

The dirty dealings in the office of Manhattan D.A. Morgenthau

by Vin Berg

On Dec. 3, attorneys for the National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC), which is chaired by Lyndon H. LaRouche, entered New York State Supreme Court requesting legal relief from grand jury proceedings scheduled to begin at noon that day.

The case arose from a Nov. 16 raid by 17 detectives from the office of Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau on the New York premises of PMR Printing Company, which prints *EIR* and several other publications of organizations associated with LaRouche, and at which a number of NCLC members are employed. Morgenthau was allegedly seeking evidence linking PMR to an Oct. 24 supplement in the *New York Times*, reporting on the political dirty dealings of the East Side Conservative Club of New York mob lawyer Roy Cohn, which the *Times* claims to have been bogus. Legal observers say that there is no identifiable law on the New York statute books, aside from Third Degree Forgery—a Class A misdemeanor not subject to investigation by grand jury proceedings—with which the circulators of the *Times* supplement, if it was indeed bogus, may be charged. PMR employees, all subpoenaed at the time of the search, have moreover not been formally notified of potential charges or even the subject and scope of the district attorney's so-called investigation.

For these reasons, as well as the remarkable irregularities in Morgenthau's subpoena-serving procedures, NCLC attorneys asked the court on Dec. 3 to quash all subpoenas. Failing a favorable ruling on this motion, the NCLC legal team will seek a stay on grand jury proceedings on the grounds that they were a politically motivated attack on a political organization and its members, in violation of their civil liberties.

"The entire affair is what lawyers like to call a 'fishing expedition,'" said an NCLC spokesman on the eve of the court action. "The story about the *New York Times* supplement is being used as a ruse to permit a campaign of political

and legal harassment against LaRouche and his associates. Even if no prosecution results from the grand jury actions, the operation could be used to financially exhaust the international LaRouche organization, with a wave of costly court hearings and civil suits."

In the light of day . . .

District Attorney Morgenthau has been involved in many covert operations against LaRouche in the past, but this one is the riskiest, because it is being conducted openly in the name of the D.A.'s office. By stepping into the light of day in this way, Robert Morgenthau has made himself, his financial and political associates, and his record in office matters for intense public scrutiny.

For him, the result has been most damaging. Facts now exposed reveal a figure who, in a country which loves to talk about its "corrupt politicians," is one of the worst of the lot. He is part of the seamiest side of British and Israeli intelligence operations, those tightly interfaced with organized crime, the kind of operations that involve assassination, terrorism, drug traffic—while he serves as chief law-enforcement official for a city which, since he assumed office, has experienced the worst growth in narcotics traffic and crime in the nation.

When Morgenthau moves to openly attack LaRouche, much more than Robert Morgenthau is exposed to public view.

● Morgenthau is a close associate of "Israeli Mafia" circles historically associated with the Meyer Lansky empire, circles at whose center is Israel Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, the butcher of Lebanon, and Gen. Rehavam Zeevi, a.k.a. Gandhi, a reputed underworld boss expelled from Israel's armed forces for arms smuggling and drug traffic links. Zeevi heads a financial combine which has been buying huge chunks of West Bank land in anticipation of massive profits pending Israeli annexation. It is confirmed that Henry Kissinger, whose

associate Lord Harlech organized the buy-up, is one of the "investors." Morgenthau held a meeting with Kissinger two days before Kissinger flew to London for meetings with Lord Harlech to discuss this combined geopolitical maneuver and financial grab.

- Morgenthau sits, at Sharon's request, as chairman of an organization called PEACE ("Preventing Emergence of Another Arab Country in Eretz Israel [Judea, Samaria and Gaza])," the American branch of the Lansky-mafia-controlled Gush Emunim sect which claims all of Jordan and most of Lebanon and Syria on grounds of Jewish "racial superiority."

- Morgenthau is part of an illegal foreign-intelligence unit functioning under the code-name Project Leviticus. The unit, identified to *EIR* as a "Mossad" or "ADL" (Anti-Defamation League) unit (Morgenthau sits on the ADL's National Commission), represents a pro-British Jewish-surname outfit engaged in efforts to strip the United States of intelligence capabilities in the Middle East. The arrest and prosecution of CIA agent Frank Terpil by Morgenthau's office is said to have been part of Project Leviticus operations, which seek to substitute British for American influence in the Middle East.

