell Jensen, joined with private sector business associate Dr. Earl Brian and possibly with U.S. intelligence officials to steal the Promis software and then bankrupt the company.

A federal bankruptcy court judge ruled in 1988 that the Department of Justice had indeed used "trickery, fraud, and deceit" to steal the software. The next year, a district court judge upheld the bankruptcy court ruling. Last year, the appeals court threw out the case on narrow procedural grounds but did not challenge any of the lower courts' findings of fact.

The House Judiciary Committee has been probing the Inslaw scandal for several years. Shortly before he stepped down as attorney general, Richard Thornburgh came under heavy fire from Jack Brooks for obstructing the investigation. The just-released 114-page Judiciary Committee report concludes that high-level DOJ officials as well as private individuals may have violated 12 separate criminal statutes including: fraud, perjury, tampering with a witness, receiving stolen goods, transporting stolen goods, and the Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) statute.

Inslaw allegations confirmed

Despite the fact that the House Judiciary Committee investigators ran up against nonstop interference from the De-

partment of Justice, which is well documented throughout their report, they were able to confirm a number of the most crucial allegations made by Hamilton and Richardson.

- Committee investigators obtained copies of internal Department of Justice memos which showed that copies of the Promis software and various users manuals had been provided—behind Inslaw’s back—to district attorneys in Colorado, to state officials in Pennsylvania, and to the Israeli government! According to the committee report, on April 22, 1983, C. Madison Brewer, the department’s project manager (and onetime lawyer for Inslaw who had been unceremoniously fired by Hamilton), ordered one of his assistants to provide a copy of the Promis to Dr. Ben Orr, “a representative of the government of Israel.”

The committee was unable to confirm whether copies of Promis were also provided to the Central Intelligence Agency and to the governments of Canada and the U.S. Virgin Islands as the result of lack of cooperation from the relevant agencies or governments.

- The committee also was able to confirm a critical allegation by Michael Riconosciuto, a sometime CIA asset and computer whiz-kid, who claimed that Dr. Earl Brian had been involved in a secret CIA project at the Cabazon Indian Reservation near Indio, California. Riconosciuto claimed that he had been assigned by Brian to make modifications in the stolen Promis software at the secret Cabazon site. The Cabazon Reservation housed a string of CIA and Pentagon weapons research and manufacturing projects during the early 1980s under the nominally private sponsorship of the Wackenhut Corp. Committee investigators were able to obtain records from the local sheriff’s department confirming that Brian had been at the site in the company of Riconosciuto. In a sworn affidavit to the committee and to the federal court, Brian had denied ever being at Cabazon or ever meeting Riconosciuto.

- The committee was also able to interview FBI Special Agent Thomas Gates on his knowledge of some of the circumstances surrounding the death of investigative reporter Dan Casolaro in August 1991. Casolaro was found dead in a hotel room in Martinsburg, West Virginia shortly after he apparently met with an important source on the Inslaw case. Both of his arms had been repeatedly slashed. Local police badly sabotaged the initial probe and eventually claimed that Casolaro’s death was a “suicide.”

At the time of his death, Casolaro was in contact with Agent Gates, who had probed one of the alleged private sector players in the Inslaw affair, Robert Booth Nichols. Nichols was probed by the FBI for suspected ties to Asian organized crime rings and possible CIA links. Days before Casolaro’s death, Nichols had warned Casolaro that he was getting too close to cracking open the Inslaw case, and that his life was in jeopardy. Based on the Gates interview and other information, the committee report called for the special prosecutor to probe the Casolaro death as part of the Inslaw matter.

Smoking gun memo

Perhaps the single most damning piece of new evidence turned up by the Judiciary Committee was a sworn statement by Deputy Attorney General Arnold Burns, which revealed that DOJ attorneys believed that Inslaw’s claims against the department were justified and that the government would lose if it went into court to defend against the fraud and contract violation charges. Despite that internal evaluation, the department proceeded to spend millions of dollars in taxpayers’ money.

The committee report, commenting on the Burns revelations, concluded: “Considering that the deputy attorney general was aware of Inslaw’s proprietary rights, the department’s pursuit of litigation can only be understood as a war of attrition between the department’s massive, tax-supported resources and Inslaw’s desperate financial condition, with shrinking (courtesy of the department) income.”

Not only did the committee’s final report conclude that the Department of Justice had used “trickery, fraud, and deceit” to steal Inslaw’s proprietary software and then try unsuccessfully to shut down the company, but the report also made some strong recommendations:

“Based on the evidence presented in this report, the committee believes that extraordinary steps are required to resolve the Inslaw issue. The attorney general should take immediate steps to remunerate Inslaw for the harm the department has egregiously caused the company. . . . In the event the attorney general does not move expeditiously to remunerate Inslaw, then Congress should move quickly under the congressional reference provisions of the Court of Claims Act to initiate a review of this matter by that court.

“Finally the committee believes that the only way the Inslaw allegations can be adequately and fully investigated is by the appointment of an independent counsel.”

Indictments soon?

Sources close to the Inslaw case have told *EIR* that the Bush administration is scrambling to limit the damage and avoid appointing a special prosecutor. According to these sources, the Inslaw scandal, if thoroughly probed, would unravel a political dirty tricks apparatus inside the DOJ that has been growing in power since the time of the Nixon presidency. The Inslaw scandal, like the railroad prosecution of Lyndon LaRouche using similar illegal bankruptcy tactics, these sources say, goes to the heart of this dirty network.

Among the options reportedly being considered by Attorney General William Barr is to indict several of the middle management DOJ officials deeply implicated in the Promis theft and the bankruptcy scheme against Inslaw. Such a maneuver, these sources say, would be used to justify rejecting Representative Brooks’s special counsel request and protecting the top DOJ officials who actually ran the Inslaw operation.