

Strange bedfellows: FBI allied with the communists against LaRouche

by Edward Spannaus

Unique insight into the real nature of J. Edgar Hoover's FBI is provided by looking at the role of the Bureau in operations against Lyndon LaRouche and his associates dating back as early as 1968. There is a continuity between the operations against LaRouche in the Hoover days, and those leading up to the events in the 1980s which resulted in LaRouche's illegal and unjust imprisonment. The seeds of the more recent efforts to kill or jail LaRouche were planted in 1968-69, and by the late 1960s and early 1970s, such efforts involved the same players—including the Soviet Union and its collaborators, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), and a lesser but significant role played by the *New York Times*.

The origins of the National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC), the philosophical association founded by LaRouche, go back to 1966, when LaRouche attracted a number of student activists by means of an economics class applying LaRouche's original breakthroughs in physical economy to a critique of Karl Marx's *Das Kapital*. The strategic perspective around which the 1966-68 group was formed was that the monetary crises of that period were heading into a general breakdown crisis which would emerge during the 1970s, and that this would result in the rise of a new form of fascism based upon the practices of Hitler's economics minister, Hjalmar Schacht.

In 1968, LaRouche deployed his original cadre grouping into the student ferment of that day, particularly the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), to recruit the best of the student radicals into the new political cadre force, which was to become the NCLC. The FBI's first documented intervention came in 1968-69, after the LaRouche grouping formed regional "Labor Committees" within SDS, and identified the Mark Rudd anarchist and proto-terrorist grouping as a fascist upsurge, resembling the radical ferment around Mussolini in 1920s Italy. The Rudd group did soon emerge as the "Weatherman" terrorists.

FBI "Cointelpro" files obtained under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) show that by October 1968, the FBI was already attempting to intervene into the SDS factional disputes. A Jan. 7, 1969 FBI memorandum from the "Special Agent in Charge, NY to Director" discussed the split within the New York Regional SDS Labor Committee and the alleged "expulsion" of the Labor Committee from SDS because of the Labor Committee's support of the United Federation

of Teachers in the 1968 New York teachers' strike:

"To take advantage of the above situation, the NYO [NY office of the FBI] is preparing a leaflet which will be submitted to the Bureau for Approval."

A June 30, 1969 FBI "Memorandum to the Director" stated:

"During the period 5/1-5/69, an anonymous leaflet entitled 'The Mouse Crap Revolution,' designed to widen the split between the SDS Columbia University Chapter and the so-called NY SDS Labor Committee, was mailed to 219 individuals and organizations in the New Left."

The "Mouse Crap" leaflet was a raving, infantile attack on Tony Papert, a prominent leader of the Columbia strike and as well a leader of the New York Labor Committee. After calling Papert the "Chief Mouse Crapper" on Columbia's campus for "trying to screw SDS into the ground," the FBI leaflet proclaimed:

"Our Black friends will be surprised to know that Papert and the NY Labor Committee supported the Teacher's Union against Ocean Hill-Brownsville during the last strike! The UFT owns Papert and his crew. Tony has accused Mark Rudd of busting up his meetings, stomping on his demonstrations, and pissing on his social reforms. Mouse crap! The fact is that Mark effectively creamed the Labor Committee's little tea party on March 11th to expose Papert's mice for what they are . . . Tony, baby, we suggest [sic] you take your Mouse Crap elsewhere. Go swap spit with your hero, Albert Shanker of the UFT. . . . As for the rest of the so-called NY SDS Labor Committee, we say . . . LOOK OUT"

FBI defends the Communist Party

In the early 1970s, the NCLC concentrated its efforts in two areas. The first was building up a private intelligence capability, created immediately following the August 1971 collapse of the postwar Bretton Woods monetary system, which led to the creation of New Solidarity International Press Service and *EIR* in 1974. The second area was the effort to prevent a growing clash between employed and unemployed, through the creation of the National Unemployed and Welfare Rights Organization (NUWRO). This area of organizing took the NCLC into direct FBI strongholds in the labor movement and the so-called political "left," which dominated the labor movement and whose influence

the NCLC had determined to crush.

Not so surprisingly, when the NCLC came into head-on confrontation—sometimes bloody—with the Communist Party U.S.A., this upset the FBI's appellation as well, since the FBI's Division Five was firmly entrenched as a major factor in the CPUSA.

With FBI instigation, the CPUSA tried to disrupt NCLC organizing and attempted to start a race riot at the founding convention of NUWRO in Philadelphia in March 1973. Immediately thereupon the NCLC announced "Operation Mop-Up," vowing to eliminate the Communist Party as a political force in the United States. The operations's success resulted in a flurry of direct FBI harassment of NCLC members and a mobilization of FBI assets in the CP to try and discredit the NCLC among "the left."

