

EIRSpecialReport

Abscam/Brilab attacks progress and U.S. labor

by Scott Thompson

Since last February there has been a constant drumbeat of press, TV and radio leaks from the Justice Department's new undercover operations that implicate some of the nation's top political and labor leaders in major corruption scandals. With exotic names like Abscam, Brilab, Pendorf, these cadillac models of the more than 50 "sting" operations the Justice Department claims to now have underway, promise to reveal the inner-workings of machines that link organized crime, violence, and the most greedy unionists to politicians. Adding to the drama are tales of the mansions, yachts, mysterious sheiks and champagne dinners that sketch out the Justice Department's plots to catch these "Mr. Bigs" in wrongdoing.

Abscam, Brilab, Pendorf do constitute a scandal of unprecedented proportions, but this scandal has little to do with the trial-by-press that has been used to condemn "sting" victims without due process. The real scandal of Abscam is that, under Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti, the Justice Department has been turned into a domestic "dirty tricks" arm of political warfare against those labor-based, urban machines that are fundamentally committed to an ever-expanding economy through industrial progress. To crush these machines, Civiletti has assembled a team of swindlers, assassins, and international dope pushers, who have been let loose against labor and industry in the name of combatting "white collar crime."

In this, Civiletti is merely following orders from the Trilateral Commission—an international body of 300 powerful public figures—which rigged the 1976 election of its member, President Jimmy Carter. As the Trilateral Commission mounts super-Watergate operations against potential opponents to pave the way for austerity economic conditions, waiting in the wings is the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

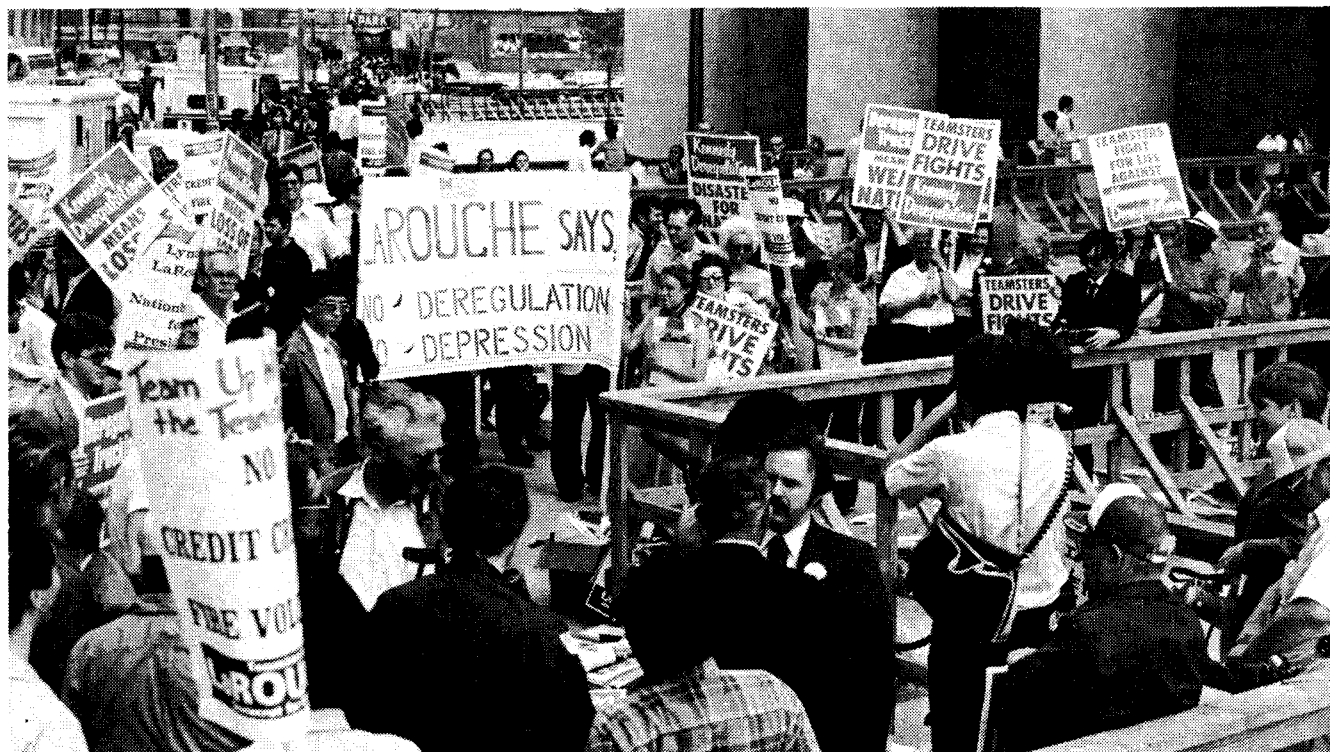


Photo: NSIPS

which is prepared to step in with emergency powers once opposition has been weakened in this manner.

