
Abscam Method

1982 frameups and inquisitions put the U.S. Constitution in jeopardy

by Linda de Hoyos and Susan Kokinda

Since March 11 of 1982, when the Senate forced the resignation of Abscam frameup victim and 21-year congressional veteran Senator Harrison Williams of New Jersey, the U. S. Congress has been operating in an environment of political blackmail and frameup. On Dec. 16, that atmosphere was sanctioned and encouraged by the report of the Senate special committee charged to investigate the methods of the Justice Department's Abscam-Brilab entrapment campaign. In a press release accompanying the report, committee chairman Charles Mathias (R-Md.) declared—in contradiction even to the facts presented in the report—that “The worst fears about Abscam—the chilling vision of an executive branch conspiracy against the legislature with overtones of manipulation and cover-up—have proved to be evanescent.”

The Senate Select Committee had been called into existence during the Senate trial of Senator Williams, in the face of volumes of evidence showing that the Carter Justice Department and the FBI had violated the Constitution and perpetrated felonies in carrying out a campaign to entrap selected congressional targets on charges of corruption. Furthermore, as was pointed out a number of times on the Senate floor during the March 8-11 trial, that the executive branch should take upon itself to test the ethics of members of the legislative branch in itself constitutes a broad violation of the constitutional separation of powers.

The Abscam campaign to “create crime” resulted not only in the forced resignation of Senator Williams, but the removal from office of seven members of the House of Representatives, all of them, as Senator Williams, known for their long-standing ties to the American labor movement. And Williams and his seven colleagues in the House were only the most highly publicized cases. Before Abscam, no member of the United States Congress had ever been expelled except on grounds of high treason!

Using the same methods of frame-up and politically selective witch-hunt techniques, the FBI and the Justice Department during the Carter years succeeded in forcing the arrest of 20,000 trade-union, business and political leaders across the country—in nearly every case selecting people who participated in old-line urban Democratic political machines.

The Senate Select Committee has not only acted to cover

up this grossly unconstitutional campaign, but has demanded that the Congress appropriate more funds to such “undercover” entrapment operations.

It was around the Harrison Williams case, however, that finally the FBI's methods were placed on trial, first because of the courageous refusal of Sen. Harrison Williams to surrender to his kangaroo court conviction and the Senate Ethics Committee's demand that he immediately resign, and second, because of a broad-based mobilization behind Williams by the National Democratic Policy Committee, founded by *EIR*'s contributing editor Lyndon LaRouche. Despite literally hundreds of thousands of calls into the Congress from Americans mobilized by the NDPC, it was not enough to put some backbone into the Senate, which forced William's resignation after four days of full Senate debate. The constitutional issues were presented both there, and most clearly by LaRouche, in a widely circulated statement.

“A Senator of the United States was convicted, not of any offense nor of any morally-tainted action. He was convicted on the *ex post facto* charge that he might, in some manner not tried before the court, have ‘a disposition’ for corrupted behavior at some future time and place.

“If such a slander is upheld, as a precedent in law, then let us quickly send three quarters of the Congress to federal prison, beginning with the Senate Ethics Committee, which bent to the corrupting influence of political pressures in the matter. . . .”

Now LaRouche himself is under the same kind of unconstitutional judicial attack. In a replay of the brazenly irregular methods used in Abscam, on Nov. 16, seventeen persons calling themselves detectives of the New York City police force burst into the offices of the PMR Printing Company (which prints publications associated with LaRouche) with a search warrant for materials pertaining to a pull-out called “Profiles of the Times” that appeared inserted into the Sunday edition of the *New York Times* Oct. 24. The men found nothing, but handed out subpoenas to every person on the premises. This is just the beginning, it is known, of a grand-jury fishing expedition under the direction of New York County District Attorney Robert Morgenthau—in collusion with the FBI—against LaRouche and the National Caucus of Labor Committees, LaRouche's political cadre organization.

In this case, the goal is to force the security stripping of LaRouche in preparation for an assassination of a Democratic Party leader who has made known his availability to run for President in 1984.

The creation of crime

In the LaRouche case, nine members of the NCLC have been called to testify before a grand jury, even though Morgenthau has refused to specify what crime—if any—is under investigation. In the case of Senator Williams, despite repeated efforts on the part of the FBI to force the Senator to carry out a crime, *no crime was ever committed*. To the consistent offers by the FBI sting men that Williams take a bribe, the videotapes show that the Senator's answer was equally consistent—"No, no, no."

