
Book Review

Witnesses for the prosecution

by Harley Schlanger

Inside the Cult

by Marc Breault and Martin King
Penguin Books, New York, 1993
375 pages, paperbound, \$4.99

See No Evil: Blind Devotion and Bloodshed in David Koresh's Holy War

by Tim Madigan
The Summit Group, Fort Worth, Texas, 1993
300 pages, paperbound, \$11.95

On July 2, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled that the Federal Election Commission (FEC) was wrong when it denied Democratic Party presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche matching funds for his 1992 campaign. The court concurred with LaRouche's attorneys, who argued that the FEC violated its statutory mandate by withholding funds from the campaign.

On hearing of the verdict, LaRouche, who is a political prisoner, described it as "an indication, one glimpse, of the possible peek of justice, coming under the pressures of a great crisis."

Less than one week later, on July 8, Randy Weaver and Kevin Harris were acquitted by an Idaho jury of charges which included the murder of a federal marshal. Much of the press commentary on the verdict centered on the growing backlash against law enforcement agencies and prosecutors, as many citizens fear their basic constitutional rights are under assault.

Tony Cooper, a terrorism expert at the University of Texas at Dallas, expressed this sentiment to the *Washington Post*. Cooper said, "I see the formation of a curious crusading mentality among certain law enforcement agencies to stamp out what they see as a threat to government generally. . . . It's an exaggerated concern that they are facing a nationwide

conspiracy and that somehow this will get out of control unless it is stamped out at a very early stage."

A juror on the Weaver trial said that federal prosecutors "built their whole scenario out of how they perceived someone else should be living their lives, and if someone believed differently . . . they must be abnormal."

The LaRouche case stands out as evidence that the U.S. legal system, especially on the federal level, increasingly came to resemble a fascist police state during the 1980s. The persecution of LaRouche and his associates provides a paradigm for investigating the injustices of the Reagan-Bush years.

Within the United States, LaRouche was targeted by private organizations, in particular the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and the Cult Awareness Network (CAN), which imposed their anti-LaRouche agenda on federal agencies. Wall Street speculators joined high-level officials of the Justice Department, FBI, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), IRS, some state attorneys general and corrupted elements of the media to establish a national "Get LaRouche" task force, which harassed associates and supporters of LaRouche and maintained a constant barrage of lies and slanders.

Once they had poisoned the public mind against LaRouche, a 400-man multi-agency task force descended on LaRouche headquarters in Leesburg, Virginia, complete with tanks and helicopters, on Oct. 6, 1986. Among the units deployed was the Hostage Response Unit of the FBI, from Quantico, Virginia. It was only due to an eleventh-hour communication by LaRouche to Reagan that a bloodbath was averted, as agents who took part in the raid subsequently admitted. Arrests were made, and the press dutifully cranked out new, more vicious attacks in the tradition of "trial by press."

The activity of the "Get LaRouche" task force assured that LaRouche and his associates would not receive a fair trial. The "rocket docket" in Alexandria, Virginia gave his lawyers less than one month to prepare for the trial, while prosecutors, working closely with the ADL and CAN, illegally withheld exculpatory evidence, tampered with witnesses (including, for example, "deprogramming" a former member), and pumped out more lies to the obliging press. Before Judge Albert Bryan, Jr., who demonstrated bias against LaRouche throughout the trial, it was a foregone conclusion that, though innocent, LaRouche would be convicted.

The *modus operandi* employed by the government against LaRouche has since been deployed in other cases, with the Weaver case as an example. Once government actions, including the murder of Weaver's 14-year-old son and wife, and the death of a federal marshal, provoked a standoff, almost 400 agents surrounded Weaver's house. During the trial, the prosecution tried to cover up for the killing of Weaver's son and wife, arguing that they were political and religious extremists who first prophesied, then sought, a holy

war against federal agents.

This was countered in the trial by Weaver's lead attorney Gerry Spence, who accused the prosecutors of trying to "demonize" Weaver "so that they could cover up the murder of a boy shot in the back and a woman shot in the head."

This background is essential to understand the bloody events precipitated by the ATF and the FBI in Waco, Texas, which left at least 86 members of the Branch Davidians and four ATF agents dead. From the beginning of the ATF's investigation of David Koresh, to the fiery end of the siege at the hands of the FBI, many of the same forces, both private (ADL and CAN) and government (including the brainwashers of the FBI's Behavioral Sciences Unit and the hit squads of the Hostage Response Team), which ran the "Get LaRouche" team, were involved.

