

Falwell's British publicist defends Nichols threats against President

by Jeffrey Steinberg

On Jan. 4, EIR editor Jeffrey Steinberg interviewed Nick Ashton, a publicist for Rev. Jerry Falwell's Citizens for Honest Government and the media coordinator for Larry Nichols. Ashton, a British national, agreed to review and comment on the videotape of Nichols's gun-waving speech in Boulder, Colorado in May 1994, in which he threatened the life of President Clinton. (See EIR, Dec. 2, 1994. Nichols was shown on the cover, waving the weapon.)

Nichols is a former employee of the Arkansas Development Finance Authority who was fired in 1988 by then-Governor Clinton for using state resources to support the Nicaraguan Contra supply operations. The Mena program was directed out of the White House by George Bush and Oliver North, and involved large-scale guns-for-drugs trafficking. In March 1994, Nichols was recruited by British "journalist" Ambrose Evans-Pritchard to the "Get Clinton" propaganda offensive run out of London's Hollinger Corp. on behalf of the British Crown. After a series of Sunday Telegraph articles by Evans-Pritchard boosting Nichols as an "expert" on the Clintons, Falwell has sponsored a media campaign on his behalf. It was during one of the Falwell-sponsored tours that Nichols threatened the President. On Jan. 27, Ashton spoke to EIR from Largo, Florida.

I received the tape, and I'm sorry, I don't see, with our legal experts that I've sat down with—there is enough pregnant pause, and if you go through his documentation, I find the comment that it's a threat against the President the most absurd, and just no founding whatsoever. And I'll be perfectly honest with you. Let me be real nasty if I may. No, not nasty, because my job as a press secretary is to do whatever I have to do. I find the information that you folks are putting out on this—I think I can put it really, as a pathetic way of trying to pull things in. I've looked at the tape. I've even looked at another videotape. I had another one sent to me from a different angle, so I saw where the gun was put down. I don't agree. But the great thing is: You guys want to do that and go waste your time? Guess what I'll do to you: I'll rip your bloody heart out.

We ain't sitting around. We're not interested in pathetic people like Lyndon LaRouche who have got no better a thing to do than try and attack British royalty, and to attack people who are standing for honesty and integrity.

The comment he [Nichols] made is pure and simple. He made the statement that Bill Clinton and I have agreed that we're going to meet at high noon. Okay? There are two people standing to the side of him, and the gun was loose in his trouser belt. Instead of hitting the floor, he took it out—yes, he raised it, he made no mention. That raise in the air could be taken any which way you want. But it was not a threat. And if it was, where the f*** is the Secret Service?

On Nichols's comments on a Detroit radio interview about how he got the gun that he waved in Boulder:

There is no transcript of it. All I know is that Larry made the statement, and I'll say it again: I heard it from two people apart from Larry, who I can honestly say to you are not connected, in a sense that they've spoken to Larry and said, "How do you want this to be answered?" Totally separate. And the comment was, "The damn gun was giving him trouble even when he walked in the room. It was handed to him. It wasn't his weapon. It was given to him."

On an unconfirmed listener report that Nichols told the Detroit radio host that he got the gun from the FBI.

No, no, no, no, no. Nobody from the FBI gave him a gun. That comment wasn't said. . . . I don't hate anybody. I just don't like comments like "The FBI gave him the gun." . . . I'm sorry. Honestly, personal attacks on Larry, and certainly the other evidence we've now amassed on other people who are attempting to discredit [us]—I'm happy. Come at us. I really am. I'm loving it.

On the Washington Post's cancellation of a planned story on drug- and gun-running operations tied to the Contras in Mena, which involved Bush, North, and Nichols.

The two stories have come out. You know they've done one piece, and the second part was supposed to come out, written in New Mexico. I haven't seen hide nor hair. All I do know is that the *Washington Times* is ready to do something. . . . The *Washington Post* hasn't come out. I know why it won't come out. Because somebody doesn't have the balls to put it out. The information is pretty good. The woman who's putting it out is pretty liberal. . . . I think it's good corroborative information. And I'll tell you now that the Barry Seal New Orleans stuff—the next few weeks, some-

Man linked to Manson held in threat to President

On Jan. 25, Secret Service agents arrested a 29-year-old Indiana man, David Shane Shelby, in Ogden, Utah as he attempted to mail an explosive device to President Clinton and a package containing a gun to convicted satanic mass murderer Charles Manson. The Secret Service had been investigating Shelby since Dec. 7, 1994, when he sent a letter to President Clinton saying, "I hate you. . . . Turn Charles Manson loose or I will kill you." The same day, he sent a letter to Vice President Al Gore demanding: "Appoint Charles Tex Watson as your successor or I will kill you in a violent homosexual manner."

