

Tower: No, here we're getting into foreign policy matters.

EIR: It's so hard to separate them out.

Tower: Yes, but you see, that's beyond the pale of my responsibility. What we have to await is for the administration to define its foreign policy objectives, and then try to provide them with the military capability to sustain and implement those objectives.

EIR: One of your staffers said that you view military policy from the standpoint of implementation of foreign policy, and that a lot of your thinking was shaped when you were at the London School of Economics. Do you look toward anybody in particular for having shaped your thinking?

Tower: My geopolitical thinking? I think that a lot of it was influenced by my studies at the London School and a lot of it by experiences I've had.

EIR: Do you plan to make any trips abroad fairly soon?

Tower: I plan to attend a West European defense seminar in Munich in February, and I may do a little other traveling at that particular time, I would say to get an updated feel on the climate of Western Europe. I've spent a great deal of time over there, and I have a pretty steady communication with a number of parliamentarians and defense-oriented officials in the NATO countries.

EIR: Would you stress more communication between the new administration and the new Congress and the NATO allies than Carter had?

Tower: Yes, I believe to develop better communications and more regular consultation with congressional leadership. And I believe he can follow through with that.

EIR: On the question of Italy, we have picked up rumors that there might be a coup in the very near future, and the head of the Socialist Party Bettino Craxi might be involved; the Communist paper *Unità* warned of efforts to undermine the government this weekend. Are you going to look into this, since it involves a NATO ally?

Tower: It's something I personally will monitor with great interest. It's not in the purview of my committee other than to keep informed of what's going on.

EIR: Back to the Middle East—Henry Kissinger has made recent proposals during his visit there to station armed forces and air capabilities in the Middle East. Do you see that as important?

Tower: I think we have to have a force capability in the Middle East, and that encompasses a number of things, if not in terms of bases, at least access, base access.

EIR January 27, 1981

The libel verdict against the IHT

EIR has just obtained the full official English translation of the Nov. 29, 1980 libel judgment won in a French court of law by Contributing Editor Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. against the *International Herald Tribune*, an English-language, Paris-based joint venture of the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*.

Under French jurisprudence, the main defense for a charge of libel is the truth of the allegations in question, while under U.S. law, the brunt of the defense can be honest motives for printing falsehoods. The *International Herald Tribune* offered no proof of the veracity of its Oct. 13-14 articles on Mr. LaRouche. Instead, as *EIR* reported Dec. 23, it defended itself by citing other newspaper articles containing the same allegations.

The Oct. 13-14 *International Herald Tribune* articles were reprinted from articles by Howard Blum and Paul Montgomery in the *New York Times* on Oct. 7-8. libels coincided with the start of Mr. LaRouche's campaign for the Democratic Party's 1980 presidential nomination. In 1976, Mr. LaRouche had run a prominent campaign for President on the ticket of the U.S. Labor Party, which Blum and Montgomery termed "a cult."

Excerpts from the libel verdict follow. Subtitles are in the original.

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By the action of Gibault, Process Server in Paris, on the date of Dec. 28, 1979, Lyndon LaRouche summoned before this court Walter Thayer, director of publications for the *International Herald Tribune* and the International Herald Tribune, S.A., as being liable for damages, to answer to the charge of libel against an individual, dealt with in Articles 29 paragraphs 1 and 2, 32 par. 1, 33 par. 2, 42 of the law of July 29, 1881, by reason of an article written in the English language entitled "U.S. Labor Party: A Cult of Paranoia" which begins with the words: "Jim Jones' Peoples Temple," published in No. 30067 of the *International Herald Tribune* dated Oct. 13-14, 1979 on page 7.

The plaintiff demands payment in the amount of 100,000 francs and publication of the judgment to be

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pronounced in the columns of the *International Herald Tribune*, as well as in three daily or weekly papers as chosen by the plaintiff at the expense of the accused. . . . Full argument was given on both sides, the plaintiff being represented by Mr. Varaut, the accused and the International Herald Tribune, S.A. by Messrs. Montigny and Legrez. . . . The accused moved for his acquittal by reason of his honest intentions. . . .

