

Ashcroft Unveils 'Freedom's Corpse' Police-State Program

by Anton Chaitkin

The faction driving America toward a global "Clash of Civilizations" war, now seeks to exploit the fear engendered by the Sept. 11 attacks, to create a gestapo. The White House and Attorney General John Ashcroft have released a plan for recruiting millions of Americans as spies for Federal political police, and for gaining millions of low-wage or free laborers. Termed "U.S.A. Freedom Corps," the outright fascist program was released on Jan. 30, 2002. The day before, the President spoke of the plan in his State of the Union Address, after describing a list of countries as being an "axis of evil."

The present plan is far more menacing than the 1970s

programs of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) for Federal control of local policing, which were designed to abort popular resistance to Schachtian austerity schemes under conditions of a depression collapse. The LaRouche political movement exposed that scheme, and the discredited LEAA was quietly taken down.

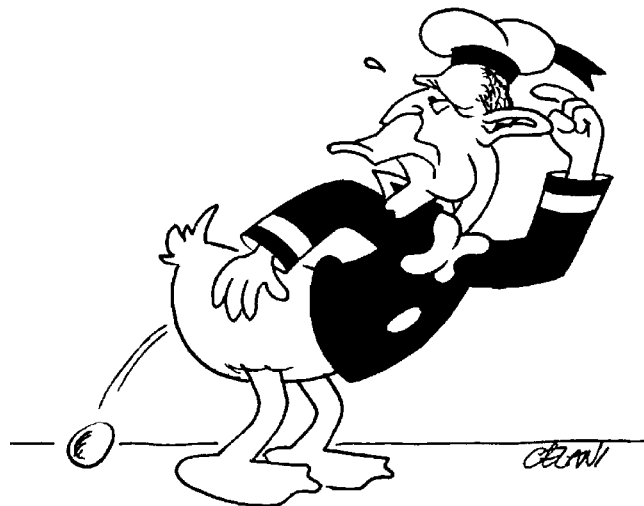
Now the economic/financial collapse is on, and the same faction is moving to create a fascist structure. In January 2001, LaRouche warned that Ashcroft's confirmation as Attorney General must be stopped, because under the conditions of financial catastrophe, the team he represents would try to impose emergency rule. Democratic Senators chose to ignore the warnings, and allowed Ashcroft into the job, despite the fact that the votes were there to defeat him.

The new plan is outlined in a brochure dated Jan. 30, 2002, on the Internet at www.usafreedomcorps.gov. One wag has dubbed the program, "Freedom's Corpse."

The Freedom Corps consists of the Citizens Corps, the new domestic spy apparatus; and the existing AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs, to be greatly expanded, for volunteers or laborers at "poverty level" wages to work at government and other jobs (including police and political spy work). This is aimed at coopting desperate state and local authorities whose collapsing budgets are forcing them to lay off tenured employees; the Freedom Corps brochure mentions \$2.65/hour as a highest "stipend" level.

In each locality within the United States, a **Citizens Corps Council** is to be formed, including business leaders, the police chief, private security firms, hospitals, utilities, and other prominent local individuals. These councils, coordinated nationally by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with the state governors, will deliberate on management of the local security apparatus deploying the political

President Bush has an idea



spying and emergency response personnel.

Neighborhood Watch, which has already about 8,000 units across the country, is to be doubled, and its emphasis changed to detecting terrorists.

No definition of terrorist groups is given in the Freedom Corps brochure. The appropriate authorities will presumably determine how best to employ the suspicions of citizens under their direction.

The Justice Department is coordinating the Neighborhood Watch funding, expansion, and training through the National Sheriffs Association, whose new website, www.usaonwatch.org, went live the night of the State of the Union Address.

Terrorist Information and Prevention Systems (TIPS) aims at “enlisting millions of American transportation workers, truckers, letter carriers . . . and utility employees” as FBI informers.

As the White House-issued Freedom Corps brochure states, “Operation TIPS will establish a national reporting system that would allow these workers, who have routines and are well positioned to recognize unusual events, to report suspicious activity to the appropriate authorities.” After being cleared by the government, each informer will be given a special hotline number to the FBI.

