
Mervyn Dymally

Former Congressional Black Caucus Chair Scores Racist Prosecutions

Aug. 20—On Aug. 13, former Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus Mervyn Dymally granted an interview to LaRouchePAC West Coast spokesman Harley Schlanger, on the question of the racist prosecutions being carried out by the Obama Administration against Reps. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) and Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.). Dymally, who served in both houses of the California legislature, as Lieutenant Governor of California, and in the House of Representatives, took the lead in exposing the FBI's racial targeting of black elected officials, known as "Operation Frühmenschen" ("Primitive Man") in 1988, providing sworn testimony by an FBI agent on the program. Dymally himself was one of the targets of this program.

Excerpts of the interview, which appeared on the Aug. 15 edition of LPAC-TV's "Down with the Traitors" campaign video, follow.

Schlanger: And now you look at the recent cases of the so-called Office of Congressional Ethics, charging Charlie Rangel and Maxine Waters, and it looks as though, given that eight of the targets are African-American Congressmen, by this committee, that we are seeing the same thing.

Dymally: Well, I am distressed to learn that [Porter] Goss, former Congressman Goss, is a member of the outside committee. Don't forget. He was so bad that Bush fired him! That's how bad he was.

Schlanger: When he was CIA Director.

Dymally: He was CIA Director. And Maxine had taken on the CIA, when there was evidence of crack cocaine trafficking. And that's reported in a book by Robert Parry—you must read one of his two books,



LPAC-TV

Mervyn Dymally is battling a revival of the FBI's racist "Operation Frühmenschen"—a witchhunt against African-American elected officials, now being carried out by Nancy Pelosi's unconstitutional Office of Congressional Ethics.

Robert Parry [*Lost History: Contras, Cocaine, the Press & "Project Truth"* and *Secrecy & Privilege: Rise of the Bush Dynasty from Watergate to Iraq*—ed.]. There was Contra trafficking of drugs, with the CIA knowledge, and acquiescence. So I am even more distressed now that you've told me that Goss is on there. I can see what's happening now. It's a set up.

Now, in the case of Congresswoman Maxine Waters: Let's examine the facts in this. She, like other members of Congress, set up an appointment. She did not go to the meeting. She did not ask for any money. This was a negotiation that was conducted between the Treasury, and the bank. Yes, it is true her husband had some stock

there. But she did not benefit; neither did her husband benefit.

A classical case of conflict of interest means that you or your family benefitted, financially, from the transaction, and that was not the case.

Schlanger: Well, then you have the case where this is OneUnited Bank that services mostly minorities. It got \$12 million. When you look at Goldman Sachs, Citigroup—you look at AIG, \$180 billion for AIG, and Congressmen like Barney Frank [D-Mass.], who arranged the bailout, get millions of dollars of campaign contributions from these bankers. Why are they not brought up on ethics charges?

Dymally: Too big to fail! And some of these big banks, like Citibank, still owe the government. They, AIG, have not paid their debts yet.

I am very troubled that eight members [of the Congressional Black Caucus, all Democrats—ed.] have been scrutinized, and two charges have been brought against Charlie Rangel of New York, and Maxine Waters of Los Angeles. Well, Maxine is receiving a lot of local support, and in today's *Los Angeles Sentinel*, a black weekly, there was a story about the support that she is receiving. But blacks as a whole, believe that there are some racial implications here. Probably, due to a paranoia, based on our experience with racism. We are probably wrong, but that is the feeling—that there was something taking place that's not very American.

Schlanger: Even though we have an African-American Attorney General, an African-American President, that the same networks in the FBI, and in the permanent bureaucracy of the Justice Department, that you identified in 1988 as running *Frühmenschen*, that they are still running these kinds of investigations.

Dymally: There is no change. In fact, it's very troubling. I see evidence of things getting worse with a black President. The country is polarized, racially. Politics has taken a racial dimension in this country, and that is very unfortunate.

What Was 'Operation Frühmenschen?'

Dymally began his investigation into FBI operations against black elected officials in 1975, when he was the Democratic Lieutenant Governor of California. At that time, he attended a conference of Human Rights Workers of America, brought together by Mary Warner

Sawyer, a young academician. After having a conversation with the only other black elected Lieutenant Governor in the country, George Brown of Colorado, and discovering that they had both been subjected to what appeared to be racist harassment by law enforcement officials and the news media, Dymally and Brown approached Sawyer, who agreed to do a study of whether this treatment was unique, or part of a pattern around the country.

