

Editorial

The real issue at the AFL-CIO meeting

As Lyndon LaRouche, *EIR*'s founder and the third-ranked contestant for the Democratic Presidential nomination, said on Oct. 4, the real question before the Oct. 11-14 AFL-CIO Executive Council meeting in Los Angeles, is *not* which Democratic nominee to endorse, nor is it whether to delay any endorsement to a future meeting.

The only real question, is whether leading officials of the AFL-CIO are under threat or blackmail by the permanent bureaucracy of the Department of Justice. Are they being threatened as to what might happen to them, if they were to refuse to endorse Al Gore? Going back to the very early stages of his career, Al Gore is known to have maintained ties to certain explicitly racist elements of the Department of Justice permanent bureaucracy.

In the Dec. 18, 1998 *EIR*, Anton Chaitkin showed that already in Al Gore's first job, as a crime reporter for the Nashville *Tennessean*, he worked with a nest of current and former Justice Department operatives, who had all been part of Walter Sheridan's "Get Hoffa" task force, and who had since continued their association, to stage a series of racial and political frame-ups in Tennessee. Closest to Gore were *Tennessean* publisher John Seigenthaler, Hoffa's prosecutor James Neal, and FBI agent Hank Hillin, who would later be Gore's biographer.

As a young reporter, Gore was to play the leading public part in one episode of the FBI's long-running, and still continuing "Operation Fruehmenschen" (German for "primitive men"). This operation was described in 1988, in a sworn affidavit by FBI agent Hirsch Friedman, as "the routine investigation without probable cause of prominent elected and appointed black officials . . . throughout the United States. It was explained to me that the basis for this . . . policy was the assumption by the FBI that black officials were intellectually and socially incapable of governing major governmental organizations and institutions."

Gore first became locally famous in 1974, in the attempted frame-up of an African-American Nashville City Councilman, Morris Haddox, who had criticized police tolerance of drug-dealing and prostitution in the

black community. "Though only a reporter with a private newspaper," Chaitkin wrote, "Gore personally arranged with Hillin's partners in the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, to set up a radio transmitter on the person of a stooge, who was furnished with money to ensnare Councilman Haddox. When Haddox was indicted for bribery, sting-artist Gore's sideburned face appeared exultantly in the *Tennessean*. . . . Haddox was acquitted by a jury angry at the frame-up; but Gore's printed smears drove Haddox out of political life. Only recently, two decades later, has Haddox come back into the Nashville council."

A star player on FBI agent Hillin's Tennessee frame-up team, was the KKK-style Memphis Federal prosecutor Hickman Ewing. Ewing headed up the smear and prosecution campaign against Memphis's black Congressman Harold Ford, which lasted ten years. Despite Ewing's totalitarian tricks with courts and juries, Ford was finally acquitted. Ewing went on to serve as the lead operative in Kenneth Starr's assault against President Clinton.

Unfortunately, in the intervening decades, Al Gore has only strengthened these links with the racist element of the permanent bureaucracy of the Department of Justice.

And informed Americans, whether trade unionists or not, know that it is not only a few top labor leaders, like AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer John Trumka, and Laborers President Arthur Coia, who know that their heads are on the block for indictment—possibly this week—by the Department of Justice. The blackmail list extends into many hundreds, if not thousands.

Therefore, what must be understood on the question of the possible AFL-CIO endorsement of Gore, is that people are not being driven by considerations of politics in the usual sense, or by special issues making them lean for or against the endorsement of Gore. The real issue is thuggery and blackmail pressure: It must be named as such, and itself made the issue. Then, what everyone knows already, will be made very clear: namely, that trade-unionists have no reason in the world to endorse Al Gore.