
Profile: 'Get LaRouche' Taskforce

Train Salon's Cold War Propaganda Apparatus

by Barbara Boyd

As Jeffrey Steinberg's article in this section recounts, 30 days after Lyndon LaRouche's proposal for what became the Strategic Defense Initiative was endorsed by President Ronald Reagan, John Train convened his salon of hack journalists and dirty-tricks operatives on April 23, 1983, with the goal of destroying Lyndon LaRouche. Train's campaign drew on the oligarchy's most experienced agents both within and without government—individuals who had been at the center of controlling public opinion in the United States from the Truman Presidency forward. Reagan's endorsement of LaRouche's proposal represented a potential break in control of U.S. policy, and the Anglo-American establishment was frantic.

This article provides a summary profile of the relationship among John Train, James Jesus Angleton, Jay Lovestone, and Leo Cherne, key operational participants in the "Get LaRouche" project.

At the time of the Train salon, Angleton, the infamous and disgraced former chief of CIA counterintelligence, was chairman of an entity called the Security and Intelligence Fund, which he ran with Brig. Gen. Robert C. Richardson III, the co-founder of Gen. Daniel Graham's High Frontier and a life-long collaborator of Graham. Graham's incompetent High Frontier had been promoted by the oligarchy as the alternative to LaRouche's SDI proposal, and Graham himself actively participated in John Train's defamatory campaign against LaRouche. The Security and Intelligence Fund campaigned, with its sponsors, the American Security Council and American Foreign Policy Institute, to roll back all of the legal curbs on domestic espionage imposed in the wake of the widespread abuses exposed during the Nixon and Ford Administrations—abuses which led CIA director William Colby to summarily fire Angleton.



James Jesus Angleton

In his last days, Jay Lovestone was, according to biographer Ted Morgan, still so enmeshed in Washington affairs that Henry Kissinger called him in December of 1982 to solicit help in a campaign against LaRouche. Kissinger called Angleton at the same time for the same purpose. Lovestone, according to Morgan, was still a two-day-a-week consultant to the AFL-CIO International Division in Washington, D.C., and his primary collaborators were like-minded "cold warriors"—Fritz Kraemer, Sen. Henry "Scoop" Jackson, James Angleton, and Edward L. Rowny.

Ted Morgan cites John Train as his source concerning Kissinger's solicitation of Angleton and Lovestone for operations against LaRouche. Morgan notes that John Train had long known Louise Page Morris, an OSS veteran who was personally deployed by Angleton as a spy, beginning in 1949, with a cover as an employee of Lovestone's Free Trade Union Committee. Morris became Lovestone's mistress and handled the passing of CIA funds from Angleton to Lovestone. According to Morgan, Train's daughter bought Morris's house after Lovestone's death.



John Train

Finally, Leo Cherne was vice-chairman of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (PFIAB) at the time of the Train meetings, and chairman of the Board of Directors of the International Rescue Committee. In a 1989 interview with *EIR*, Cherne stated that he chaired a task-force on Third World debt at PFIAB, and that Mexican President José López

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The founding of the Congress for Cultural Freedom in West Berlin, June 1950. The CCF assembled a substantial apparatus to terrorize any possible American opposition to its Cold War policies. Step out of line, and the propaganda machine could brand you as a KGB sympathizer, liable to be targeted, as was LaRouche, “under the guidelines or otherwise.”

Portillo’s 1982 repudiation of Mexico’s debt, in coordination with LaRouche, had sent a “shock wave through Washington.” According to Walter Raymond, the architect of the Reagan Administration’s “black propaganda” campaigns on behalf of its Central American policies, in May of 1983 Cherne was working directly with Roy Godson, who was then a consultant to PFIAB and the National Security Council, to raise funds from private sources to support Raymond’s efforts.

Since the early 1980s, Train had worked with Freedom House, an organization which Cherne founded in 1946, and the International Rescue Committee, in covert support operations of the Afghan mujahideen through the Afghan Rescue Committee, an entity which was housed in Train’s investment house in New York.

Kissinger’s request for operations against LaRouche received immediate attention from Angleton, Lovestone, and Cherne. On Jan. 12, 1983, according to the official PFIAB document, David Abshire, Edward Bennett Williams, and “others” discussed Kissinger’s request and called for an investigation by the FBI, “under the guidelines or otherwise,” concerning whether LaRouche was funded by “hostile intelligence agencies.”

The Truman-Era Genesis of the Train Salon

The decades-long relationship of John Train, Leo Cherne, Jay Lovestone, and James Angleton in black operations on behalf of the oligarchy begins at the close of World War II and with the death of Franklin Roosevelt.



Leo Cherne

Leo Cherne, an economist and lawyer, was a dean of post-war Anglo-American intelligence. His close ties to both Daniel Patrick Moynihan and William Casey began when he provided them their first jobs at his Research Institute of America. However, Cherne’s most significant role was his chairmanship, from 1953 forward, of the International Rescue Committee. The IRC received private funds through the Ford Foundation and other foundations, and from American’s Anglophilic first families, as well as government funding through the influence of the CIA, to perform covert propaganda and relief activities against the Soviet Union and its allies during the Cold War. Following the Cold War, it continued these activities on behalf of synarchy’s globalist agenda. During the formative 1950s, Cherne was assisted in running the IRC by Angier Biddle Duke, heir to the American tobacco fortune.

Daniel Patrick Moynihan, who was IRC’s director of public relations in 1954, stressed that the Rescue Committee’s relief and propaganda activities on behalf of refugees and defectors from the Soviet system, represented the ideal instrument of “psychological warfare.”

