

EIR Feature

The third trial of Socrates: U.S.A. vs. Lyndon LaRouche

by Nancy Spannaus

When the Boston federal case against Lyndon LaRouche and several associates fell apart in May of 1988, and it was revealed that the jury had polled itself and voted for acquittal of all defendants, it would have appeared that the government prosecution against LaRouche would founder. For not only was a mistrial declared, but the government's pattern of blatant misconduct against the defense was a matter of notoriety among the legal profession, not to mention the jury itself. The defendants had been cheated of an acquittal by the government delaying tactics, but the prosecution had egg all over its face.

But on Oct. 14 in Alexandria, Virginia, the federal government announced new indictments against LaRouche and six associates, for substantially the same class of "offenses." This time, in contrast to Boston, the prosecution was determined not to be caught in its misconduct and other illegalities. The tactic which it chose, was to take advantage of the local custom in the federal district court of Virginia, which is known nationally as the "rocket docket." Through this forced march, the government intended to push through the entire prosecution in less than two months. This tactic is geared to preventing the defense from being able to get the information which it needs to rebut the charges from the government, from having time to conduct its own investigation of the particular charges, and from actually presenting an adequate case to the jury.

Why is the federal government going to such lengths to destroy the statesman LaRouche? Because, to the political establishment which runs the United States, LaRouche is not just another politician. To the establishment, LaRouche is the "modern Socrates," who must be eliminated if it is to maintain its power through the upcoming period of strategic, economic, and political crises, which will be the worst since the Black Death of the fourteenth century.

Although Judge Albert V. Bryan, Jr. has not yet decided what evidence he will allow in the trial, he has shown himself insensitive, to say the least, to the defendants' constitutional rights to have the time to prepare a defense. Having admitted that he is pushing the defense a bit hard, he has nonetheless insisted that the trial go ahead on Nov. 21.



Socrates teaching: a detail from Raphael's "The School of Athens," Vatican, 1510.

The only potential for stopping it, depends upon the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, based in Richmond, Virginia. On Nov. 9, the defense filed a petition asking that court to direct Judge Bryan to vacate his order setting the trial date, on the grounds that this violates the defendants' rights to a fair trial. As it stands, the defense would only have five weeks from the time of arraignment to trial.

The Socrates comparison

Since 1986, LaRouche's supporters have characterized the assault against him as the Third Trial of Socrates. As LaRouche himself pointed out in his last television broadcast of the 1988 election campaign, his enemies were the first to bring up the Socrates comparison. The *New York Times* published a feature article back in the 1970s, by a notorious old former Communist fellow-traveler by the name of I. F. Stone, who argued that the ancient Greek sage Socrates should have been convicted for "corrupting the youth." Investigators who interviewed Stone learned that LaRouche was the "modern Socrates" he had in mind.

Socrates was the Greek philosopher who was condemned to death by a jury in Athens in 399 B. C. for "corrupting the youth." While he accepted the verdict, he asserted to the end that he was being killed because he had dared to offend the citizenry by telling the truth. Research has shown that the entire prosecution was guided by Athens' top political leaders, with the support of their Persian patrons.

LaRouche himself considers the comparison useful. In his words, "On the positive side, all of my work, whether in economic science, in the fine arts, and in political strategy,

is based on the interpretation of the Socratic method adopted by the Christian humanists of the Italian Renaissance period." On the negative side, "all of my bitterest enemies, such as Stone and the Communists, are in the tradition of those ancient Syrian Magi who were behind the trial of Socrates, and who ordered also the trial and crucifixion of Jesus Christ later."

LaRouche elaborated. "If one knows European history, there is nothing astonishing in that comparison. Friedrich Schiller, writing as professor of history at Jena University, said that all of modern European history is fundamentally a quarrel between two traditions. On the one side, there is the tradition of Solon of Athens, a tradition to which both Socrates and I happen to belong. On the opposite side, there is the tradition of Lycurgus's Sparta, to which both the left-wingers like Stone and the fascists belong."

LaRouche's charge that he is being targeted by the government because of his philosophical-political commitment to the outlook of Socrates, is borne out by the facts, as we shall preview a bit here, and as the trial itself should show. The cabal within the Justice Department that has determined to "get LaRouche," has a violent philosophical disagreement with him, which is reflected on questions ranging from economic development to relations with the Soviet Union. There is massive evidence of a systematic campaign of financial and other harassment against LaRouche and his associates going back to 1969, before he even ran for President. As LaRouche's influence has grown internationally, that campaign has become increasingly violent, to the point of a military raid on the town of Leesburg, Virginia, and of an

unprecedented involuntary bankruptcy seizure of three corporations which published and disseminated writings of LaRouche and his friends.