This was the genesis of the "right-wing terrorist" and "CIA" characterizations of the NCLC; these originated with the FBI and were laundered through the CPUSA. Reading between the lines of the FBI's Aesopian Bureau-speak, it is clear how this was done in an 1973 Memorandum from "SAC, Los Angeles to Director," which disputes an FBI communication characterizing the NCLC as an "ultra-left" organization. After quoting from an article in the CPUSA newspaper the *Daily World* (formerly the *Daily Worker*), the memo went on:

"According to [name deleted] . . . a source close to Southern California District, Communist Party (SCDCP) leadership, the functionaries of the SCDCP look upon the NCLC as a 'terrorist' group with right-wing connections.

"It would seem this group has created a facade to cloak its true purpose as a goon squad to combat the left."

An FBI memo from "SAC, San Francisco" dated Sept. 7, 1974 contains the following comment:

"Representatives from various left wing groups and radicals in the San Francisco Bay area are in agreement in their opposition to the NCLC. They feel the NCLC is some kind of a front either for the local police or the CIA."

By 1973, according to FBI reports, the CPUSA was actively discussing the assassination of LaRouche. Despite the fact that the FBI was well aware of this, the Bureau officially scoffed at evidence of assassination operations aimed at LaRouche in January 1974 and at later dates. The following is from a November 23, 1973 FBI memo:

"TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

"FROM: SAC, NEW YORK

"SUBJECT: LYNDON HERMYLE LAROUCHE, JR.

"[Line deleted] information has been received that the CPUSA is conducting an extensive background investigation on the subject for the purpose of ultimately eliminating him and the threat of the NCLC, on CP operations. [Deleted] have furnished this information to the New York office, and this information has appeared in the *Daily World* newspaper several times.

"[Deleted] the subject is the controlling force behind the

NCLC and all of its activities. A discussion with the New York NCLC case agent indicates that it is felt if the subject was no longer in control of NCLC operations that the NCLC would fall apart with internal strife and conflict."

Later, in September 1975, and then again in January 1976, the FBI used an acknowledged FBI informant, Gregory Rose, to launder lying and defamatory information through the Communist Party newspaper, the *Daily World*. From at least May through October 1975, Rose was officially on the FBI payroll, which was acknowledged in a letter to Rose signed by former FBI Director Clarence Kelley.

Under the 1976 "Levi Guidelines," the FBI was required to submit a summary of its investigation to the attorney general for review. This review resulted in an Aug. 19, 1976 memorandum from the attorney general to then-FBI Director William Webster. This memorandum has to be one of the more startling documents in law enforcement history, for its principal justification for the FBI's continued investigation of the NCLC was that the NCLC had attacked the Communist Party U.S.A.

"The actions taken to accomplish the NCLC's short-term goals, that is, of breaking-up Communist Party and Socialist Workers Party meetings, assaulting their members, and forced 'reprogramming' of its own members, do involve force and violence. The force and violence as used tends to deprive the victims of those actions of their civil rights. . . . While certain activities of the Communist Party and other like groups are proscribed by statute, such activities are typically intertwined with other acts which can be protected exercises of political activity. In either case, however, decisions as to which are legitimate and which are not is not a decision for the National Caucus of Labor Committees, and that group is in no way authorized to take such actions against its political opponents.

". . . these incidents have a greater purpose . . . the violence employed against individuals has the long-term aim of overthrow of the government. It is, therefore, appropriate to consider such acts in an 'overthrow' context. . . ."

Protecting the KGB's American assets

The FBI's protection of the CPUSA was only one facet of the Bureau's close collaboration with the "left" against the NCLC. The Bureau also worked closely with the Socialist International grouping in the U.S. labor movement, both around the AFL-CIO and the United Auto Workers (UAW). The most prominent channel into the FBI was the League for Industrial Democracy (LID), the original offshoot of the British Fabian Society in the United States, and the initiating organization for the founding of SDS in 1960, which by the end of the decade had spawned the terrorist Weathermen faction.

The section of the U.S. labor movement with which the FBI collaborated most closely against the NCLC in the mid-1970s, was the Jay Lovestone grouping, the "Comintern's anti-communist section." Before participating in the found-

ing of the CPUSA in the early 1920s, Lovestone was head of the LID student group at City College in New York City. After Lovestone's celebrated break with Stalin in 1929, the former is reported to have remained a top official of Soviet intelligence in the western hemisphere into the 1950s. Lovestone's "international affairs" apparatus in the AFL-CIO, overlapping with the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU), has been closely identified with the Meyer Lansky organized crime syndicate since the 1920s, especially in the postwar period in Europe.