Presidential Review Memorandum 32 (PRM-32), which set FEMA into operation, was drafted in 1979 by Samuel Huntington, a former Trilateral Commission member who retired to join the National Security Council with ex-Trilat chairman, Zbigniew Brzezinski.

Huntington, one of the outspoken planners of the Trilateral Commission, announced in a 1975 study for the Commission entitled, *The Crisis of Democracy*, that: "We have come to recognize that there are potentially desirable limits to economic growth. There are also potentially desirable limits to the indefinite extension of political democracy."

FEMA, which will become the U.S. government with full dictatorial powers once any of several Reichstag Fire-type "emergencies" prepared by the Trilateralists' are triggered, is the Commission's vehicle to eliminate political democracy. It is FEMA in tandem with Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker that will also implement final phases of the "controlled disintegration" economic policy that was announced by the Trilateral Commission's sister body, the Council on Foreign Relations, in a 30-volume report entitled "1980s Project." Released this spring, the report states: "A degree of controlled disintegration in the world economy is a legitimate objective for the 1980s ..."

Before taking a detailed look at Abscam and other

Justice Department "dirty tricks" designed to break down resistance to these policies, it is important to know what the future will look like under the Trilateral Commission's planned FEMA dictatorship.

Once FEMA declares a national emergency, "peacetime" or otherwise, a new Cabinet-level Office of Defense Resources will be established to "reorganize all resources in the U.S. economy: natural resources, industrial resources, manpower resources, transport resources." What this means in practice is that under FEMA's National Labor Mobilization Subplan, a "Standby Committee" will be called upon to rubberstamp a labor policy which precisely parallels the Labor Front policy of Nazi Finance Minister Hjalmar Schacht.

William McLaughlin, Emergency Coordinator for FEMA in the Department of Labor, told *EIR* recently how FEMA's "Standby Committee" will oversee a program of "retraining, certification and relocation:"

- *Retraining:* "We will use the Comprehensive Employee Training Act (CETA) programs nationally to retrain the workforce on an emergency basis. This will be controlled by FEMA and the Labor Department through the regional and state offices of the DoL which now run CETA on a national priorities basis."

- *Certification:* "We will also control the certification of workers. That is, a worker will not be able to leave his job, nor an employer to hire new labor, without complying with FEMA/DoL certification. This will be coordinated

by FEMA, establishing policy on the national level as to which geographical and industrial areas need which kinds of skilled labor. . . . *Workers wishing to switch jobs, or employers wishing to hire new labor, would then have to be certified that they were acting in coherence with national priorities before they would be able to do so.*"

• *Relocation*: "This is a problem. We must induce people to relocate. The easiest thing is, first, to impose an across the board wage/price freeze severely throughout the economy, and then selectively lift the freeze—or perhaps the reduction—on labor wages in target industries and target geographical areas."

While many of the jackboot features of the Hitler regime are as yet missing, this FEMA program is in no essential way different from the Nazi Labor Front policy of work books and box cars. FEMA's certification powers, for example, precisely parallel those Hitler gave to the Employment Service Board in Germany in 1938 to oversee the conscription and allocation of all labor on a "national security," priorities basis.

Targeting the labor-industry alliance

The main bulwark against this planned FEMA dictatorship is the alliance of labor and industry that built this country under the American system of progress and technological development. Included in this set of relationships are labor leaders, business entrepreneurs, heads of ethnic groups, and political powerbrokers who have formed machines to run America's cities and foster a climate for growth. Nuclear power, a national transportation grid second to none, a heavy construction industry that can build anything, anywhere, are among the fruits of these labor-industry combinations.

It is the national leaders of this system that have been targeted by the major "sting" operations, while literally hundreds of investigations that involve over 1,100 FBI agents and all 13 of the Justice Department's Organized Crime Strike Forces are being conducted against regional machine leaders. Special targets on both the local and national level are the International Longshoremens Association (ILA), the International Laborers Union (ILU), and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT). It is these trade unions which form the core of the labor-industry relationship by providing the money, manpower, and nationwide communications that allow machines in particular cities to coordinate with each other.

These unions are also the frontline of the battle against the "controlled disintegration" economic measures demanded by the Trilateral Commission and Paul Volcker. Exemplary is the Teamster-led fight against deregulation of the trucking industry, which *EIR* computer projections demonstrate will not only cause the immediate bankruptcy of several trucking firms, but a \$20 billion loss to the U.S. economy in the first year after

it is enacted by Congress. Thus the Teamsters, who were the motive force behind an integrated transportation grid in their battle for a national Master Freight Contract, are also among the most aggressive protectors of their industrial allies' interests.

To pave the way for FEMA, an escalating series of attacks are planned by the Justice Department and other government agencies. Once the national leadership of key trade unions have been "softened-up" by the Gestapo tactics employed in "stings" like Abscam, a series of hearings are planned by Sen. Sam Nunn's Senate Permanent Investigations Subcommittee (SPIS) to "mop-up" any remaining resistance by the close of 1980.

