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## Kirkland boosts the FBI and the IMF

by Lonnie Wolfe

AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland, the highest ranking member of the Trilateral Commission in the labor movement, is now giving open assistance to the FBI gestapo operation that ran the Abscam-Brilab frame-ups of political and labor leaders. Kirkland, congressional sources report, is working hard to get passage of a new piece of legislation that would make such frame-up easier—with full knowledge that among the targets will be leaders of the labor movement. Kirkland, these sources report, has been given assurances that the FBI will only target his enemies, especially in the building trades and Teamsters, two sections of the labor movement noted for their political independence.

At the same time, Kirkland has ordered the AFL-CIO to come to the aid of another of his friends—Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, the man most responsible for wrecking the U.S. economy. Kirkland, speaking through an underling, put the AFL-CIO on record in Senate testimony in mid-April supporting the \$8.5 billion International Monetary Fund quota increase while demanding increased power for the Federal Reserve to restrict bank lending. Kirkland and the AFL-CIO covered their posteriors by fulminating against the banks, neglecting to tell anyone that their position was worked out in consultation with fellow Trilateral Commission member Volcker.

Kirkland's "Abscam Enabling Act" is S-336, the so-called labor racketeering reform legislation sponsored by Sens. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) and Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.). Should it become law, one Senate aide stated that it would set up "a duck shoot of Teamsters and building trades leaders."

That "duck shoot" has already claimed Teamster President Roy Williams, who was forced out of office on April 20 following conviction on bribery-conspiracy charges. The FBI and Justice Department spent more than \$2 million fabricating and constructing wire-tap evidence to show that Williams conspired to bribe Sen. Howard Cannon (D-Nev.) to stop trucking deregulation legislation. The legislation passed in 1980, with Cannon's backing, and the Senator denied the Justice Department's claims under oath. The jury admitted that the evidence was confusing and contradictory, but under pressure from the Justice Department and the presiding judge, found Williams guilty nonetheless.

The Justice Department then offered Williams a deal: resign his Teamster posts and take probation. He refused.

Williams then received an outrageous 55 year prison term—an effective death sentence for a man suffering from lung disease. The deal was offered again, and in mid-April Williams finally accepted.

Kirkland's silence through this frameup tells how he stood on the issue. The AFL-CIO president reportedly was elated over the elimination of Williams, who had committed the ultimate sin of supporting Ronald Reagan in 1980 over Trilateral Commission member Jimmy Carter.

The Williams case would have been even easier for the Abscam gestapo if the Kirkland-backed S-336 had been in place. Under its provisions, an indicted union official would have the burden of proving his innocence, contrary to constitutional guarantees. In addition, a convicted union official would be immediately removed from office and barred from holding office for 10 years, regardless of the court appeal process.

"All a prosecutor need do is get enough evidence for an indictment," said a staffer for the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee which is now about to vote up the bill. Then he could force union leaders to cop a deal, and leave office, or face expulsion and loss of their union benefits and pensions."

### Supporting the bailout

Kirkland didn't have enough nerve to appear at the Senate Banking Committee on April 11 to testify on behalf of the IMF quota legislation. Instead, he sent Henry Schechter, the head of the AFL-CIO Office of Economic and Monetary Affairs. Schechter reported that AFL-CIO "recognizes the need for IMF action" and for the quota increase. That quota increase will by no means bail out the bankrupt Fund, but it will place the United States politically behind the IMF and its British and Swiss sponsors and their plan to enforce a permanent depression on the advanced sector and genocidal levels of austerity on the Third World.

Schechter lied that loans to the developing sector and Eastern Europe are the cause of the credit squeeze in the United States, giving a salute to Nazi economist Milton Friedman. When Schechter's anti-bank rhetoric is stripped away, what stands are the same arguments used by Morgan and Chase Manhattan to justify a U.S. bail-out of the IMF.

It would be impossible to pass the quota if Kirkland did not deliver labor's support.

Schechter then reiterated the policy which was adopted, after consultation with the Fed, by the AFL-CIO Executive Council at its winter meeting two months ago: increased Federal Reserve regulation of bank lending to developing sector countries. The whole routine is designed to promote passage of the IMF quota, by directing debate from the merits of the quota increase to the question of banking regulation amendments. Although the specific regulations proposed by the AFL-CIO are unlikely to make it to the final version of the quota, thanks to Kirkland the bill will recommend increasing Volcker's power over foreign lending.