

Ottoman Pasha) who received Stalin's offer to the Order to become partners in the division of Jerusalem after World War II, was receiving funds to advance his factions power within the Order from the Grand Orient of France. Also, then Grand Master De Mojana—allegedly imposed upon the Knights of Malta by British intelligence MI-6—was a member of the Palazzo Giustiniani Lodge, a branch of Scottish Rite, while simultaneously holding the rank of Cardinal of the Catholic Church.

Even more recently, the Knights of Malta were involved in a major Freemasonic scandal. Within days after the May 13, 1981 attempt to murder Pope John Paul II by the assassin Ali Agca, Italian carabinieri raided the villa of former Mussolini secret police (OVRA) official Licio Gelli, where they discovered a 1,000 person membership list of the secret Propaganda 2 Masonic Lodge.

As it turned out a number of prominent Knights of Malta—including the top Italian military and intelligence officers—were also secret members of the P-2 Lodge, including: Defense Chief of Staff Giovanni Torisi; Gen. Giulio Grassini, chief of the SISDE (“FBI”); and Gen. Giuseppe Santovito, chief of the SISMI (“CIA”).

Likewise, Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti was later said to have held simultaneous membership in the Knights and in Gelli's P-2 Lodge, which had directed slush funds to parties ranging from the Communists to Christian Democracy.

The P-2 Lodge was further discovered to have been involved in a series of coup d'état attempts in Italy, which started with the Dec. 7, 1970 aborted coup attempt of Prince Junio Borghese, a member of both the Knights and Gelli's Lodge. It was also the P-2 Lodge that was behind a wave of “red” and “black” terrorism, which began in the 1960s in Italy as part of a “strategy of tension” that culminated in the bombing of the Bologna train station by the neo-fascist Ordine Nuovo.

According to extensive Italian court testimony, when Henry Kissinger was National Security Adviser to President Richard Nixon, Kissinger (whose name has been linked to Gelli's Monte Carlo Lodge) directed “crocodile” funds to the P-2 Lodge for destabilizing Italy. Other testimony has charged that Kissinger personally threatened Italian Christian Democratic Party president Aldo Moro, who was later killed by terrorists. Kissinger's accomplice in these NSC-coordinated operations was Gen. Alexander Haig, a member of Peter Grace's American Association.

Licio Gelli himself, who formed this arcane association with the Knights of Malta, is what the U.S. Counterintelligence Corps during World War II would call a “Nazi-Communist.” Saved by Communist partisans he had worked covertly with during the war, Gelli established elaborate connections with the same Bulgarian and related East bloc intelligence services, which were used by the KGB for the 1981 attempt to murder Pope John Paul II.

‘Wiseguy’ says he LaRouche for the

by Herbert Quinde

A series of articles in the *Buffalo News* during early February revealed the previously undisclosed activities of a government informant who for 10 years illegally spied on Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. and associates.

Ronald M. Fino, the former president of Buffalo Laborers Union Local 210, has been a Federal Bureau of Investigation and Central Intelligence Agency informant for two decades, primarily reporting on organized crime activity in the labor movement. But, Fino told the *News*, “He had infiltrated the organization of Lyndon H. LaRouche for the CIA.” Although FBI officials have denied it, Fino was reporting to the Bureau about LaRouche's political activities as recently as December 1988.

The revelation, coming on the heels of the jailing of LaRouche and six associates, on trumped-up conspiracy charges, again confirms the claims made by defense attorneys that government agencies have directed a COINTELPRO-style operation of political harassment against the American political figure and his associates for two decades.

During the 1960s and 1970s, COINTELPRO (counterintelligence program) was the codename for a broad FBI program of harassing political organizations under the guise of protecting U.S. national security.

The revelations of Ronald Fino could be the basis for reopening the LaRouche case in Alexandria, Virginia. Daniel S. Alcorn, a LaRouche defense lawyer, is quoted by the *News* saying that the Fino revelations “might be a break in the criminal case, if there was government misconduct.” Judge Albert V. Bryan, who presided over the Alexandria railroad, denied the defense much of the information sought by LaRouche attorneys. “There were hundreds of pages deleted for national security reasons,” Alcorn told the *Buffalo News*. “We don't know what's behind that shield.”

The earlier Boston trial against LaRouche and associates ended in a mistrial, in part due to the illegal activities of Ryan Quade Emerson, another FBI informant unearthed during the six-month trial. The Boston jury informally polled itself after the mistrial and told the media that it would have acquitted all of the defendants because of government misconduct against the former presidential candidate.