Just what is it about LaRouche that has driven a cabal of Social Democrats, professional prosecutors, communists, and gangsters—with the backing of the highest levels of the Establishment—to persecute him as relentlessly as the Greek oligarchy, backed by Persia, did Socrates?

The tyranny of reason

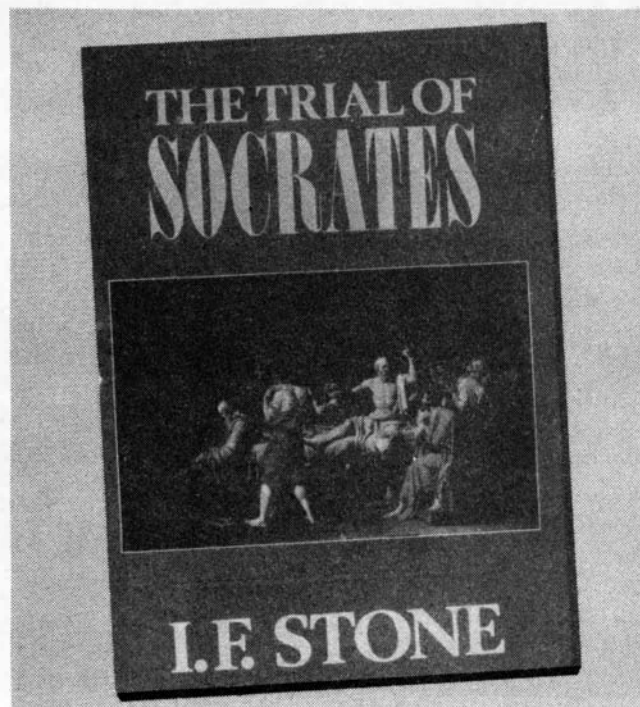
Both the Boston and Alexandria indictments are notable for the vagueness of their charges. Both center on charging “conspiracy” to commit alleged crimes, in a manner widely recognized as the last resort of political prosecutions. The current tax indictment against LaRouche, for conspiracy “to defraud the United States by impeding, impairing, obstructing and defeating the lawful function of the United States Treasury Department, Internal Revenue Service, in the ascertainment, computation, assessment and collection of the revenue,” is among the more bizarre in the history of tax law. LaRouche is *not* charged with actual tax evasion.

What comes across in both indictments is the rage of the government that the corporations which LaRouche’s friends set up, and LaRouche’s presidential campaigns, were actually able to raise the money to carry out their political activities! The fact that the campaigns or the publishing houses had difficulty paying their debts, or that there were chargebacks or customer dissatisfaction, was nothing unique to the LaRouche campaign, or these publishing corporations. Nor did these difficulties necessarily involve LaRouche, who only had a position of fiduciary responsibility vis-à-vis the political campaigns themselves.

But there is a theory that comes across in the government’s argument, a theory which is central to “selling” the argument to the jury and the public, which has been plastered all over the news media in slanders since 1974. That theory is that LaRouche is an “authoritarian” personality, who runs a “totalitarian” organization devoted to “imposing” a morality on the United States citizenry. Since LaRouche, as a private citizen, and his associates can actually “impose” nothing, the charge is quite an hysterical one. What actually galls the prosecutors is that LaRouche and his associates are campaigning for moral purposes, and have won support.

A more direct expression of what the government complains about has appeared regularly in articles in the *Washington Post*. One on the Boston trial, by “LaRouche expert” John Mintz, put it like this: “Law enforcement officials and experts on the group say that the key to understanding the charges in the trial . . . is not something that can be summed up in an indictment. The key, they say, is in the members’ arrogance about themselves and their position in world history, the attitude . . . that these-fools-better-turn-to-Lyn-before-it’s-too-late.”

Another *Washington Post* article took the same angle:



The latest treatise by I.F. Stone, the former Communist fellow-traveler who argues that the Athenian jury was right to convict Socrates for “corrupting the youth.”

“The contemptuous view of non-members, and grandiose thinking about their own historical mission is at the root of the criminal charges facing group members, former members and law enforcement officials say.”

Where does this argument come from? Directly from the gutter! The dirty underside of this argument has been spread luridly across the pages of magazines such as the drug lobby’s *High Times* magazine, where “LaRouche experts” such as Chip Berlet and Dennis King have published their pioneering work. The screaming headline of one of these articles is, “They Want to Take Your Drugs Away,” and that, in a sense, says it all. The source of the claim that LaRouche is “authoritarian” is that he opposes the counterculture, including the drug culture, on both a personal and societal level. It is his stand for morality, and the social policies which would actually further it, that upsets his enemies.

