

Malcolm Wilkey's terror against the presidential electors

by Anton Chaitkin

With the approach of a possible election of the next U.S. President by the House of Representatives, Special Counsel Malcolm Wilkey continues to escalate his attack on the House. Wilkey is now demanding records of the House Bank dating back to 1982, and the records of all personal lending arrangements made for congressmen through the House facility with private financial institutions during the past decade.

Wilkey is believed to be aiming at filing broad RICO racketeering charges against various congressmen.

George Bush's Justice Department appointed Malcolm Wilkey special counsel in March, during the media-hyped "Checkgate" scandal. Wilkey at first promised to limit his investigation to scrutinizing overdrafts at the House Bank by certain congressmen over a 39-month period. He has since repeatedly broadened his own mission, seized all House members' personal banking records, and backdated the probe.

The few remaining unintimidated Democrats have labeled the Wilkey operation a "politically motivated witch-hunt," a "fishing expedition" which would "put [the House] on the plate of a presidential monarchy" during this election year. They have pointed out that ordinary banks often routinely covered overdrafts until their customers made the necessary deposits, not treating this as a criminal matter; and that in any case, the now-closed House Bank was actually a cooperative of the House members, not a bank.

Yet Democratic leaders have bent over backwards and forwards to accommodate the Executive's attack. Staff members of several congressional offices contacted by *EIR* in late June said they have heard of no serious protests against Wilkey's attacks since the debate in April over whether to comply with Wilkey's subpoenas. Evidently hoping to be personally spared from prosecution, congressmen have dropped any defense of the constitutional separation of powers between the legally co-equal Executive and Legislative branches.

An immediate crisis in the legitimacy of the U.S. government is now taking shape. The Constitution prescribes that if no presidential candidate gets a majority of the Electoral College votes—a strong possibility next November in a race with three or more contenders—the House of Representatives must choose the next U.S. President. But if the House itself is terrorized by a virtually unlimited police investigation controlled by the incumbent President, the constitutional election process will have been destroyed.

Wilkey, Bush, and South America

Malcolm Wilkey's service to the Bush family and its factional allies goes back several decades.

On April 14, 1965, blueblood lawyer Charles P. Taft announced Wilkey's selection to the national Operating Committee of Taft's "Republicans for Progress," an intelligence clique of Anglo-American bankers, Freemasons, and internationalists who had operated together within the Eisenhower administration, where Wilkey had been assistant attorney general. President George Bush's father Prescott Bush, a chief member of the Taft clique, had been a senator and President Eisenhower's confidant. Prescott Bush had personally selected Taft to the powerful Skull and Bones Society. Taft's law firm had an important stake in the Kennecott Copper Company, which employed Malcolm Wilkey.

During the 1960s, Wilkey was general counsel to Kennecott. In that capacity Wilkey supervised the legal affairs of the subsidiary Braden Copper Company, which controlled much of the wealth of Chile. Prescott Bush was the longtime banking partner of Braden Copper's South American political manager Spruille Braden, co-directing with Mr. Braden investments ranging from Nazi Germany to South America. During the 1960s, banker Bush helped manage the intelligence strategies for the South American investments for which Wilkey was a top lawyer.

The small nation of Uruguay, home base for the Propaganda-2 and Scottish Rite Freemasons, was the Southern headquarters from which Spruille Braden, Wilkey, and others managed Anglo-American copper investments and attacked South American political nationalists.

One spectacular deal which this clique worked out was for the government of Chile to purchase 51% of Braden Copper from Kennecott. With Chile's new investment simultaneously counted in, the Kennecott holdings in Chile increased even as Wilkey and company received the sale cash.

Just after Malcolm Wilkey was named a federal judge in 1970, Salvador Allende became Chile's President and proceeded to confiscate Braden's huge El Teniente mine; Allende was soon overthrown.

In 1976, Chilean opposition leader Orlando Letelier was blown up by a car bomb in Washington, D.C. Though the U.S. media generally blamed the Chilean secret police for the killing, it is well established that then-CIA director

George Bush had penetrated the Chilean agency and had squelched all U.S. police investigations into the murder.

