

# The Federal Elections Commission Scandal

The Federal Elections Commission (FEC) created by Congress to guarantee honest election fundraising and to safeguard the legal disbursements of federal matching funds, has instead proved itself, during the course of the 1976 elections and since, to be an agency of subversion of the constitutionally guaranteed right of U.S. citizens to support and vote for the political party of their choice.

Actions this week by the FEC against the Lyndon LaRouche presidential campaign and the U.S. Labor Party, show conclusively that the FEC is functioning as a covert operations "plumbers" unit on behalf of President Carter and his supporters on the Trilateral Commission.

In Boston on Jan. 25, two FEC representatives appeared without prior announcement at the Boston office of the Labor Party and demanded information on contributors to the 1975-76 LaRouche campaign. They identified themselves as William C. Yowell, FEC badge number 041 and Elmo Allen, FEC badge number 024 and asked for phone numbers of specific contributors. They refused to specify to the U.S. Labor Party National Committee member present what they intended to interrogate these people about.

This is in violation of standard FEC procedures. By usual FEC practice checks of contributors are conducted only after written notification is mailed to the candidate and the contributor in question. Trying to cover their tracks, Charles Steel, chief counsel for the FEC called

the Committee to Elect LaRouche (CTEL) legal counsel in Washington, D.C. to apologize for the incident. The Boston visit, however, occurred amidst other Commission harassment of the USLP:

\*At 7:45 Jan. 25 FEC agent Keith Vance and another agent arrived unannounced at the home of Delaware Labor Party member Leroy Jones, and demanded for two hours that he and his wife produce check stubs proving their contribution to CTEL. Vance interrogated Mr. Jones on whether he gets a stipend from the Labor Party and how he could afford to make a contribution.

\*At 11, the same agents badgered a student member of the Labor Party with questions, "Who is the Delaware Labor Party Chairman... when did he give you the money for the contribution, how much did he give you?" After getting negative answers on these questions, the agents coerced the member into signing a statement on his replies. Shortly afterward, the agents staked out the home of a third contributor to question him when he walked out the door.

\*In Boston, agents Yowell and Allen visited the Lahey Clinic where a U.S. Labor Party member is employed to get information about his contribution.

The FEC is ostensibly checking LaRouche contributors to determine the legality of CTEL's claim for primary matching funds. The records for the LaRouche campaign were thoroughly audited by the FEC in November 1976. Since then, the disbursement of approximately \$120,000 in primary federal matching funds to the LaRouche Committee has been illegally held up by FEC stalling tactics.

## Carter Ordered Phony FEC Probe Into Labor Party Finances

Continuing investigations by the U.S. Labor Party into the harassment campaign being illegally conducted by the Federal Election Commission against contributors to the Committee to Elect LaRouche (CTEL) today confirmed that the so-called eligibility check on CTEL's applications for over \$100,000 in federal matching funds is a containment and frameup operation ordered by Jimmy Carter. Informed Capitol Hill sources told the Labor Party that the Committee to Elect Carter-Mondale requested the Justice Department probe CTEL funding on the eve of the presidential election, following a paid political broadcast on nationwide TV Nov. 1 by the Labor Party's presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. At that time, LaRouche detailed a conspiracy by Carter's backers — the Trilateral Commission of David Rockefeller and the then still-secret Committee on the Present Danger — to seize the U.S. presidency by using vote fraud.

### *Court Case Readied*

Attorneys for CTEL are preparing a suit against the FEC for Federal Court next week for their refusal to reach a decision on the eligibility of the Committee for matching funds. The Cointelpro-style visits to contributors is a further step in the administrative stall that the FEC has used to deny the LaRouche campaign its legal funds since October 16.

The initiation of this harassment confirms the information received by the Labor Party last week from highly reliable Washington sources that Carter backers were preparing to begin harassment against the Labor Party including investigation of the records and funding of the Labor Party and business interests associated with Labor Party supporters, frame-ups of Labor Party supporters in connection with a contrived espionage scare, and FBI-Cointelpro style dirty tricks and terrorism against Labor Party supporters.

In addition to initiating investigation of the LaRouche contributors, the FEC has demanded that the CTEL submit its expenditure records to a reaudit this week. They further made the demand, unprecedented in business and campaign practice, that CTEL obtain for them the books of its creditors — to prove CTEL had transactions with them. The FEC asked in particular, to look at the books of Campaigner Publications, Inc.,

which specializes in printing journals and promotional material on fusion energy, and industrial technology.