TIPS is to finish its initial recruiting and go into action in August, aiming at 1 million spies in ten cities chosen for the pilot program.

‘We’re in a Brave New World’

A spokesman for the U.S.A. Freedom Corps office in Washington, interviewed by *EIR*, twice used this euphonic expression about the political spy system now under construction: “FEMA is expanding into a brave new world” (the reference is to novelist Aldous Huxley’s utopian, drug-controlled police state). He said, “We are just getting started; this is really big, it’s a whole new idea”—indeed, it discards the essential Constitutional arrangement separating the Federal government and local policing.

Recruitment and organization are just now beginning, but the spokesman volunteered that H. Ross Perot has put himself forward as an unofficial spokesman and booster for the program, and it is going great guns in Dallas, Texas.

Ashcroft has meanwhile launched a bizarre advertising campaign, which does not explain the program the way the official Freedom Corps brochure does. Rather, they have hired Ed McMahon, who was first a straight-man for TV personality Johnny Carson, then became famous promoting a million-dollar prize as a lure for magazine subscriptions. In the “humorous” recruitment ads for the Citizens Corps spy project, McMahon is pictured going to a home, and the resident, upon seeing him, starts screaming, “We’ve won a million dollars!” He then says that he’s not giving away money this time, and vaguely explains that he wants them to help fight terrorism.

The political spy initiative is in its very early stages, and it could well be destroyed by sharp and accurate publicity.

Business, labor, and other organizations are being very confidentially approached by the Justice Department. If most union members, or other citizens concerned about the Constitution, were to learn about this recruitment effort, it could be blown apart.

The American Trucking Association told *EIR* that they are helping the FBI shape the TIPS project, which in certain of its organizational aspects is a Frankenstein’s monster spin-off of the Association’s existing Highway Watch program. But the Association refused to divulge any details on TIPS, or on their work with the Justice Department.

Since truckers and letter carriers were both specified as targets for recruitment as FBI spies, *EIR* interviewed union officials of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and the National Association of Letter Carriers, to get their reaction to the TIPS program.

The Teamsters’ spokesman told *EIR*, “Our staff is still studying it.”

EIR: “What has your contact been with the Justice Department on this program?”

A long pause, then, **IBT**: “It’s been very informal, not extensive.”

EIR: “What do you think may be the dangers of this program?”

IBT: “I’m not going to comment, until the Teamsters have taken a position.”

The Justice Department has for many years meddled deeply in the Teamsters’ affairs, including taking over the leadership of the union, on the pretext of fighting corruption. The new spying initiative goes much further, with an obvious blackmail potential.

A spokesman for the Letter Carriers told *EIR* that they were “aware” of the TIPS program, but asked for time to consult with the leadership on how to respond to a press inquiry. Later, the spokesman said flatly that they would have no comment—neither about how they are working with the Justice Department on the program, nor what the public should think if the friendly neighborhood mailman has been turned into an FBI snitch.

Destroying the Constitution

America’s founders spoke very precisely of the enemy, imperial model of government, against which our Revolution was won.

James Wilson was a leading author of the U.S. Constitution, and a spokesman for Benjamin Franklin at the 1787 Constitutional Convention. Wilson later gave lectures on Natural Law to President Washington and his cabinet. He warned of the “Venetian” police system:

“At Venice, where an aristocracy, jealous and tyrannical, absorbs every power, behold the state inquisitors, and the lion’s mouth, at all times open for the secret accusations of spies and informers. In what a situation must the wretched subjects be under such a government, all the powers of which are leagued, in awful combination, against the peace and tran-

quility of their minds!”

The “lion’s mouth” refers to the box, shaped as a lion’s head with his mouth open into which Venetian tattletales could drop anonymous accusations about their neighbors. The target of the gossip might later be found floating in the canal, and the oligarchy ran the state through the corrupt self-policing of the population.

The TV viewer now sees good old Ed McMahon soothingly call a political spy apparatus, “protecting freedom.”

