

CAN's Kisser refuses to deny past drug use

For the last three days of September, Cynthia Kisser, the Cult Awareness Network (CAN) executive director and one of the linchpins in nasty operations against Lyndon LaRouche and his associates, was questioned in a legal proceeding in Chicago. When asked if she had ever used illegal drugs, Kisser repeatedly refused to answer. She also claimed that, according to the tenets of her organization, the Catholic Church was a cult, because it was centrally controlled by the pope and its members adhered to a common set of beliefs.

The questioning exposed her as a liar and fraud concerning her allegations that she was defamed in an article published in *New Federalist*, a newspaper associated with Lyndon LaRouche, which exposed CAN as a group of "thugs, perverts, and miscreants."

Thugs, perverts, and miscreants

Kisser admitted that CAN's former president, Michael Rokos, could be called a pervert, based upon the report by a Baltimore police undercover operative that Rokos had solicited the officer to perform bizarre homosexual sex acts several years before he became the president of CAN. Kisser maintained that just because he was a pervert then, didn't mean that he was still a pervert a few years later when he headed CAN and she worked with him.

She also admitted that it was fair to characterize self-proclaimed "deprogrammer" and professional kidnapper Galen Kelly as a "thug" if the allegations made by the U.S. government against him are true. Kelly and Kisser are at the center of a national kidnapping-for-hire ring which had targeted Lyndon LaRouche and his associates.

Kelly is the most notorious kidnapper/deprogrammer in the United States, with close ties to Israeli intelligence and hardcore criminal and terrorist circles. He was indicted in 1992 for conspiring to kidnap LaRouche associate Lewis du Pont Smith (Kelly and his co-defendants were acquitted, after a corrupt judge gave the jury improper instructions as to what constitutes a "conspiracy"). Kelly was later convicted of kidnapping a woman named Debra Dobkowski, for which he served 15 months in federal prison until his conviction was reversed on appeal for technical reasons unrelated to the kidnapping.

Kisser was questioned in connection with a libel suit brought by her against Midwest Circulation Corp., the Illinois Church of Scientology, and several publications in Illinois. In the lawsuit, Kisser complains that she was defamed by publications circulated by the defendants which reported that she was previously employed as a topless dancer. She

also alleges that the articles associated CAN, and, by innuendo, Kisser, with drug pushing, sexually deviant acts, and recruitment to "neo-malthusian cults," among other allegations. (Kisser said she did not know what a "neo-malthusian" cult is, but that her lawyer told her it was defamatory to be associated with one.)

When asked about the alleged defamations of sexual perversion, Kisser stated that a picture of "her personal face" appeared on the same page of *New Federalist* as a picture of former CAN President Rokos, who was identified as having been arrested for soliciting sex from an undercover police officer. Initially, Kisser distinguished between herself as an individual with her "personal face" and her official position as executive director of CAN. She later clarified this distinction, saying that both faces are the same because her "personal face is the only face I own."

The deposition yielded several insights into Kisser's character. Kisser claimed that she could not remember the year she was married, the date, or the location, even though she had been married to the same man for the last 20 years.

Kisser admitted that Galen Kelly wrote portions of the brochure distributed by CAN under the auspices of something called the LaRouche Victims Support Group, and that she has referred people to Kelly as an expert on LaRouche. She claimed to have no knowledge of Kelly's kidnapping activities. According to Kisser, CAN's board of directors was aware of allegations that Kelly had kidnapped people in the past, but agreed to retain Kelly in 1990 only after he assured them he had not kidnapped anyone in a long time and had no plans to do so in the future. Kelly was involved in at least three kidnappings while on retainer from CAN.

In April 1992, as Kelly was planning the kidnapping of Debra Dobkowski, Kisser paid Kelly's expenses to travel to Tucson, Arizona to find Catherine Lane, the woman who had signed an affidavit saying Kisser was a topless dancer. Lane has since stated that Kelly claimed to be a policeman and tried to intimidate her.

Kisser's memory loss was particularly severe when asked about her dealings with Don Moore, the crazed former Loudoun County sheriff's deputy who was at the center of the government's frameup and conviction of LaRouche. Moore has admitted on federal wiretaps that he broke numerous laws during the LaRouche investigation. He is currently in federal prison, serving time for his role in the Dobkowski kidnapping. Kisser remembered having a few conversations with Moore since they met at a conference in 1990, but she could not recall the content. Her recollection barely improved when she was played a conversation between herself and Moore, captured by the FBI on a wiretap. She denied discussing with Moore using her libel suit as a pitch to raise money from E. Newbold Smith. Kisser said that Smith—father of Lewis du Pont Smith, and Kelly's codefendant in a 1992 trial about the attempted kidnapping of his son—was the single largest contributor to CAN over the past 10 years.