

IRS role in the 'Get LaRouche' task force

by Edward Spannaus

Anyone who wants to look at serious abuses perpetrated by the Internal Revenue Service cannot avoid examining the IRS role in the frame-up of Lyndon LaRouche and the politically motivated attack on his associates during the Reagan-Bush administrations, which is still ongoing.

The IRS targetting of LaRouche and his colleagues began no later than late 1983 or early 1984, when NBC-TV aired two programs alleging tax violations by organizations associated with LaRouche. The NBC producer, Pat Lynch, was an attendee at least one of the 1983-84 planning meetings in the New York apartment of Wall Street financier John Train, in which delegated representatives of the George Bush "secret government" apparatus met with news media representatives to plan out a media assault on LaRouche. The NBC broadcasts came directly out of the "Train salon" meetings; Lynch later admitted, under oath, that she had received "non-public" information on LaRouche from the IRS. Lynch also claimed, on her March 4, 1984 broadcast, that the IRS had already begun an investigation of LaRouche.

Larry Lucey, of the IRS's Criminal Investigative Division in Alexandria, Virginia, testified that he began keeping a file on LaRouche in late 1984—including news clippings generated by the trial of LaRouche's libel case against NBC which was held in Alexandria. Within a few months, Lucey began an active investigation of LaRouche and others—supposedly without any official or legal IRS authorization. Lucey was working with Donald Moore, then a Loudoun County, Virginia sheriff's deputy, and now a convicted felon, and with the Anti-Defamation League's Washington, D.C. fact-finding director, Mira Lansky Boland. In its May 1989 *Bulletin*, the ADL took credit for initiating the IRS attack against LaRouche—and there is abundant evidence of continuing collaboration among Moore, the IRS, and the ADL.

Among other things, Moore unlawfully obtained voting records of LaRouche supporters, which he gave to the IRS, so the IRS could target the voters for tax probes. Moore himself declared that this was "illegal as s—t!"

IRS agent Lucey also was a participant in the extraordinary, nationwide "Get LaRouche" conference which was held in Boston in February 1986 at the insistence of then-U.S. Attorney William Weld. By mid-summer of 1986, Weld had moved on to Justice Department headquarters in Washington, to head the Criminal Division, and he ordered that an investigation of LaRouche be opened in Alexandria, to supplement

the one he had already been conducting in Massachusetts.

From the outset, the Alexandria case was concocted around a tax case—always the last resort of desperate prosecutors. Heading the prosecution team in Alexandria was Kent Robinson, who had recently come from the Tax Division of the Justice Department; heading the investigative team was the IRS's Lucey.

After Federal prosecutors had fallen on their faces in the Boston trial of LaRouche in 1988 (centered around obstruction of justice charges), the Justice Department decided to scrap the Boston case altogether, and proceed with the Alexandria case instead. The Alexandria trial was crafted around a phony charge that LaRouche had conspired to defraud the United States "by impeding, impairing, obstructing and defeating" the IRS in the "ascertainment, computation, assessment, and collection" of his income taxes—rather than around a tax-evasion charge, which prosecutors knew they couldn't prove.

Prosecutors deliberately combined the tax conspiracy case, and a mail-fraud conspiracy case, into one. LaRouche's lawyers later argued that the prosecutors did so in the hope "that enough would spill over into one case" that it could sway the already-stacked jury. "By trying the mail fraud and IRS cases together," the appeal argued, "the government was able to introduce inflammatory testimony which would not have been admissible in separate trials." What this enabled the prosecutors to do, was to fill up the trial with false and inflammatory testimony about LaRouche's so-called "lavish lifestyle," which would not have been admissible in a straight "mail fraud" case.

Ugly bragging

After LaRouche's conviction, the IRS boasted in its annual report for 1989, that the railroading of LaRouche was one of its major accomplishments. The same year, the ADL also claimed, in its annual report, that it was responsible for the IRS actions against LaRouche.

But that still wasn't the end of it. In 1990, the IRS announced that it was auditing Publications and General Management (PGM), a management company run by political supporters of LaRouche. This was no "routine audit." IRS auditor David Griffin informed PGM's representative that he was being guided by Kent Robinson, the same Assistant U.S. Attorney who ran the case against LaRouche in Alexandria, and by Virginia State Police officer C.D. Bryant, a former IRS officer who had been a top investigator for the Virginia state prosecutions of LaRouche associates. At length, after a slipshod audit, the IRS arbitrarily assessed PGM \$5 million in corporate taxes, which PGM is still fighting, after seven years.

While pursuing the phony claim against PGM, the IRS then put forward the outrageous claim that LaRouche personally owed nearly \$5 million in taxes—despite the fact that he had no income in the years at issue. LaRouche is still fighting that claim, which the IRS has now reduced to about \$350,000.