SPIS staff director William Goodwin informed *EIR* in a recent interview how the DoJ's "sting" operations will fuel the hearings: "Brilab will give credibility to the charges that parts of organized labor are in fact run by organized crime. . . . The FBI will produce some indictments. They will scare some people. Then Congress will come in and 'mop things up'. *We intend to break the power of the Teamsters and the ILA all over the country.*"

Following sensationalist hearings on "organized

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crime and violence" which began on April 28th, Goodwin states that the Subcommittee "will move slowly and deliberately . . . It will not go public until the time is right, until we will have the most impact."

According to Mike Levin, a former member of the Gulfcoast Organized Crime Strike Force now on the SPIS staff, the Subcommittee will be ready for "spectacular hearings" by early fall, 1980 when it will train its guns on the ILA: "The ILA situation is particularly ripe and ready because there have been two major prosecutions completed (Anthony Scott and Fred Field) and one which will be completed within the next few months (Michael Clemente). Also, we've got manpower here on

the Subcommittee who are intimately familiar with ILA matters.”

By late fall the IBT will be the subject of hearings timed to coincide with indictments from Pendorf and 15 criminal investigations into the Teamsters' Central States Health-Welfare and Pension Funds. Running along a parallel track overseen by the DoL and House Ways & Means' Subcommittee on Oversight is a plan to seize control of the \$1.3 billion liquid assets in the Central States Funds. This move, which will rob regional machines of investment capital for construction and related projects, is equivalent to the nationalization of General Motors.

White Collar Crime

This program of economic warfare and “dirty tricks” is being run in the name of combatting “white collar crime.” One of the leading polemicists of this new Justice Department program is James Q. Wilson, a close collaborator of Trilateral Commission “gangster” Samuel Huntington at Harvard University, who also has the distinction of being the “brains” behind the Murphy Commission Watergating of the N.Y. Police Department.

In an article entitled, “The Changing FBI—The Road to Abscam,” which appears in the Spring, 1980 issue of the Committee on the Present Danger-linked journal, *The Public Interest*, Wilson states: “Attorney General Edward Levi and (FBI) Director Kelley pledged that the Bureau would reduce its interest in domestic security cases, especially of the sort that led to such abuses as COINTELPRO ... (because) domestic security cases were constitutionally and politically vulnerable.” Yet, Wilson continues, Levi simultaneously charged the FBI with “identifying (‘targeting’) individuals, groups, and organizations for intensive scrutiny on the grounds that they were *suspected of being involved* (emphasis added) in organized crime, major conspiracies, labor racketeering, or political corruption.”

Wilson has inadvertently put his finger on the central of many ironies that attend the DoJ's “war on white collar crime,” namely that it violates the infamous “Levi Guidelines,” which make it illegal for law enforcement officers to gather intelligence on terrorists *until after a crime has been committed*. Under Levi, the Justice Department would not investigate a known terrorist who publicly advocates violent overthrow of the American government until after he throws a bomb. Yet, congressmen, labor leaders and other responsible citizens are to be “targeted”—i.e., placed under a microscope, subjected to wiretaps, entrapped by thieves and cutthroats bearing “sting” propositions, or, possibly even framed by an informant promised an easier sentence if he indicts others—all on mere *suspicion*.

How Abscam and Brilab ‘sting’

When the first sensational “leaks” from Abscam and Brilab appeared on the front page of newspapers across the country last February, few people stopped to ask the most basic questions about these operations. “Precisely who was ‘stung’ and why?” What is the press doing with the results of ‘top-secret’ investigations?” Since then enough has emerged for many people to begin to suspect that the public as a whole was fooled by the way the Justice Department orchestrated Abscam and Brilab.

Among the revelations that have given rise to these questions is the fact that the DoJ passed up literally dozens of congressmen whom it had a similar opportunity to entrap. Further, it has been learned that the Washington, D.C. home from which the phony sheik of Abscam for a time operated was rented by the FBI from Lee Lescaze, a reporter for the *Washington Post*. Similarly, it has been revealed that three weeks before the story was “officially broken,” the *New York Times*' Leslie Maitland, Bob Greene of *Newsday*, and a team of NBC reporters had been provided with documents and briefed on when and how to break the story by Neil Welch, the recently retired FBI Assistant Director in charge of Operation Abscam.

These “leaks” were a critical part of the project. Three months since grand juries were convened to hear evidence on Abscam and Brilab, it has been announced that indictments are momentarily expected. But, in many cases the damage has already been done, with leading citizens' names ruined before they are indicted, let alone convicted. It is to contain further damage that *EIR* examines the “how” and “why” of Abscam-Brilab.

Project Alpha

Project Alpha, the prototype “sting” operation, was launched in 1974 to destroy the political machine centered on trucking and waterfront activity that until recently ran New Jersey's Hudson and Union counties. Funding for the project was provided by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, a branch of the Justice Department that has pioneered many compo-