The main issue

On the article under consideration, the plaintiff complains of the title: "U.S. Labor Party: A Cult of Paranoia," as well as the following paragraphs:

"none of whom wanted to be named. Some said that they feared for their lives."

"Officers of the party exchange information nearly daily with Roy Frankhouser, who calls himself the Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan in Pennsylvania and who has been active in the U.S. Nazi Party."

"Members of the Labor Party and its predecessors have been arrested on a variety of criminal charges—kidnapping, possession of guns, assault."

"A frequently used tactic—particularly when members are selling the group's literature or disrupting the meetings of other organizations—is to try to incite violence through verbal abuse."

"We find this group every bit as weird as Marxist Rev. Jim Jones' Peoples Temple."

There is cause to examine if the incriminated article is of libelous character and, eventually, if the accused can legitimately uphold his claim of honest intentions.

On the libelous character

The libelous tone is already apparent in the title. In fact, the author associates the name of a political party with an object very different from what it should have: the cult of a mental illness, paranoia, form of psychosis of which the U.S. Labor Party is thus accused and therefore its main sponsor. The latter is alleged to have turned the party of which he took control away from its normal direction in favor of phantasms from a deranged mind.

The author explains that he bases his article notably on interrogations of former members of the Labor Party "none of whom wanted to be named. Some said that they feared for their lives." These remarks clearly express the idea that Mr. LaRouche directs an organization which has so many things to hide that he is ready to have executed those who would divulge information relative to his party, which is libelous.

This accusation of violence and of dubious activity is taken up again in the sentence, "Officers of the party exchange information nearly daily with Roy Frankhouser, who calls himself the Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan in Pennsylvania and who has been active in

the U.S. Nazi Party," a sentence in which the journalist makes a point of close ties between Mr. LaRouche's party and organizations that have lent their names to ideas of racism and violence, which point causes damage to the honor and reputation of a candidate. . . .

These allegations of violence . . . are pursued and made explicit in the following paragraphs: "Members of the Labor Party and its predecessors have been arrested on a variety of criminal charges—kidnapping, possession of guns, assault"; "A frequently used tactic . . . is to try to incite violence through verbal abuse." These statements are thus equally libelous.

Several paragraphs later, evoking the psychological atmosphere of this party, the author states: "Often party officials pick the person that a member is to live with." In other words, he imputes to the leaders and thus to Mr. LaRouche psychological pressure tactics such that members of the party are no longer able to act according to their free will, thus tending to present the political party as a "sect," with all the pejorative connotations that can be linked with this term.

On the honest intentions

The accused, who did not offer to prove the veracity of the defamatory facts, limits himself to maintaining that he acted with honest intentions, informing his readers of what other journalists had written on the subject. Not only have the articles exhibited by the accused appeared for the most part in newspapers belonging to the same press agency as the *International Herald Tribune*, but also and especially it is not enough that other agencies publish the same defamatory information to establish the honest intentions of he who continues these allegations. In effect, Mr. Thayer had the duty, as any publisher of a newspaper, to act with prudence and objectivity and thus to verify the statements that he allowed to be printed.

Mr. LaRouche is free not to pursue all those responsible for defamation without that excusing or justifying the work of this director of publications.

Finally, if this article was written on the occasion of the beginning of the American electoral campaign, Mr. Thayer cannot justify his attitude by the existence of a polemic between Mr. LaRouche in the electoral campaign; on the contrary, he presents his newspapers and those of the press organization to which he belongs as impartial and seeking only to inform their readers.

The accused has therefore not established that he acted with honest intentions, and it is appropriate to pass sentence. . . .

Mr. LaRouche suffered, because of the defamation of which Mr. Thayer is guilty, a prejudice which shall be compensated by the allocation of the sum of 5,000 French francs, and the publications, in abstract, of this decision in two newspapers. . . .