In 1977, Sawyer produced a report entitled "The Dilemma of Black Politics: A Report on Harassment of Black Elected Officials." Following its release in Washington, D.C., not a single civil rights group was willing to take up the charge.

Dymally was elected to the U.S. Congress in 1980, and continued to encounter stories of similar harassment. Thus, in 1986, he helped convene another conference, and commissioned Sawyer, now with a doctorate from Duke University, to do a second report. Published under the title "Harassment of Black Elected Officials, Ten Years Later," the report concluded that "nothing had changed." While Dymally caused the Congressional Black Caucus to hold a seminar on the subject, the Caucus never took a position on the matter.

The next year, 1987, Dymally was elected chairman of the Black Caucus. It was in this capacity that he rose to address the Congress on Jan. 27, 1988. In the short time allotted to him (he was given one minute to speak!), he dropped a bombshell:

"I come to the well of the House today to place before this Nation a document which challenges the very basic tenets of constitutional rights and abrogation of duty. As chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus and on behalf of my colleagues—I have transmitted this morning to the chairmen of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees and the House Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights, an affidavit sworn by an FBI agent which alleges an established official policy of that body to initiate investigations of black elected officials without probable cause.

"Such a policy represents the ultimate abuse of power, and places at risk more than 6,700 elected officials mandated to serve the people of this Nation. The Congressional Black Caucus and the National Caucus of Black State Legislators call for an immediate investigation into these facts.

"Mr. Speaker, the actions alleged in this affidavit are deplorable and we offer them for the record in order



EIRNS/Stuart Lewis

The Schiller Institute held hearings in the Summer of 1995, to investigate misconduct, including under "Operation Frühmenschen," by the U.S. Justice Department. Lyndon LaRouche is shown here giving testimony to the Commission.

that people of conscience everywhere will know the impact of unbridled authority. The Congress of the United States must not allow those empowered to enforce the law to make mockery of the instruments of justice and due process.”

The affidavit he released contained a stunning revelation: Attorney Hirsch Friedman, who had worked with the FBI in Atlanta, Georgia, stated that there had been a coordinated operation against minority elected officials, run by the FBI, with the name “Operation Frühmenschen.”

In his affidavit, Friedman said, “The purpose of this policy was the routine investigation without probable cause of prominent elected and appointed black officials in major metropolitan areas throughout the United States. I learned from my conversations with special agents of the FBI 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.”

Despite Dymally’s courageous presentation and the Friedman affidavit, which offered investigators a smoking gun, no action was taken by the Congress. From Dymally’s January 1988 revelation, until hearings held by the Schiller Institute (whose international chairwoman is Helga Zepp-LaRouche) on Aug. 30-Sept. 1,

1995, the issue was buried and ignored, except for those officials targeted by the FBI/DOJ hit teams.

Still No Change

Fifteen years later, the pattern that Dymally laid out before Congress remains basically unchanged, and the power of the FBI against Members of Congress is stronger than ever. Note the unprecedented 2006 FBI raid on the Congressional offices of African-American Rep. William Jefferson, to find evidence against him—a blatant violation of the separation of powers. Note also, that the staff director and

chief counsel of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s Office of Congressional Ethics, the unconstitutional body, which has brought charges overwhelmingly against Black Caucus members, including Waters and Rangel, is a former Justice Department prosecutor Leo Wise, who comes from the same DOJ bureaucracy that carried out Operation Frühmenschen.

Add to this, the fact that President Obama has openly endorsed the witchhunt against Rangel,¹ and prefers to carry out all his “priorities” through pressure and threats, or “independent commissions,” and it is clear that the threat to justice today is even greater than it was when Dymally first exposed the FBI’s racism.

As Lyndon LaRouche said, in an Aug. 2 statement: “All patriots who remember the cause of civil rights, will rally behind Congressman Charles Rangel and Congresswoman Maxine Waters. The actions against them, in large part instigated by the unconstitutional “independent panel” called the OCE [Office of Congressional Ethics], are an insult to all who fought the civil rights fight. The fight against this assault is the fight against the legacy of slavery.”

1. President Obama stated, on July 31, in an interview with CBS TV: “... [T]hese allegations are very troubling. He is somebody who is at the end of his career, 80 years old. I’m sure that what he wants is to be able to end his career with dignity, and my hope is that happens.”