

Stench of coverup fills Congress on Waco probe

by Jeffrey Steinberg

Two days into the House of Representatives probe into the 1993 government assault on the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas that left over 80 people dead, Congress appeared well on the way to covering up the crimes of the permanent bureaucracy of the Department of Justice and other federal agencies—just as U.S. statesman Lyndon LaRouche warned might happen in the July 17 issue of the weekly *New Federalist* newspaper.

From the moment that Republicans announced the eight days of hearings by subcommittees of the House Judiciary Committee and the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee, the stench of partisan politics was unmistakable. Rep. Bill Zeff (R-N.H.), chairman one of the subcommittees sponsoring the hearings, predicted on nationwide TV on the eve of the hearings that they might lead to the impeachment of President Clinton! Although the claim was absurd, it provided an insight into the mind-set and motives of at least some of the GOP partisans.

Zeff's opening statement to the hearings on July 19 included gratuitous references to a possible role by the late White House Deputy General Counsel Vincent Foster in the Waco tragedy, further evidence that some Republicans are more interested in scoring points against the Clinton White House than in getting to the bottom of the fiasco at Waco.

On the other side of Capitol Hill, the Senate was at that very moment holding hearings on the so-called Whitewater scandal, focusing on the circumstances of Foster's death in July 1993, which investigators determined was suicide. The Senate hearings, convened by Al D'Amato (R-N.Y.), aim to create the appearance of a White House coverup—either of the circumstances surrounding Foster's death, or the existence of incriminating documents relating to the Whitewater Development Corp. in which then-Gov. Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary were passive investors.

Recent reports in the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Washington Post*, based on leaks from the office of Whitewater special prosecutor Kenneth Starr, suggest that after more than a year of round-the-clock investigation, at a cost of over \$8 million in taxpayers' money, the Starr probe has run aground, turning up no evidence of criminal wrongdoing by the Clintons. A recent outside audit submitted to the Resolution Trust Corp. by a former Bush-appointed U.S. Attorney, Jay Stephens, also concluded that the Clintons did nothing wrong, and in fact lost money on their Whitewater investment—just as they have been saying all along.

All of this translates into one simple fact: that after over two years of massive media black propaganda, directed by the Hollinger Corp. of Canada and Great Britain, promising that the Whitewater scandal would land the President in jail before the end of his first term in office, it turns out that there were apparently no crimes or improprieties by the Clintons. Would-be Clinton-bashers have one last hope: that they can come up with some scent of White House attempt at coverup, and thereby salvage their "Get Clinton" offensive. Hence the fixation on the death of Vincent Foster.

Two-and-a-half days of Senate Whitewater Committee hearings, dominated by testimony by former Deputy Attorney General Webster Hubbell, have so far produced little grist for the GOP and British propaganda mill—or for special prosecutor Starr. U.S. Park Service investigators, who testified on June 20, reiterated their findings that Foster's death was a suicide, and complained that distraught White House officials had failed to seal off Foster's office, as they had requested, in the hours immediately after the announcement that his body had been discovered in Fort Marcy Park in Virginia. But they were convinced that there was no willful coverup, or effort to bury damaging documents. In fact, in an effort to preempt the war of innuendo planned by D'Amato,



A scene during the standoff in Waco, Texas, April 3, 1993. Anybody who is concerned about "Gestapo tactics" in the Waco affair should investigate the permanent bureaucracy in the Department of Justice, rather than pursuing a partisan agenda against the Clinton administration.

White House attorneys provided senators and the media with the opportunity to review Foster's Whitewater files several days before the hearings began. The near-unanimous conclusion: There was no "smoking gun."

A dog-and-pony show

Unfortunately, the Republicans on the House panels probing the Waco tragedy do not appear to be alone in their zeal to cover up for the permanent bureaucracy at the Department of Justice and elsewhere. Among the Democrats on the committees, Reps. Charles Schumer (D-N. Y.) and Tom Lantos (D-Calif.), both longstanding assets of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL), one of the complicit parties in the Waco assault, immediately cast themselves in the role of partisan combatants, defending every action by the federal agencies and casting every allegation of government error or wrongdoing as a ploy by either the right-wing militias or the National Rifle Association (NRA) to wreck the federal government's ability to enforce gun control laws. Unfortunately, even President Clinton, in a speech to federal law enforcement directors at Blair House on July 20, lapsed into some of the same rhetoric displayed by Schumer and Lantos; and, a week before the hearings began, Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin issued a media advisory that the hearings threatened to be an ambush by Republican right-wingers out to dismantle the Treasury Department Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF).