Even before the final deadly assault of April 19, questions emerged about ATF strategy and tactics. Experts accused the ATF of poor planning, of acting like "storm troopers," and of being over-zealous in search of press acclaim. *EIR* identified the role of CAN in manipulating the ATF to launch the raid, through their quack psychiatry, "documents" extorted from "deprogrammed" former members, and a furious letter-writing campaign, supplemented by stories planted in the press. Lawyers for Koresh and others were convinced that, based on evidence of ATF bungling, they could get their clients off.

For the government, the fire which consumed both people and physical evidence was a blessing in disguise. Since the FBI has faced questions about why they took steps which led to 86 deaths to "stop child abuse" or "enforce respect for the law," the fire may have saved them from an embarrassing repeat of the Weaver trial.

The prosecution's case

For now, the prosecution's case is being presented in tabloid-style narratives, paste-up rush jobs cobbled together by those most responsible for the string of catastrophes which culminated in the blazing holocaust. Among the first to appear (coming out less than six weeks after the tragedy ended) is *Inside the Cult*, a piece of self-serving nonsense written by Martin King, an Australian reporter, and Marc Breault, a former member of the Branch Davidians.

Breault joined Koresh in 1986, a graduate of a Seventh-Day Adventist school with little hope of becoming a minister in the church. As he tells it, "I was left stranded with no job prospects and a useless degree." Upon recruitment to the Branch Davidian sect, he claims to have risen to become the "right-hand man" of David Koresh, the "most important person in the life of cult supremo Vernon Howell . . . his back-stop, his confidant, his troubleshooter." Due to his alleged closeness with Koresh (none of the survivors remembers Breault holding such an exalted position), Breault says he often held private conversations with Koresh, at which times Koresh confided in him on matters pertaining to manip-

ulating others, "getting women," etc.

After leaving Waco, he moved to Australia to challenge Koresh's hold over the Australian members, becoming a self-proclaimed "cultbuster." He made up stories to shock members into leaving: "I wanted to get their attention, so I decided to shock them." On one occasion, he told them that Koresh was planning to carry out a human sacrifice. Though he admits this was for shock value, to "weed out the break-aways" he couldn't trust, this story found its way into ATF files, and was presented by an ATF agent to the press as a reason for moving against Koresh!

Breault also takes credit for the stories that Koresh was preparing a bloodbath against the people of Waco, or a mass suicide. In a letter he sent in March 1992 to Michigan Congressman Fred Upton (R), he predicted "that over 200 people will be massacred next month. . . . Each day brings us closer to Jonestown." Again, ATF officials desperate to cover up their blunders relied on Breault's tall tales to defend their actions in the post-raid press conferences.

The only useful aspect of King and Breault's tale is that it confirms that law enforcement authorities, especially those from Waco who knew Koresh, did not believe them. They state, "The grim irony is that the ATF was the only U.S. law enforcement agency that took Marc Breault seriously." Grim irony, indeed!

There is another inadvertent admission of Breault which sheds light on the role of CAN. In his diary of the final pre-raid days, he notes that Rick Ross, one of CAN's top deprogrammers, was scaring the family of Koresh lieutenant Steve Schneider into hiring him to kidnap Schneider. Ross, a convicted jewel thief who was charged with kidnapping in Washington State on July 1, 1993, is the hero of *See No Evil*, a book written by Fort Worth *Star Telegram* reporter Tim Madigan.

Not surprisingly, Madigan never reports on Ross's criminal background. Instead, he proclaims himself to be "hopelessly in his debt" for his aid in preparing the book. (Does this mean Ross may be contacting him for bail money or legal fees, as he follows fellow CAN deprogrammer Galen Kelly into jail?) Madigan fully defends the FBI's line on the final assault, that "it had become apparent the more conservative course, further negotiation, was pointless," i.e., that everyone had to die.

Madigan does provide useful information on Ross's role, confirming that he was a major source for the *Waco Tribune-Herald's* series on Koresh, which provided copy for the nation's newspapers, and that he worked with ATF in preparing for the raid, beginning in January 1993.

To allow reporters to make Breault and Ross the heroes of Waco would be to ensure that the United States would continue down the path of a fascist police state. If we are to achieve more than a glimpse, or a peek, at justice, then the role of CAN and the ADL in perverting our system of criminal justice must be exposed and put to an end.