

NBC 'jail LaRouche' plot is derailed

NBC's plan to set Lyndon LaRouche up for assassination, by having him thrown into jail, was derailed on Sept. 17 as friends and supporters of LaRouche posted a \$256,451 appeal bond with the federal court in Alexandria, Virginia. NBC attorneys, who clearly had been caught by surprise, were left with no choice but to consent to a stay of all proceedings, and signed a proposed court order to that effect. The order was signed by Judge W. Claude Hilton on Sept. 18. The amount deposited with the court covers the judgment, interest, and costs.

This will bring to a screeching halt the proceedings by which NBC attorneys were trying to catch LaRouche in a contempt-of-court trap, under the pretext of trying to enforce their \$202,000 judgment against LaRouche.

Max Dean, noted civil rights and labor lawyer in Flint, Michigan, spearheaded the effort by friends of LaRouche to raise the funds necessary to post the bond, and even to pay the NBC judgment if necessary to keep LaRouche out of jail. Almost 200 persons contributed to this effort. (None of the funds came from any of the 20 organizations which NBC had targeted as "LaRouche organizations.")

Dean commented that, "The real problem on the part of the court is, that they are incapable of imagining the deep respect and esteem in which Lyndon LaRouche is held by thousands and thousands of people."

On Aug. 8, LaRouche was ordered by a federal magistrate to provide information as to who paid his personal expenses such as food, housing, clothes, travel, and legal and security costs. Magistrate W. Curtis Sewell also ordered LaRouche to pay \$2,000 costs and \$200-a-day fine until he provided the information to NBC. On Sept. 12, Judge Hilton affirmed the magistrate's order. NBC's attorneys had stated their intention to seek "progressively harsher sanctions"—including contempt of court—against LaRouche if he did not comply with their discovery requests.

LaRouche in fact had answered a number of NBC's queries, as to who had paid some legal and security costs and also campaign travel expenses. Otherwise, he told the court, he was "safeguarded" by various friends because of the threat to his life, and, while a guest of friends and sometimes of governments, he does not ask who pays the bill. LaRouche had repeatedly testified that he does not know exactly who pays for the food he eats or wherever he happens to be staying. Yet the magistrate and judge ordered him to provide

detailed financial information—such as who paid for every meal he has eaten since 1973.

LaRouche's attorneys twice sent requests to 20 different organizations named by NBC asking if they had paid any expenses associated with LaRouche and requesting they provide any such information. Some of the organizations responded that they had not paid any such expenses. In other cases, attorneys for the respective organizations responded that they were advising their clients not to provide the requested information because of other pending legal matters.

Despite clear evidence that LaRouche had no legal control over, or access to, the requested information, both Magistrate Sewell and Judge Hilton ordered him to get the information or be fined. Judge Hilton was so anxious to "get LaRouche" that he put on a shameful performance in court, citing NBC's arguments as if they were the magistrate's actual findings. He didn't even know what the magistrate had said; he just knew that *he* wanted to rule against LaRouche.

NBC's pretext

The pretext for these proceedings is the \$202,000 judgment against LaRouche which NBC obtained from a rigged jury during the trial of LaRouche's libel claim against NBC in October 1984. NBC and its co-defendants, the gangsterish Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, successfully rigged the judge and the jury with false evidence and corrupt rulings so that the jury initially gave NBC \$3 million punitive damages verdict against LaRouche, as against only \$2,000 in actual (real) damages. The \$3 million punitive damages were later reduced to \$200,000, for the only reason that no precedent could be found for a verdict that large.

Although NBC could have begun collection proceedings at any time after March 1985, it sat on its judgment for over a year, reportedly convinced it would spend far more than \$200,000 in trying to collect the judgment from LaRouche, who they know has no assets or income.

This summer, NBC abruptly instituted discovery proceedings against LaRouche. It soon became evident that NBC was not interested in the money, but in forcing LaRouche into contempt of court. As LaRouche's attorney argued in court Sept. 12, if NBC were serious about getting the information it wanted, rather than setting a contempt trap for LaRouche, it would have subpoenaed the organizations it thinks are paying his expenses, rather than trying to force him to give information that he has no legal right or power to provide.

NBC's escalation against LaRouche coincided with reports from intelligence specialists that the Soviets wanted LaRouche dead, and had told the State Department and other "New Yalta" sympathizers that unless LaRouche were gotten out of the way, there would be no Gorbachov-Reagan summit and no détente. Moscow's orders were to "kill LaRouche": NBC's lawyers thought they had come up with a way to set the whole thing up.