Fino, who had posed as a sympathetic supporter of LaRouche's presidential bids, is currently in hiding, his life threatened under a contract put out by the Buffalo mob. The FBI is trying to force Fino to join the Federal Witness

spied against CIA and FBI

Protection Program (FWPP), but Fino says he wants a new identity and money for his services. The FWPP is notorious for its bad record in protecting former snitches. Caught between the mob and the FBI, Fino is singing to the media.

"If I were Ron Fino, I would not be walking the streets. The mob does have a contract hit out on him. Although the Feds are also squeezing him, they cannot discredit him because they need him to testify against some union officials," said a source close to the affair. Some civil liberties activists who are following the story believe that Congress might take an interest in the case.

Fino feigns support for LaRouche

There are some humorous moments in Fino's work for the FBI against LaRouche.

During spring 1988, Marianna Wertz, representing LaRouche's presidential campaign committee, solicited a financial contribution from Fino. "Always glad to help" LaRouche, the FBI informant pledged and sent a check to the LaRouche Democratic Campaign. But Mrs. Wertz recalls that Fino sounded somewhat paranoid during the phone conversation. He said that he had read the press coverage about the Boston trial, and commented that he had noticed that an FBI informant had been exposed during the trial.

Mrs. Wertz is the wife of William Wertz, former coordinator of fundraising for LaRouche-affiliated entities prior to his jailing along with LaRouche.

Back in 1979, during the primary period leading to the 1980 presidential election, Fino met twice with LaRouche, who had entered the race for the Democratic nomination. According to the *Buffalo News*, Fino offered to seek out support for LaRouche among conservative Democrats. During a campaign swing through upstate New York in September 1979, LaRouche met privately with Fino in a hotel near Greater Buffalo International Airport. LaRouche security personnel who attended the meeting recall that Fino and LaRouche discussed ideas for building highways in underdeveloped countries. Fino detailed his technical knowledge on the subject, referencing his travels to Saudi Arabia. Sources who have known Fino report that he had traveled extensively throughout the Middle East, including Israel.

In 1980, Fino traveled to Pontiac, Michigan to meet privately with LaRouche again. It is not known if Fino was electronically "wired" when he met with LaRouche.

By the time of the Michigan meeting, Fino had become enmeshed in an FBI operation to destroy the "LaRouche organization." He became personally associated with an FBI-controlled and mob-linked group inside LaRouche's Detroit organization, led by Kenneth Dalto, an aide to LaRouche during the 1980 campaign. Dalto was instructed to advise LaRouche to go into business with certain Republican entrepreneurs—later identified as linked to organized crime. LaRouche and associates rejected the idea as crazy, leading to a break with Dalto and his coterie.

Dalto had developed a relationship with organized crime-linked labor operatives who were also being courted by the Reagan-Bush campaign. This placed Dalto in Fino's environment. Under the direction of CIA director William Casey and James Baker, the Republicans were vying for conservative Democratic voters out of this layer. Fino, like many blue collar unionists in the Teamsters and Building Trades, could not back Jimmy Carter for reelection. And LaRouche was developing a substantial following among what became known as Reagan Democrats, much to the chagrin of Republican Party operatives. So, unbeknownst to LaRouche, the Dalto grouping went to work with the FBI, the mob, and the Republican Party to undermine his campaign.

After the 1980 presidential elections, the same FBI-run operation shifted gears, focusing now on breaking all of the channels between LaRouche and the incoming Reagan administration that had been built up during the campaign period. An FBI document dated Oct. 1981, obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, referred to an FBI operation code named "PROBE-X," which focused on LaRouche and Teamster ties to the Reagan White House.

Part of the overall FBI maneuver had included promoting Fino for a position in the campaign.

Fino has now confirmed the story, quipping to the *News*, "He wanted me to run for vice president one year."

As the Fino story unfolds, it seems likely that, next, James Baker's involvement in "dirty tricks" with the mob and the FBI against LaRouche may see the light of day.

A Communist for the CIA

Fino started his life as an informant while a student at the State University of New York at Buffalo. He was recruited by the CIA to monitor the activities of the radical Students for a Democratic Society during the late 1960s. During this period, Fino was a member of the Young Workers Liberation League (YWLL), the official youth group of the Communist Party-USA. "Fino also said he had infiltrated the organization of Lyndon LaRouche for the CIA and used his Mafia connections to help the CIA look for possible mob connections in the assassination of John F. Kennedy," reported the Feb. 2 *Buffalo News*.