Yet, it is known that in Abscam-Brilab, the FBI and the Justice Department, including prosecutor Thomas Puccio, perpetrated felonies and lied to the courts in order to judicially hang their targeted victims. Documents of the FBI and Justice Department itself showed that the Abscam team had manufactured evidence, committed forgery in order to entrap unknowing congressmen, that FBI men and sting man Mel Weinberg had been involved in gift-taking and bribery themselves, and had on a number of occasions lied to the courts. No charges were ever brought against them.

Mrs. Marie Weinberg, estranged wife of the sting man, had stepped forward early in January with the evidence of her husband's gross illegalities while under FBI direction. That evidence she had presented in an affidavit form in court, and in interviews with Jack Anderson staff member Indy Badwer. In February, Mrs. Weinberg disappeared. Two days later she was found hanged. The FBI ruled her death a suicide, without investigation.

On whose behalf?

In its four days of deliberations on the Williams case, one question was never raised: on whose behalf was the Abscam witch-hunt against constituency-based congressmen perpetrated? The answer would have entailed an immediate and thorough investigation into the prosecutors themselves. Both Weinberg and Puccio, for example, were documented by the *EIR* to be operatives for the British-dominated forces of Dope, Inc. in the United States, represented on a more respectable level by the chairman of the Senate Ethics Committee, Malcolm Wallop, cousin to Queen Elizabeth.

Weinberg, according to statements he made in Robert Green's biography, *The Sting Man*, helped conduit money to the terrorist Red Brigades in Italy. All the evidence accumulated in Green's book and subsequently, indicates that when Weinberg told his FBI colleagues "We want Moynihan; we want him," he was speaking for the dope-trafficking syndicate controlled by Meyer Lansky, and financially dominated by the British.

For his part, as the prosecutor for the Eastern District of New York, Puccio was responsible for overseeing the flood

of drugs that pour through Kennedy Airport every day. His ties to the drug mafia are rumored to be much stronger and lead to Italy, where Sicilian mafioso Michele Papa likes to refer to Puccio as "my good friend."

And what about crime-buster, "Mr. Clean" Robert Morgenthau? Not only does he have a standing policy of refusing to prosecute drug pushers arrested on the street, and protecting child pornography and other criminal degradation; Morgenthau covered up the biggest banking scandal in the decade of the 1970s, the collapse of the American Bank and Trust. After the bank had been bilked by Dope, Inc.'s David Graiver in connivance with ABT officer and Morgenthau campaign manager, John Samuels, Morgenthau allowed the bank's top executives to go scot free on charges that in other cases had put banking officers behind bars for 20 years.

These are the self-appointed watchdogs of politics, but the aim is not merely to do away with people who, like LaRouche, have proven to be an extreme nuisance to the dope mafia. The aim is to destroy the American republic. The real content of the assault on the Congress was telegraphed during the Senate debate on Abscam by the corrupt chairman of the Senate Ethics Committee, Malcolm Wallop, who summarily declared that, in his view the traditional influence-trading that goes on between members of Congress, the administration, and constituencies constitutes a violation of Senate ethics. In response, Vermont Sen. Patrick Leahy warned that the Senate must clarify "to what extent that [influence trading and boasting] creates an unethical situation, because if it does, we may be here for the next couple of years trying 99 more people."

But Wallop's contention goes to the heart of the matter. If the levels of austerity that the British are currently demanding against the United States are to be enforced, a constituency-based Congress cannot exist. Abscam and the Select Committee's whitewash has merely cleared the way for making the destruction of the U.S. Congress all but official. At the end of October, a semi-secret group came together to form a Committee on Constitutional Systems whose purpose is to elaborate a systematic rationale for replacing the constituency form of American republican government with a parliamentary form modeled on the legislative components of the British monarchy. The members of the CCS, including Robert McNamara, William Fulbright, Elliot Richardson, Walter Cronkite, C. Douglas Dillon and Lloyd Cutler, represent a critical coming together of the American proponents of the British Malthusian demand for a "post-industrial society."

There is, as of now, nothing in the United States Congress to stop them—with the exception of the constituency potential represented by LaRouche and the National Democratic Policy Committee. Other than that, the Abscam blackmail of Congress is today still operative: Mathias reported to the press that before the Committee had finalized its report, the FBI had shown each member the Bureau's file on each of them!