The FBI and the ADL

The first documented high-level contact from this network with the FBI took place in September 1973, when William Ruckelshaus, then the acting deputy attorney general, had a meeting with officials of the UAW concerning NCLC organizing in the auto industry and what could be done to stop it.

Then, during 1974, the League for Industrial Democracy was deployed to infiltrate the NCLC and prepare intelligence reports to be transmitted to the AFL-CIO, the UAW, and later to the FBI. The LID reports advocated goon attacks and financial warfare against the NCLC:

"The only thing that seems to work is an overwhelming physical defense which intimidates the NCLC . . . the UAW has used this tactic successfully in the past."

As to the second tactic, the LID report argued:

"Their principal weakness at the present time is financial . . . a well-planned slander suit would tie them up in expensive court suits."

Sure enough, shortly after this was written, the UAW filed a \$30 million lawsuit against the NCLC and *New Solidarity* newspaper for libel and "trademark violation." A second LID report boasted that, "If successful, this suit would bankrupt the NCLC."

On June 27, 1975, UAW General Counsel Steven Schlossberg met with Attorney General Edward Levi to brief Levi on the progress of the UAW suit and offered to let the FBI go through his extensive files on the NCLC, accumulated during the *UAW v. NCLC* lawsuit. In addition to the LID reports, Schlossberg gave Levi a copy of a June 1975 report on the NCLC prepared by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL).

The ADL report expressed the group's fears over the NCLC's peace initiatives for the Middle East and complained that the NCLC "is considering a full-scale organizing campaign aimed at American Jews" and that the NCLC has "already contacted several Jewish organizations." (It was to attempt to counter LaRouche's policy initiatives in the Middle East and NCLC organizing within the Jewish community in the United States that the organized crime-linked ADL first developed the "anti-Semitic" slander line against the NCLC. Later, when NCLC members published the book *Dope, Inc.* in 1978 and launched a "war on drugs," the ADL

went wild in defense of Jewish gangsters like Meyer Lansky and the "Israeli mafia.")

The ADL's principal public line of attack on the NCLC at this time was through the *Homefront* newsletter, run by its asset Charles Baker, who floated to the surface out of the seamier side of Walter Reuther's political machine. *Homefront* devoted its April and June 1975 issues to the NCLC, and then in June, Baker contacted the FBI, trying to recycle information peddled to him by FBI informant Greg Rose. Rose's information became the basis for further *Homefront* articles, which also quoted from the Communist Party's *Daily World* articles, based on Rose's tall tales.

At the same time, ADL agent Charles Baker drafted a new, private intelligence report on the NCLC which was submitted to AFL-CIO officials and the UAW's Schlossberg. The Baker memo contained the first detailed analysis attempting to characterize the NCLC as a "cult," along the lines of the "Moonies." On Sept. 23, 1975, as Schlossberg had suggested, the Baker memorandum was transmitted to the FBI by Assistant Attorney General Richard Thornburgh. The April 1976 *Homefront*, an updated version of the Baker report, also made its way to the FBI. And, lo and behold, the FBI's semi-annual report to the attorney general, dated June 28, 1976, contained phrases and formulations directly plagiarized from the Baker memo and *Homefront*.

The June 1976 FBI analysis in fact adopted full-blown the ADL's falsifications, characterizing the NCLC as similar to a religious cult. This June 1976 FBI report provides conclusive evidence that the FBI was operating in close coordination with the Socialist International and the mob-linked ADL against LaRouche by this time.

The Soviets update their orders

In 1977, the FBI was forced to officially terminate its domestic security investigation of the NCLC. In reality, the "LaRouche case" was contracted out to the ADL for a number of years. Even during this period, the FBI continued to retail its "leftist" line against LaRouche. A December 1980 FBI teletype, from the director to the FBI legal attaché in Paris, declared: "Recently, LaRouche and the USLP [U.S. Labor Party] have reportedly swung violently to the right and the USLP is now authoritarian and anti-semitic among other things."

In 1983, an official FBI investigation of LaRouche and associates was reopened at the personal behest of Henry Kissinger. After the Reagan administration adopted a form of LaRouche's strategic defense proposal in March 1983, the Soviets began open attacks on LaRouche. The FBI and Justice Department obliged by opening a new grand jury investigation in October 1984. In the summer of 1986, the Soviets escalated their attacks, demanding that the Reagan administration show its good faith by jailing LaRouche. Once again, the FBI obliged, with the massive October 1986 raid against LaRouche, and the indictment and ultimate imprisonment of LaRouche and numerous associates.