#### *Threat to Pro-Growth Forces*

The full details on the FEC's discrimination against the LaRouche campaign is already being circulated on Capitol Hill in a USLP fact sheet detailing the takeover of the FEC by Carter's backers. Three weeks ago the Republican FEC chairman Vernon Thompson was targeted for a scandal involving alleged partisan activities by a conspiracy involving Rockefeller-linked Melvin Laird. Last month, the FEC general counsel John G. Murphy resigned reportedly because he was fed up with the pro-Carterite FEC members' manipulation of election law.

Under its present Carter control, the FEC constitutes a direct threat to U.S. pro-growth forces, particularly in Congress. This month the FEC submitted a request to Congress for power to extend its jurisdiction to include regulating Congressmen's "office funds," i.e. the monies Congressmen receive, in part from contributions, and use for general purposes including trips around their constituency, informational and promotional around decisions on important issues, for example, the energy question. If Congress does not specifically deny the FEC these new powers, they will automatically go into effect within 30 days. Corporation and other contributors to congressional campaigns will be liable to FEC "blitz" investigations and coercion through threat of investigation and "fishing expeditions" through their records, should the Commission assume these new powers.

"The FEC is holding a knife at the throat of Congress," said Marcia Merry Pepper, CTEL Chairman, in a Jan. 25 statement. "The Commission is now nothing more than a vehicle for Carter's plumpers. It was the perception of pro-growth forces that Carter would act like a little Hitler and turn the institutions of government into his instrumentalities. The FEC's actions against my organization show that such fears were wellfounded. Unless such individuals act now to stop this illegal and unconstitutional harassment, they will be next." According to the fact sheet, the FEC has negligently refused to act on a scandal of campaign practices surpassing Watergate. As reported in the *New York Times*, a number of glaring irregularities exist in the Oct. 22-Nov. 22 Carter campaign report. These irregularities, if investigated, would reveal the top layer of the massive vote fraud operations conducted by the Carter campaign in Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio and Wisconsin...

"...Indicative of the evidence from the report are the following items: 1) Carter spent \$7.45 million between Oct. 22 and Nov. 22. \$499,739, or eight per cent is designated to the vague category "get out the vote" in neat \$100 to \$1,000 sums... b) One Freddie Burton of Detroit was given \$2,200 on Oct. 30 in \$100 and \$500 sums. Burton received an additional \$150 on Nov. 1...

2) "Miscellaneous office expenses" is an equally scandalous category of several hundred thousand dollars: b) Andrew Zausner, and attorney for Blank, Rome, Klaus and Comindky received \$15,500 on Oct. 25 and Oct. 28 in neat \$500 sums for "Misc. office" expenses... "The List goes on and the pattern is clear. Even \$100 and \$500 sums totaling tens of thousands of dollars were "itemized" into random categories, in a

classic but amateur job of "padding the books." Put together with the evidence of vote fraud on the court records in Wisconsin, New York, and Ohio, an immediate investigation is demanded. These three states plus California, Pennsylvania, and Texas comprise the bulk of the suspicious entries.

"...The FEC has not even begun the required audit of the Carter campaign report. Reached Jan. 14, an FEC spokesman gave procedural excuses about "waiting for debts to be paid and deposits returned." FEC procrastination amounts in fact to a protection operation for one of the most dangerous election scandals in history."

The Labor Party has recommended to Congress that, in the interests of a free electoral process, the Congress 1) deny any extension of jurisdiction to the existing Federal Elections Commissions; 2) initiate investigation of the 1976 election practices of the FEC and initiate appropriate remedies; and 3) determine the proper way to reconstitute a federal agency responsible for ensuring honest elections and fair campaign practices.

## European Labor Party Leaders In First Brandt Trial Appeal Fined \$10,000

European Labor Party Executive Committee members Anno Hellenbroich and Jurgen Spahn were fined 24,000 deutschemarks (\$10,000) by the Second Criminal Chamber of the State Court in Wiesbaden, West Germany, for "spreading facts" about Willy Brandt, the chairman of the West German Social Democratic Party.

The Jan. '26 court decision upheld a previous conviction of the two Labor Party leaders for "injuring and politically slandering Willy Brandt" by printing information in the Labor Party's German-language weekly, *Neue Solidaritat*, showing Brandt to be an agent of the U.S. CIA and a Nuremberg criminal. In this, as in others in the series of lawsuits brought by Brandt against the Labor Party, the West German courts have so far upheld feudal legal traditions which hold that truth is not a sufficient defense against claims of slander and libel.

In this week's decision on the Labor Party's appeal, the State Court dismissed the original conviction's sentence of six months' probation, but increased the fine from \$1,600.

In their four-day appeals trial, the two defendants submitted as evidence numerous international publications confirming Brandt's career as an agent of the CIA, along with official U.S. State Department documents naming Brandt as a paid "informer" of the CIA's predecessor, the Office of Strategic Services.

Hellenbroich and Spahn immediately announced that they will take their appeal conviction to a higher court.