- Morgenthau is married to Lucinda Franks, currently a free-lance reporter for the *New York Times*, her cover for British-linked intelligence operations (the network of which she is part is sometimes misnamed the "left CIA") which have placed her in the orbit of terrorist networks in Europe and the United States. She interviewed and received regular communiqués from Weatherunderground terrorists during the mid-1970s, withholding the documents from the FBI. She wrote articles praising the terrorist Weathermen, and the Symbionese Liberation Army captors of Patricia Hearst, acknowledging that she had seriously considered joining the terrorists. Franks collaborated with British-intelligence stringer Michael Vale in Europe and the United States in efforts to penetrate the LaRouche organization in the early 1970s, pending an assassination attempt on LaRouche which was aborted after exposure of Vale's agents. Franks, then working for UPI, switched to the *New York Times*.

- Robert Morgenthau was involved in what intelligence professionals call "security stripping" against LaRouche in 1978. One David Newsome physically assaulted an associate of LaRouche, and during the court-room testimony, Newsome declared he had committed the assault because LaRouche "had been speaking to me." On that pretext, Morgenthau subpoenaed LaRouche. Only two weeks earlier, LaRouche had been the victim of an assassination attempt in Detroit, Michigan. Yet Morgenthau's office refused to provide security cooperation for LaRouche's court-room appearance. The Detroit attempt was traced to circles of Max Fisher, reputed Midwest "Purple Gang" boss known personally to Morgenthau through a British-intelligence front called the Jerusalem Foundation.

- Repeated formal complaints filed with Morgenthau's

office regarding death-threats, physical attacks, and harassment of LaRouche-linked organizations met with repeated refusal to investigate by Morgenthau's office, even when the evidence of a pattern of incidents proving "aggravated harassment," a felony, was recommended to his attention by the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York. Involved were the Jewish Defense League and the Yippies, among other cult-organizations. Morgenthau, at the center of the circles controlling the JDL and Yippies' overlapping membership, in one instance reportedly delivered a "promise" to the JDL's leadership that he would never prosecute persons who attacked LaRouche, his associates, or their property.

'Open door' for narcotics

- Morgenthau, since becoming District Attorney of Manhattan in 1977, has not simply watched passively as New York was established as the principal entry-point for "Sicilian connection" heroin coming into the United States, and as crime in all categories soared (80 percent of it related to drugs). He has actively worked to turn the city's streets over to the drug czars, by emasculating the powers of his own office, by attacking anti-drug officials in other departments, and by crippling the powers of the police department for effective anti-drug operations. Morgenthau lobbied for passage of the state's "marijuana decriminalization" legislation, which resulted in a 300-percent increase in pot usage among teenagers. He arranged to force the resignation of the city's Medical Examiner, Michael Baden, who took a tough anti-drug position. He instituted a "no arrest" policy on drug-pushers, telling police his office would not prosecute marijuana pushers—who also push other things—even if police arrested them. As a result, the cash flow for drug traffic in New York City is now estimated at \$30 billion. The city's addict population may now be as high as 250,000, each one committing an estimated 200-300 crimes a year to support his habit.

- Since Morgenthau's 1977 election, felonies in New York City have increased 21 percent. Murder is up 17 percent; burglary 19 percent; robbery 35 percent; grand larceny 40 percent. Nevertheless, felony arrests have declined to only 70 percent of 1977 levels. Fewer than 16 percent of felonies in Morgenthau's jurisdiction result in arrest. Arrests for rape dropped 17 percent; assault 19 percent, burglary 23 percent, larceny 15 percent. Arrests on narcotics charges have fallen 21 percent. Only two thirds of all murders result in an arrest. In fact, statistics show, with Morgenthau as district attorney it doesn't much matter if an arrest does occur. He is such an energetic prosecutor that only one of every 263 arrested burglars ever goes to jail.

Perhaps the lesson to be learned, from Morgenthau's ordering of a total of 17 detectives to raid the PMR Printing Company over an alleged Class-A misdemeanor, is this: In Robert Morgenthau's New York, only the criminal is safe.