

## LaRouche associates attack Va. convictions

Virginia officials, working with the federal government, the Anti-Defamation League, the news media, and others, broke the law, to incarcerate associates of Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., according to legal papers filed with the Virginia Supreme Court on March 31. The 185-page petitions, accompanied by five volumes of evidence, document a persistent pattern of government misconduct, including: presenting false evidence, witness tampering, brainwashing of witnesses, black-bag jobs, illegal wiretaps, withholding exculpatory evidence, making false representations in court, and conducting a nationwide campaign of defamation to cover for these illegalities.

The government misconduct in the “LaRouche cases” has been characterized by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, as “representing a broader range of deliberate cunning and systematic misconduct over a longer period of time, utilizing the power of the federal government than any other prosecution by the U.S. government in my time or to my knowledge.”

The petitions for a writ of *habeas corpus* were filed on behalf of Anita Gallagher, Paul Gallagher, and Laurence Hecht, three of the five LaRouche associates serving long sentences in Virginia’s prisons, despite their innocence. Don Phau, another LaRouche associate, filed papers in his case the week before. Michael Billington, who is serving the longest sentence, 77 years, is currently challenging his conviction in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Virginia’s “LaRouche 5,” as they have come to be known, were all targeted by the national security task force formed in late 1982 at the urging of former Secretary of State Sir Henry Kissinger, and headed up by then-Vice President Sir George Bush. Both men were subsequently knighted by Queen Elizabeth II, for their service to the British monarchy. The task force, which took its authority from Executive Order 12333 and National Security Decision Directive 3, had one purpose: to eliminate LaRouche as a political force in the world, by assassination or imprisonment. The course of action taken, was to launch an international defamation campaign to make LaRouche a pariah, coupled with abusive investigations and bogus prosecutions, in numerous federal and state jurisdictions. In this regard, over 40 political associates of LaRouche were targeted for prosecution, and thousands of LaRouche’s political and financial supporters were terrorized and intimidated by federal and state law enforcement authorities.

The Virginia cases now in court, were a spin-off of this federally coordinated task force. Former Virginia Attorney General Mary Sue Terry, who headed up the LaRouche prosecution for the state of Virginia, publicly boasted of her federal ties. There is tremendous hatred of LaRouche among Virginia’s ruling pro-British hunt-country elite, based in Loudoun County, where LaRouche lives. Even FBI documents characterized Terry as “politically motivated,” in the LaRouche prosecutions.

### Bogus ‘securities’ charges

Virginia authorities charged the “LaRouche 5” and 12 others with violating the state’s regulations of financial securities. At issue were loans, made by political supporters of LaRouche, to companies which published political and scientific newspapers and magazines. For the first time ever, the state of Virginia sought to consider political loans to be “securities.” It wasn’t until after Billington, Hecht, Phau, and the Gallaghers were indicted, that the State Corporation Commission decided that such political loans were securities. Before making their ruling, the SCC admitted that this was a case of “first impression.” Yet, the “LaRouche 5” are serving sentences of 25 to 77 years, for “knowingly and willfully” violating the state’s securities laws.

The petitions document the illegal actions of former Assistant Attorney General John Russell, former Virginia State Police agent C.D. Bryant, former Loudoun County Sheriff’s Lt. Donald Moore, and others involved in the prosecution. All three have since left the state’s employ. Russell is in private practice in Richmond; Bryant, a former IRS special agent, is retired; and Moore, a former tent-mate of Oliver North, spent time in prison on federal kidnapping charges. Yet, Virginia’s current governor, George Allen, and Attorney General Jim Gilmore, both Conservative Revolution Republicans, continue to defend, and thus have adopted, the misconduct of their predecessors.

The petition charges, that these individuals and others, were “working in combination with the United States and private parties, to disrupt the financial basis of the political movement for which the loans at issue in this case were solicited and to create dissatisfaction and a false perception among lenders of having been defrauded.” Additionally, the Virginia officials covered up their illegal activities, and withheld evidence of their own wrongdoing, so as to prevent the defendants from showing the jury that it was the prosecutors who should be prosecuted, not the innocent defendants.

There is growing pressure on the U.S. Congress to conduct oversight hearings into this type of misconduct by law enforcement authorities, which has manifested itself, to a lesser degree, in cases other than the LaRouche cases. Congressional oversight is necessary, because this abuse of power is being carried out by a permanent bureaucracy within the U.S. Department of Justice, which, to date, Attorney General Janet Reno continues to protect.