From 1985 to 1990, Malcolm Wilkey was first Ronald Reagan's and then George Bush's ambassador to Uruguay. In Uruguay and Chile (his wife is Chilean), the lordly Wilkey saw to the collection of international bankers' debts—and labored to protect George Bush's posterior. Throughout Bush's term as U.S. President, Wilkey has worked on damage control in the Letelier murder case. By the beginning of this year, Wilkey had arranged for Chilean government payments designed to silence relatives of victims in the Letelier bombing.

But early this year, Chile's Supreme Court decided that President Bush could be legally ordered to appear in Chile, to testify on the role of the CIA in the Letelier case. Chilean generals claim they have been wrongly blamed for the killing, and that Bush's CIA ordered the 1976 bombing.

Wilkey's hatred for human rights

Malcolm Wilkey's published ideas attacking the Constitution make him well-suited to his current assignment to trash the Congress.

In 1985, Wilkey proposed changing the framework of government to limit congressmen to a single term; to prevent congressmen from dealing with personal requests from their constituents, the voters; to drop the requirement that the Senate confirm presidential appointment of cabinet members and ambassadors; and to allow the President to declare war at his own whim, without congressional approval.

As a federal judge, participating in debates and publishing a privately funded pamphlet, Malcolm Wilkey was the main public spokesman for quashing the Fourth Amendment. If police invade someone's privacy illegally, without a warrant, and illegally seize materials from a citizen, it was Wilkey's view that prosecutors should be able to use such seized materials against the citizen in criminal court proceedings. The police could *later* be tried for wrongdoing, and the most "valuable" evidence would not be thrown away!

During his spring offensive, Wilkey has leaked to the media his predictions that congressmen are going to be criminally prosecuted for fraud. Given his published views and his personal background, there can be few delusions about his willingness to use any tactics whatsoever to accomplish his destructive ends. Congressmen who recently acquiesced in Bush's slaughter in Iraq and Panama are apparently in no moral position to defend themselves, or the Constitution, from the "banana republic" treatment.

The case of former Speaker of the House Jim Wright may be useful in guiding the reflections of congressmen in the emerging crisis. Wright was hounded out of office on trumped-up corruption charges during the first year of Bush's presidency. Georgia Republican Rep. Newt Gingrich, a gleeful advocate of Wilkey's incursion, had drummed up the attack against Wright during Bush's 1988 campaign. Soon after

Wright was forced to retire, House Whip Tony Coelho followed, leaving the present pathetic, compliant Democratic leadership in charge.

But former Speaker Jim Wright is not playing dead. Wright arranged to be the master of ceremonies and a guest speaker at the June 26-28 "Midwest Symposium on the Assassination of John F. Kennedy," an open attack on the Eastern Establishment's coverup in the JFK and Martin Luther King murders. Wright, a passenger in the 1963 Dallas presidential motorcade when Kennedy was shot, might have some pertinent stories to tell to the chickens who have come to roost in the Capitol.

LaRouche in Swiss paper

The major daily of Lugano, capital of Italian-speaking Switzerland, ran a six-column article on June 24 entitled "The Case of Lyndon H. LaRouche." The unsigned story in *Giornale del Popolo* was prompted by LaRouche's victory in the Democratic primary in North Dakota. (The result was later officially reversed due to alleged write-in votes for Ross Perot; LaRouche campaign officials report that the pattern of Perot votes was suspicious and points to possible fraudulent manipulation of the election.)

LaRouche's victory was "shocking," reported *Giornale del Popolo*, "because for three years LaRouche has been in jail, the victim, according to his supporters—but not just them—of a political trial organized by the establishment to get rid of an annoying adversary of current American policy, above all on the level of economic choices and relations with developing countries (investment policy, population policy, etc.). And from jail, in what is likely unprecedented, he is running his electoral campaign. In Europe the economic-political program of LaRouche is made known by the Schiller Institute of Wiesbaden, which is linked to the figure and work of the American statesman. We got in touch with the institute to get information about his trial and sentence, since our curiosity was also piqued, perhaps above all, by the silence of the press which seems to be covering up the event and, more generally, the very existence of this politician. . . .

"Among those who have denounced the irregularities of the trial, are various figures who do not necessarily share the program of Lyndon LaRouche and do not figure among his followers or political supporters. . . . Their common view is that the trial and sentencing are inexplicable without the taint of political aims. . . ."