Abraham Lincoln might have been responding to this fraud, when he asked, “How many legs does a dog have if you call the tail a leg?” He answered, “Four. Calling a tail a leg doesn’t make it a leg.”

Lincoln warned against the loss of American freedom under the public delusion of a falsified foreign threat:

“No foreign power or combination of foreign powers could by force take a drink from the Ohio or make a track on the Blue Ridge in a trial of a thousand years. At what point then is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer, if it ever reach us it must spring from among us, it cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen we must live through all time or die of suicide.”

Ashcroft’s DOJ Wages Jihad Against Muslim Americans

by Edward Spannaus

Federal agents, acting at the behest of Attorney General John Ashcroft and a multi-agency Federal task force, raided at least 15 offices and homes in northern Virginia on March 20-21, belonging to Islamic institutions and leaders which are universally described as moderates within the Islamic community in the United States.

The raids are part of a pattern, of targetting and disruption of the Islamic community, which is Ashcroft’s own personal contribution to the “war of civilizations” which the actual, domestic, authors of the Sept. 11 attacks hoped to detonate. Despite President Bush’s early efforts to reach out to the Muslim community after Sept. 11, the Justice Department has launched a campaign of dragnets, mass detentions, raids, and interrogations, which Ashcroft openly acknowledges are aimed at disruption of what he calls “potential terrorist networks,” rather than any legitimate law-enforcement purpose.

The raids came on the same day that Ashcroft announced that the Justice Department was going after another 3,000 men, mostly Muslims, for “interviews” about terrorism.

These are mostly young men who had entered the United States on visitors’ visas, and who had lived in countries where al-Qaeda is said to have a presence. “The individuals to be interviewed are not suspected of any criminal activity,” Ashcroft cavalierly admitted.

This is a follow-up to the first round of interrogations of 4,800 Middle Eastern men; the Justice Department has admitted that those interviews did not result in any arrests linked to Sept. 11. And this is in addition to the hundreds of Arab and Muslim men detained, and often held incommunicado, in the aftermath of Sept. 11; it is generally acknowledged that these detentions and interrogations also produced no evidence directly related to the Sept. 11 attacks.

Northern Virginia Raids

The March 20-21 northern Virginia raids, carried out at gunpoint in both offices and private homes, resulted in no arrests, and no criminal charges; but large quantities of records were seized, and occupants of the facilities and homes were intimidated and interrogated by Federal agents as their premises were being ransacked.

The officially stated purpose of the raids was to gather evidence pertaining to the funding of terrorism. The evidence described in the search warrant as being sought, focussed heavily on the World Islamic Studies Enterprise (WISE), a think-tank based in Tampa, Florida, and loosely affiliated with the University of South Florida (USF).

One of the names listed in the search warrant was that of the first director of WISE, Khalil Shikaki, a highly respected Palestinian-based pollster who works with Hebrew University in Israel, and who recently had an article published in the New York Council on Foreign Relations’ journal *Foreign Affairs*.

The founder of WISE was a USF professor of computer engineering, Sami Al-Arian, who was first singled out by “investigative journalist” Steve Emerson, the Mellon Scaife and Olin Foundation-backed Mossad leaker, whose 1994 PBS documentary film, “Jihad in America,” was an early propaganda piece for the Clash of Civilizations and the war on Islam. The footage for this film was, according to several sources, provided by the Israeli Mossad, and even the translations of speeches of Arabic speakers at political rallies were doctored, to make them appear as militant firebrands.

Sami Al-Arian was viciously attacked by Emerson in that video, and more recently in his book, *American Jihad*, which has an entire chapter (post-Sept. 11) on the Tampa campus-based networks. Based on Emerson’s fraudulent allegations, which were picked up by Mossad-friendly factions in the Justice Department and FBI, WISE was raided in 1995 and records seized. No evidence of terrorist ties was found, and no charges were brought against either WISE or Al-Arian.

As the further result of Emerson’s scribbles, Al-Arian was suspended from his university job, and another professor was actually jailed for three years for immigration violations.