In its official history, the IRC cites Jay Lovestone as its original creator. In 1933, according to the IRC, Lovestone advanced the idea of a privately run relief agency with the ability to function behind enemy lines, in support of U.S. foreign policy goals. When Lovestone made his proposal, he was in the process of re-creating himself as a social democrat, having been fired by Joseph Stalin five years previously as general secretary of the Communist Party U.S.A. Lovestone’s re-emergence in American labor was sponsored by the International Ladies Garment Workers Union’s (ILGWU’s) David Dubinsky and Wall Street, and his initial assignment was to run a campaign to rid U.S. trade unions of undesirable influences, starting with the United Auto Workers (UAW).

During World War II, the International Rescue Committee worked with the ILGWU and Lovestone’s Free Trade Union Committee, to funnel aid to social democratic leaders

and trade unionists in exile. In the post-war period, Lovestone ran the AFL-CIO's international division with his lieutenant Irving Brown. Angleton controlled this operation and "ran" Lovestone for the bankers' faction of the CIA, with the aim of subverting the Soviet bloc from within, while controlling "free" trade union movements throughout the world and domestically. The misogynist and openly fascist Angleton was sponsored by Allen Dulles, the first CIA director, and supported by CIA director Richard Helms during his halcyon days in the Agency. The individuals he and Lovestone used in their operations were social democrats who, like Lovestone, came to this synthetic religion after abandoning communism.

John Train's entry into this circle appears to begin with the *Paris Review*, a literary publication founded in 1953 and run by Anglo-American intelligence in conjunction with the Congress for Cultural Freedom, as a "cultural warfare" and public opinion-molding project in the U.S. and abroad. Train managed the *Paris Review*. Both Richard Cummings, author of *Pied Piper: Allard K. Lowenstein and the Liberal Dream*, and Frances Stonor Saunders, the historian of the Congress for Cultural Freedom, emphasize that the *Paris Review* was entirely funded by the CIA. Cummings states that it was a personal project of James J. Angleton.

In his 1995 book *Covert Network: Progressives, the International Rescue Committee, and the CIA*, Eric T. Chester documents the continuous interface among the Congress for Cultural Freedom, Lovestone's FTUC, the AFL-CIO International Division, and Cherne's Freedom House and International Rescue Committee, in various covert operations against the Soviet bloc, funded by the Ford Foundation, private donors, and the CIA.

During the 1960s and early 1970s, the alumni of the Congress for Cultural Freedom and individuals otherwise in the orbit of Angleton, Cherne, and Lovestone became the center of the so-called neo-conservative movement, forming and participating in such organizations as the Committee on the Present Danger, the Coalition for a Democratic Majority, and the Committee for a Free World, with funding provided by captive foundations, such as the Scaife Foundations, the Lynde and Harry Bradley Fund, Smith Richardson Foundation, and wealthy members of the Anglo-American elite. Cherne, for example, founded and led the "Democrats for Nixon." It is also noteworthy that Train sits today on the Board of Overseers of the International Rescue Committee together with Henry Kissinger and Felix Rohatyn.

Tar Him With the KGB Brush

Those familiar with the Train meetings have wondered about Train's insistence that Lyndon LaRouche be portrayed in the ensuing media campaign as a KGB disinformation agent. This specious defamation of LaRouche was an old one, having been thoroughly investigated and dismissed by the FBI after Lovestone operatives Roy Godson and Thomas Kahn in 1976 insisted that the FBI investigate it, together



Roy Godson, a Lovestone operative who demanded an FBI probe of LaRouche in 1976, and continued to play a leading role in the "Get LaRouche" Taskforce.

with their bizarre allegation that LaRouche was involved in harassing the AFL-CIO's Irving Brown, following the disclosure that year that Brown was a long-time agent of the CIA.

Following the signing of Executive Order 12333 at the behest of Vice President George H.W. Bush during the Reagan Administration, black propaganda operations and other covert illegal operations conducted by the intelligence community domestically were given a new life, under the rubric of combatting Soviet disinformation or "active measures." Branding LaRouche as involved in KGB disinformation operations allowed operations against him which would otherwise be banned under U.S. law.

It is noteworthy that the Train salon's activities against LaRouche followed a similar round of covert activities directed against the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C., based on allegations of Soviet agency. The "Get IPS" round of salons followed the 1976 assassination of Orlando Letelier, former Chilean Ambassador to the United States, in Washington, D.C. by elements of Pinochet's Chilean secret police. Letelier headed IPS's Transnational Institute, and his assassination in broad daylight on the streets of Washington created serious problems for George Shultz, Felix Rohatyn, and others involved in Pinochet's fascist regime.

Train's anti-IPS salons resulted in a book by S. Steven Powell titled *Covert Cadre, Inside the Institute for Policy Studies*. The introduction to this book was written by David Horowitz. Powell acknowledges "unpublished" manuscripts by John Train, held in the archives of the Northcote Parkinson Foundation, as critical to the book. He states that the book would not have been possible without the assistance of Train's personal editor, Virginia Armat Hurt of *Reader's Digest*, and Rael Jean Isaac. He also cites several Soviet "disinformation" specialists known to be in the orbit of Roy Godson, John Rees, and Herbert Romerstein, including Joachim Maitre, Joshua Muravchik, and Ladislav Bittman, as participants in the salon. A central feature of the book is an effort to discredit the assassinated Letelier as an East German or KGB agent.

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