The stage was further set for this gang-countergang diversion by revelations on the eve of the hearings, that officials of the NRA had been apparently brought into the official congressional probe, and had on at least one occasion falsely passed themselves off as panel staffers in order to gain profiles of potential hearing witnesses.

As *EIR* reported in a June 30 *Special Report*, outside agencies, led by the Cult Awareness Network (CAN) and

the ADL, had foisted the original ATF probe of the Branch Davidians, and had continued to poison the Waco investigation with wild disinformation, passed on through a network of CAN- and ADL-controlled "deprogrammed" former Branch Davidians, right up to the final FBI tear gas assault on the compound on April 19, 1993, which resulted in the fire that killed over 80 sect members.

Throughout the first two days of hearings, Schumer and Lantos's comments were loaded with formulations drawn verbatim from the CAN-ADL disinformation.

There were moments, however, when some elements of reality crept into the proceedings. On July 19, one of the panelists, Stuart Wright, associate professor of sociology at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, asked the subcommittees: "How is it possible that a deprogrammer associated with the Cult Awareness Network, Rick Ross (an ex-convict with a psychiatric record), came to be an outside 'expert'? Who in the ATF or FBI decides who is an expert? What kinds of professional criteria or credentials are considered, if any? What role did these anti-cultists play in the holocaust at Mt. Carmel?"

The *EIR Special Report* answered those questions in considerable detail; but, the subcommittees did not even subpoena Ross, CAN President Cynthia Kissler, or any of the myriad of federal and state law enforcement agents who have probed CAN and developed evidence that has led to a string of nationwide kidnapping prosecutions against members of the group, including Ross.

It didn't start with Waco

The key to the coverup lies more in what the panel refused to take up. A total of 93 witnesses will be called, and already some of the witnesses, including Wright and a panel of a half-dozen U.S. Army Special Forces personnel, have provided marginally useful information about the blunders and willfully fraudulent aspects of the government action. Those bits and

pieces of testimony, sadly, are so far destined to be lost in a sea of irrelevant details and partisan bickering.

The real criminals, who ought to be facing serious charges, are an army of permanent government bureaucrats and their outside partners in the ADL and CAN. Their crimes didn't begin with Waco. As *EIR* recently showed, the same DOJ personnel—led by Deputy Assistant Attorneys General Mark Richard and John Keeney, who, between them, have served for more than 72 years in the Department of Justice bureaucracy—who ran Waco, were also behind the rail-roading of Lyndon LaRouche; the “Frühmenschen” (“early man”) DOJ-FBI program to frame up hundreds of Afro-American elected officials; the near frame-up execution of Cleveland retired auto worker John Demjanjuk on manufactured charges that he was Nazi mass murderer “Ivan the Terrible” of the Treblinka concentration camp; and the cold-blooded killings of ex-Green Beret Randy Weaver's wife and teenage son during an August 1992 FBI siege in Ruby Creek, Idaho; as well as dozens of other crimes and atrocities.

To get to the bottom of the corruption, the panel would have had to probe all of these cases—not just the Waco fiasco. It is the effort to avoid that cleanout of the crooks inside the DOJ and the rest of the federal “continuity of government” operation that has bonded the Conservative Revolution Republicans and the ADL-run Democrats in an unholy alliance to block the truth from coming out.

But as the Waco and Whitewater hearings in the Congress were starting up, other events are threatening to block the coverup from being locked into place. On July 14, FBI Director Louis Freeh announced that the number two man in the FBI, Larry Potts, was being demoted and transferred to the Bureau's training academy at Quantico, Virginia, and that a probe was under way of document-shredding and other efforts to cover up the role of senior officials in FBI headquarters in the issuance of illegal and unconstitutional “shoot to kill” rules of engagement in the 1992 Weaver affair. Already, another FBI official has been suspended, and both the Justice Department's Office of Professional Responsibility and the FBI are conducting polygraph examinations of senior officials to get to the bottom of the FBI and Justice Department handling of the Ruby Creek siege and shooting.

The White House, according to news accounts, has ordered Freeh to launch a house-cleaning; and sources close to the Oval Office say that a similar cleanup at the Department of Justice is also high on the President's agenda.

Under these circumstances, the momentum could build quickly for the kind of “war on entrenched corruption” in the DOJ-FBI that Lyndon LaRouche has been advocating for over a decade. And under those circumstances, the best efforts of the congressmen running the bogus Waco hearings, to de facto protect the permanent Justice Department bureaucracy, could blow up in their faces.

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