The drug issue, in fact, provides a touchstone for the entire political line-up vis-à-vis LaRouche and his movement. Speed freaks from the left and libertarians from the right both violently resist the outlook of the man who outlined the War on Drugs, long before the Reagan administration picked up the term. Anarchists on the left and free enterprisers on the right both insist on the rights of drug “entrepreneurs” and bankers to their “freedoms.” It is an issue which unites the highest levels of the oligarchy and the lowest level thugs. As far as organized forces go, the major forces supporting this outlook, and funding operations against La-

Rouche, are the international Social Democracy, the bankers, and, of course, the Soviets.

In reality, what is charged to be “authoritarian” is what used to be the standards of Judeo-Christian morality. What is today charged to be “cultist” was 20 years ago the norm. The views of the extreme left in the 1960s and 1970s are now being adopted by the federal government, as a basis for trying to make believable the idea that LaRouche is a “totalitarian” who controls every word and deed of people around him, and uses his personal power for sinister purposes.

As a pretrial request by the defense puts it, “Defendants will show that the theoretical basis for the government’s characterization of LaRouche and the NCLC [National Caucus of Labor Committees] is drawn from a political and philosophical current which is bitterly hostile not only to that of LaRouche, but to the basic philosophical traditions of Western Civilization. Defendants expect to argue this to the jury in order to prove malice and the motivation for this prosecution.”

The 19-year witchhunt

At the hearing on pretrial motions held before Judge Albert V. Bryan on Nov. 10, Assistant U.S. Attorney from Boston John Markham, who has joined the Alexandria prosecution team, argued that if the defendants were allowed to present the evidence which they wanted on the pattern of government harassment, they would be *putting the government on trial* as to the reason that loans were not repaid. Markham was speaking on behalf of a government motion to limit evidence, so as to prevent the presentation of “prior FBI investigations; asserted infiltrations of the LaRouche organization by informants; other criminal and civil proceedings; and the institution of involuntary bankruptcy proceedings in this District.” “It is the position of the government that these incidents essentially are irrelevant,” the government papers conclude.

As of this writing, the judge has not ruled on this government motion. Should he rule for the government, it will be one of the worst travesties of justice ever seen.

The reality is that Social Democratic factions in the Department of Justice, along with their allies in the Democratic party, the communist movement, the bankers, and others, have been engaged in a war of extra-legal harassment against LaRouche and his associates since 1969. The negative press coverage and the financial difficulties which the defendants have been subjected to, are the direct result of this campaign. A look at the actual pattern of harassment reveals the operations of a virtual Gestapo against anyone who has anything to do with LaRouche.

Highlights of this operation were reviewed in the motion for dismissal of the case on the basis of “selective and vindictive prosecution,” which was submitted by the defense in Alexandria. Other aspects were requested in the motion for release of evidence from the government, about its deploy-

ment of FBI agents and others to interfere with the political operations of the LaRouche movement. Additionally, much of this material was already set forth in the Boston trial by the defense—so effectively that the prosecution is desperate to try to rule it out here.

Let’s review some of the leading features:

The first record of government attack comes as early as 1969, when the FBI itself issued a leaflet attacking a close associate of LaRouche, in an intervention in favor of the Mark Rudd anarchist faction in the Columbia University Students for a Democratic Society.

In 1973, information released by the FBI shows that it was aware of the intention of the Communist Party U.S.A. to “eliminate” LaRouche, but did nothing to warn him, much less to protect him. This, along with other massive evidence, rather points to a long pattern of collaboration between the FBI and Moscow-directed circles to try to silence LaRouche and his movement.

In 1974, the Social Democratic leadership of the United Autoworkers, in collaboration with circles around the Justice Department, attempted unsuccessfully to shut down the newspaper of the LaRouche movement.

As soon as the National Caucus of Labor Committees, the philosophical association founded by LaRouche, was established, the FBI began “investigating” it on the basis that it was a “subversive” organization, and launched under that pretext a massive campaign of intimidation, surveillance, and petty arrests against supporters all around the country. In 1977, the investigation had to be officially dropped.

In 1978, however, what could be called the “secret government” went into operation. The trigger appeared to be LaRouche’s launching of a movement for a War on Drugs, which attacked the financial backers of the drug trade, back to primarily British institutions, but also named numerous institutions currently run by nominally Jewish families, such as the Bronfmans of Canada. Rushing to the defense of these filthy operations was primarily the Anti-Defamation League of B’nai B’rith, which demonstrated itself over and over again to be operating as an adjunct to the FBI. This resulted in a wave of police and press harassment, that was only to be surpassed in the period of 1983 to 1986.

