

including the office of Vice President George Bush.

Paralleling the Secord-North revelations, the government was also caught hiding evidence that they used a Cointelpro informant, Ryan Quade Emerson, to infiltrate and disrupt the political organization of LaRouche. The trial judge suspended the proceedings and conducted a hearing which lasted many weeks into the Emerson as well as the NSC matters. The protracted nature of these hearings into government concealment of evidence eventually led to a mistrial in early May. On the day of the mistrial, the *Boston Herald* reported that the jury had conducted an informal poll and voted unanimously to acquit the defendants, citing government misconduct as their primary reason.

And then there was Alexandria. . . .

Freeing LaRouche

While the assaults against Lyndon LaRouche equal the tactics of the blackest tyrannies in human history, this drama unfolded in a nation whose constitutional and judicial systems were designed to be “immune” to such abuses of power. All Americans and freedom-loving people around the world have long viewed the United States as the bastion of hope, liberty, and equality before the law.

I personally am infuriated at the sight of Lyndon LaRouche and his courageous associates in prison uniforms, while Henry Kissinger and his associates rampage around the globe.

When I was a child, my grandparents described to me why they and their parents fled to this nation from the unbridled police-state repression in several countries. One of my great grandfathers was an intellectual and teacher who was politically persecuted and hounded out of the Ukraine. Another rushed to these shores from Poland because he yearned to live in a nation dedicated to opportunity and hope. They described what it was previously like to live in a gray, unhappy society which crossed the line into tyranny—the lack of opportunity, the terror of the police, the fear of the authorities, the absence of political freedom and saying what’s on your mind.

My own personal experiences are by no means unique, but in fact characterize millions of our people.

We owe it to our grandparents and great grandparents and those before them *not* to let this great nation of ours solidify into full-scale tyranny. We owe it to future generations *not* to let the principles and Constitution of our nation be arrogantly trampled under by the likes of Henry Kissinger and Judge Bryan.

We need fierce soldiers for justice who will stop at nothing in freeing LaRouche. At stake is the not only his biological existence. As Abraham Lincoln proclaimed at Gettysburg, let us resolve to fight “that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the Earth.”

Political organizing is called ‘conspiracy’

by Rochelle Ascher

Mrs. Ascher is the first of Lyndon LaRouche’s political collaborators to stand trial in the Commonwealth of Virginia’s “securities” case. The following is her speech to the tribunal on Feb. 25.

We have said that these are show trials. To understand what this means, I ask you to imagine the following:

First, imagine a state where grand juries meet in absolute secrecy—no notes are allowed, no transcripts exist, there is no written or verbal record of what goes on. No one can find out how long these grand juries sit, who testifies before them, what they do.

Then, one night, after dark, state police knock on your office door. You and your political associates are handcuffed and taken off to jail. In jail, you receive an indictment supposedly outlining your crime, What is that crime? Taking political loans to support political activities without registering as a stock broker with the state of Virginia—this is a supposed violation of Virginia securities law.

But there is a problem. At the time of your arrest, there is no such crime. Two months after you are arrested and charged, the State Securities Commission meets and decides that promissory notes issued by political organizations are, in their opinion, securities. They make this ruling two months after 16 associates of Lyndon LaRouche are charged with this so-called crime. This ruling, which itself is a political vendetta, does not even exist at the time of the arrest; the crime is created by the Commonwealth two months after the arrest.

Then the pre-trial motions begin. Eighteen months after the original indictments, a new indictment is added to the original charges. The charge is *conspiracy*. This time, the grand jury does not even have to reconvene. Now, what does it mean to be a political organizer in the United States charged with *conspiracy*?

Since my trial began, I now know.

Conspiracy law is a very strange thing. You don’t have to have any knowledge that you are a part of a conspiracy. You don’t have to agree to enter into a conspiracy. You don’t have to speak to or even know your co-conspirators. You somehow, by osmosis, simply become part of “the conspiracy.” You are then held responsible for any supposed acts, statements, or even *thoughts* of your alleged co-conspirators. You are responsible for what is adduced by the prosecution

to be the “state of mind” of your supposed co-conspirators.

And who are these supposed co-conspirators? The government does not have to tell you who they are before the trial begins. Some are named as indicted co-conspirators, some are named as unindicted co-conspirators. The nature and scope of the conspiracy, and the growing list of co-conspirators, change daily and hourly! The government adds co-conspirators at will. The supposed “legal remedy”: that if the government fails to prove that all these people are part of the conspiracy by the end of the trial, the jury can be instructed to forget everything they have heard.