According to numerous published histories of the Vietnam era anti-war movement, Fino's early days as a snitch

were likely part of Operation Chaos, later exposed in a congressional hearing that led to a major shake-up of the U.S. intelligence community. Operation Chaos was the CIA codename for an unauthorized program of domestic surveillance targeting anti-war activists. After the exposé, the surveillance program, run out of the CIA Office of Security, was quietly turned over to the FBI.

A mobster for the FBI

Fino hooked up with the FBI in 1972. By 1973, with FBI backing, he took over as business manager for Laborers Union Local 210, running on a reform platform. Over the years, Fino rose in stature, becoming a "pillar of the community." His union's pension fund invested \$80 million in constructing hotels and office buildings in the downtown area of the industrially depressed city. The *News* reported, "The flamboyant Fino, a commercial pilot and low-handicap golfer who seemed more at home with corporate executives than the laborers he represented, enjoyed the company of bankers, leaders of the black community, and politicians during his 15 years as business manager of Local 210."

Although the son of a well-known Mafia lieutenant, Fino denied his union had any links to organized crime. But he was telling the FBI another story. He leaked the same information he was giving the FBI to selected reporters, which produced stories about impending indictments of mob figures, months before they occurred.

Fino maintained close connections with mobsters and Laborers Union officials in Cleveland and Chicago. His lawyer for 17 years, Paul Cambria, also represented Harold Friedman, the recently convicted Teamster vice president. Recently deceased Teamster president Jackie Presser was an FBI informant. Henry Rossbacher, an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Los Angeles until two years ago, is representing Fino in his negotiations with the FBI.

ACLU to LaRouche's defense?

The Fino case highlights a pattern which is increasingly disturbing to civil libertarians. The FBI is again out of control, but since the outrages are directed at LaRouche, the defenders of the First Amendment have been slow in shaking off their liberal ideological blinders to realize that if the government can silence LaRouche, they may well be next.

But a recent article in an anti-CIA publication is indicative that even some of LaRouche's harshest critics from the left are waking up.

The winter 1989 issue of *Covert Action Information Bulletin* (CAIB) reports on illegal FBI operations against the "LaRouche organization." In an article entitled "COINTEL-PRO in the '80s: The " 'New' FBI," *Boston Globe* investigative reporter Ross Gelbspan highlights the LaRouche case in a section subtitled, "Spying on LaRouche." The article is a review of several illegal FBI operations, including those against the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES).

Interview: Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

'The court could have

Mr. LaRouche granted the following interview on Feb. 4 to Lonnie Wolfe of EIR News for Loudoun County, a local paper in Leesburg affiliated with EIR, from the Alexandria Detention Center in Alexandria, Virginia. We reprint it here in a slightly condensed version.

EIR: You and your associates have stated that the Alexandria trial was "rigged" to achieve a guilty verdict. Given the government's animus, and the campaign of vilification, do you think it possible that you could have gotten a fair trial anywhere in the U.S.?

LaRouche: Broadly, the answer is yes. You have to distinguish between two things. First of all, the rigging, the arrogant absolute rigging of the Alexandria trial, which was a fraud from beginning to end, by the government and by the court, as opposed from the difficulties of assuring a fair jury trial, say in the Eastern District of Alexandria. For example, the case of Boston, where three weeks approximately were spent in obtaining a jury selection, through proper voir dire processes, which of course was not allowed in Alexandria.

After the conclusion of some months, it ended in a mistrial caused by the government's dilatory tactics. The jury polled itself after discharge, and said it would have acquitted all the defendants on all charges, and said the case was dominated by government misconduct. So that demonstrates that a fair trial is possible, under proper conditions. In Alexandria, it was not.

There is of course a difficulty in the Eastern District of Virginia, where you have a very special kind of liberal ideological influence in the population, which makes it rather difficult to get an impartial jury for anyone who is not that type of liberal. But it would be possible if the court were to attempt to do it.

EIR: You have written that "all your enemies are evil." Could you explain that?

LaRouche: I distinguish between those who may disagree with me, who may be right or wrong, and those who are evil. An example of what I mean by evil is illustrated by the case of Uganda. Uganda, of course, according to my information, has 60% of its population infected with the HIV virus, otherwise known as the AIDS virus, which means the nation is extinct. The starvation and mass death in black Africa has been the result of a deliberate policy by the most powerful