Both Manson and Watson are serving life sentences for the August 1969 Tate-LaBianca satanic ritual murders. In 1975, members of the Manson "family" were responsible for two failed assassination attempts against President Gerald Ford. The following year, Manson sent a death

threat to 1976 presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche. The Manson "family" was part of a nationwide satanic underground called the Process Church of the Final Judgment, which was set up in Britain in the 1960s and still exists in some parts of the United States, under the cover of an ostensibly Christian evangelical group.

One day after Secret Service agents arrested Shelby, Pennsylvania State Police arrested William C. Phillips, an Allentown resident who was spotted carrying a concealed 9 mm pistol loaded with 19 rounds of ammunition, on a road over which President Clinton's caravan was passing. The President had made an announced appearance at Kutztown College.

Asked to comment on the two latest incidents in a string of threats and attempts on his life since he took office two years ago, President Clinton made a veiled reference to the assassinations of earlier American Presidents: "Throughout our history, any leader who raised strong hopes and wanted to make big changes has tended to spark an adverse reaction." In every instance, *EIR* has traced these killings to the British Crown.

body is going to have to put it out. Because right now there is a dam building and this stuff is lapping over the top. . . .

Remember all the C-130s that were there [in Mena]? Isn't it funny that they're all now around—not all—a good majority of those planes, or those numbers are now at Hemmett Air Field in California. I just throw that to you. We've been looking and it's kind of weird. But go further than that. Barry Seal's information is so secretive at the FBI at the moment, and so being looked at: So why have they dedicated a room and a chalk board to it? Why is it that stories are getting put down? Please, we've all got our agendas, okay? If you guys want to move forward on good stuff, which I know you've got good competent people to do, please do so, but some of it that is coming out is absolute nonsense. . . .

On the Hollinger Corp. and the targeting of the presidency.

We're doing something on Hillary and her New Age, and . . . the thing I will say to you is this: There are some things in government that we have got to change. Forget my British accent, for God's sake, all right? Forget that to begin with. I'm not your typical Brit. There are great Brits out there who will stand for the flag and all types of stuff, and I appreciate the royal family, I appreciate our form of government over there, but there are times to move on. I happen to live here, so I look very hard at this nation.

You mentioned Hollinger and a few other things. There are organizations politically that are out there, like, for instance, Empower America: Whose money is behind that? I know. We know. We're investigating now and I'll be ready

in about two weeks to announce a lot more on it. And it's not going to make some people very happy.

I know you guys have attacked Ambrose Evans-Pritchard. I know that. But how would you like it that Bob Dole is attacking Ambrose Evans-Pritchard for this reason? I'll share this with pleasure. Dole has called the [London] *Telegraph* and said, quote, "Back him off Clinton or we'll back him out of the country." Why do I think that's the case? I know it from four sources. I happen to trust the editor and publisher of the *Sunday Telegraph*. He's not a man that's going to turn around and lie through his teeth. And I also know Dole's people, and somebody, like a twit, opened their mouth. They didn't know it would come directly back to me.

Regarding Dole's recent trip to London in which he clashed with Prime Minister John Major and Defense Minister Malcolm Rifkind over Britain's Balkans policy.

It's sad. . . . Look at the incredible dialogue that was there at the time of Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan. I mean that from things that actually got accomplished. But if you look at it now, first of all, Bill Clinton did the most stupidest thing. I hate the word, but I'll use it because that's his level. The stupidest thing, in building up Helmut Kohl as, like, the savior of Europe, in some statements he made when he was over there. That was ridiculous. . . . The ally aspect of Britain to America has never been stronger, except politically there are some major rifts, especially about Bosnia and the Balkans and everything else. And I think it's going to continue.