Then, there is the question of evidence of conspiracy. Evidence is introduced “not for the truth of the matter asserted”—but to show the supposed “state of mind” of your fellow co-conspirators.

Then, jury selection starts. Now, a right to a fair and impartial jury is *the most fundamental* of our constitutional rights. This jury selection was the longest in the history of Loudoun County, Virginia—possibly in the history of the Commonwealth. One hundred jurors were questioned. Our attorneys persist in their two-year-long fight to change the venue—arguing that you cannot get a fair trial in Leesburg, Virginia, the headquarters of the LaRouche movement, the center of the most vile police and press harassment and slander. Our attorneys argue that this is even more impossible now, given the fact that the sentencing of LaRouche and his associates was to occur the very week that my trial was to open.

Change of venue is denied. The judge begins jury selection. “This trial involves the fundraising practices of individuals and organizations associated with Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. Presumably you have heard or read about those practices in the newspapers. Can you put aside everything you have read and heard and judge this case solely on the basis of its merit?” This is the very essence of perversion of the most fundamental rights guaranteed under our Constitution. A jury is seated with vile bias, based on their assertion that they can put that vile bias “aside” for the purpose of this trial. Even at that, 47 jurors are dismissed for cause, on the grounds that they cannot “put aside” their bias. And their biases are not small. One of the men judged unbiased enough to be seated said that LaRouche and his associates are neo-Nazis, racists, anti-Semites, and if they take power, it would represent a dangerous threat; but I can put this aside, Your Honor, and judge this case solely on the evidence.

One week into the trial, the judge invites and grants a change of venue for the next 15 cases. He says that while we did seat an unbiased jury this time, it was *so* difficult that it cannot possibly be done again for the next case. So now the Virginia Supreme Court has to decide where these cases will be tried.

This proves the travesty of the LaRouche conviction in Alexandria. The only difference is here, due to two weeks of questioning by defense attorneys of individual jurors, the

actual prejudice resulting from 15 years of media slander is on the record.

In Virginia, it is not the judge who sentences, but the jury. And there is no such thing as sentencing concurrently—you can only sentence consecutively. This means, for example, in my case, where I am charged with 12 counts of securities violations and conspiracy, and where each count means 2-10 years in prison, that if I am found guilty on all counts, the jury has no choice but to automatically sentence me to minimally 24 years, and maximally 120 years. This jury, whose members admit to massive prejudice but say they can put it aside for the purpose of this trial, does the sentencing!

Then the trial begins. As this is an ongoing case, I am not at liberty to discuss the trial itself. However, I can say the following: After spending the last five weeks in the Loudoun County Courthouse, you ask yourself, “Is this Khomeini’s Iran? Is this Amin’s Uganda? Is this the Soviet Union, where you are found guilty in your absence at trial? Is this Nazi Germany?”

No, this is the United States of America—the country that gave the world its first republican Constitution, a Declaration of Independence, a Bill of Rights. And this is the Commonwealth of Virginia, which gave the world George Washington. (Ironically, George Washington would have been found guilty of securities law violation in securing the loans he did from Robert Morris to finance the American Revolution—he failed to register as a broker-dealer!)

And here you have, of course, the ultimate proof of a police state. The very prosecutors who charge you with securities fraud, are the same people who have spent the last 20 years doing everything “legal and otherwise” to bankrupt you, culminating in a raid of your headquarters bigger than the invasion of Grenada, and a bankruptcy proceeding which makes it impossible and illegal for you to repay the very loans you are charged with not repaying.

So what is our “crime”? Our “crime” is that we are political fighters, associates of Lyndon LaRouche, guilty of building an independent political movement in the U.S., guilty of fighting the genocide of the World Bank and the IMF, guilty of fighting the treasonous sellout of the free world by Henry Kissinger to the Soviets. And that independent political movement is made up of people who have dedicated their lives to fighting evil.

The great courage of Mr. LaRouche and his fellow political prisoners in the Alexandria Detention Center—he has refused to compromise even though it could be his death—has given me great courage. The fact that people such as those here today are willing to speak out against this police-state injustice, furthers my resolve. I am confident, as I stand here and face this illegal prosecution, that there is in fact a limit to the tyrant’s power, that the actions we commit ourselves to take at this historic tribunal will guarantee that truth and justice will prevail.