With the onset of the Reagan administration, there was an opening to LaRouche’s influence in certain high policy circles of the government. This opening, whose most clear reflection came with the adoption of the Strategic Defense Initiative in March 1983, nearly drove LaRouche’s enemies berserk.

One of the key victories for the filthy circles in the government who opposed LaRouche in this assault, occurred in the Alexandria federal district court in 1984. In response to a libel suit filed against NBC-TV by LaRouche, the court and prosecution turned the tables and ended up finding LaRouche guilty of harassment of the media! This outrageous decision, which confirmed the end of libel law in the United States,

made it “fair comment” to libel LaRouche and his associates in the most false manner imaginable—an indispensable element in building up “public opinion” against him and his movement.

This period saw the addition of an obvious new component to the government-led assault against LaRouche and his associates. This was the involvement of the Soviet Union and its representatives in the nationally coordinated legal assault against LaRouche. A chronicling of this assault—including hundreds of FBI visits to contributors, hundreds of instances of bank interference, thousands of slanderous newspaper articles, and more than a dozen grand jury investigations—would fill a warehouse with documentation.

It is this assault, which anonymous government officials freely admitted was intended to shut down financially organizations associated with LaRouche, that the federal government now blatantly seeks to rule out of the defense.

The moral fitness to survive

Since the onset of the federal investigation against LaRouche in October 1984, thousands of individuals from the United States and other countries have come forward to condemn the government’s politically motivated assault. This support has helped prevent the overwhelming power of the state from destroying a private individual and the self-financed popular movement associated with his ideas. The cost of the defense has been enough to crush anyone—costing at least \$5 million in direct legal costs over the past four years. And now the government, with its seemingly unlimited funds, is pressing ahead once more.

For every individual who has come forward to defend LaRouche, however, there have undoubtedly been 10 or more who have buckled under to the pressure of “popular opinion,” or the direct police power of the FBI. The American people as a whole have demonstrated themselves to be gullible sheep, who will not fight the power of repression, at least under current conditions. More reprehensible yet, have been those in positions of local, state, and national authority who have quietly worked with LaRouche’s associates and appreciated his ideas, but refused to come forward in defense of his political rights.

Lyndon LaRouche is the pre-eminent anti-Establishment spokesman in the United States, a man who has dared to campaign for a revival of the ideas of the American Revolution in a period when they have been all but buried, and to name the names of those who have carried out dirty deals to destroy both the United States, and Western civilization as a whole.

Will enough people come to understand in time, that the successful destruction of LaRouche and his movement would be the nail in the coffin to constitutional law in the United States? The answer to that question will indeed decide whether or not the American population has the moral fitness to survive.

The ‘authoritarian personality’: an anti-Western hoax

by Michael Minnicino

The idea of “authoritarian personality,” like so many concepts in sociology, is a fraud constructed to discredit republicanism, particularly its American form, and to protect Marxism. If we are to believe the people who coined the term and first wrote on the subject, the authoritarian personality is anyone who thinks that scientific and technological progress can and should occur under capitalism.

To use the words of the concept’s chief proponent, Dr. Max Horkheimer, the dividing line between the authoritarian and the non-authoritarian is “the first chapters of Genesis.” If you have the arrogance to accept the Old Testament’s mandate to have mastery over nature, then you have stepped over the philosophical threshold that justifies man’s mastery over other men. Thus, according to Horkheimer, the ultimate roots of fascism lie in the Holy Bible.

It is not that Dr. Horkheimer’s fears were derived from his deep concern for the human rights of the individual. At the very same time that he was writing of the dangers of authoritarianism, Horkheimer went on record opposing one of the campaign planks of 1948 independent presidential candidate Henry Wallace. Wallace had proposed that the federal government provide all American schoolchildren with a pint of milk a day. Such a proposal was dangerous, said Horkheimer, because it would turn the mind of the electorate toward the “needs of body satisfaction,” and away from more important issues; a well-fed child meant parents less enraged with the current political system, and less inclined to make a revolution.

The vicious Dr. Horkheimer was the director of the Institute for Social Research (ISR), also known as the “Frankfurt School,” and the school of “Critical Theory.” Under him, the institute created the concept of “authoritarian personality,” and made it—and the fraudulent methodology behind it—acceptable in the scholarly world. This academic fraud was but one part of the institute’s avowed goal: to undermine Judeo-Christian culture, and make Western civilization susceptible to being overthrown. This purpose was explicit since the ISR’s founding meeting in 1922, held under the direction of Communist International official Georg Lukacs.