

N.Y. 'Get LaRouche' trial set to begin

On May 3, it is expected that opening statements will begin in the New York State "LaRouche" case—three and one-half weeks after jury selection started in the trial of four associates of former presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche.

In what may be a world's record, well over 1,000 potential jurors have been screened in the *voir dire* process, in order to seat 12 jurors and four alternates. For comparison, in the federal trial last fall of LaRouche and six associates, in Alexandria, Virginia, the entire *voir dire* process took one hour and 45 minutes—and empaneled federal government employees who, it was later discovered, had participated in the "Get LaRouche" strike force of federal and state governments, and private agencies of the Liberal Establishment! LaRouche and his colleagues were convicted by that jury last Dec. 16, and were imprisoned in January.

On trial in New York are George Canning, Marielle Kronberg, Robert Primack, and Lynne Speed—each charged with one count of conspiracy in the fifth degree (a misdemeanor), and one felony count of scheme to defraud.

In addition to the four on trial now, five other associates of LaRouche are charged with one count of conspiracy, and will stand trial separately at some later date. They are: Nancy Spannaus, Paul Gallagher, Judah Philip Rubinstein, Mark Calney, and Kathy Wolfe.

The 'Get LaRouche' gang

The New York "LaRouche" case, which is being prosecuted by the scandal-ridden office of New York State Attorney General Robert Abrams, is over two years old: The original indictments in the case were brought on March 5, 1987, as Abrams's contribution to the U.S. Justice Department's campaign to destroy the LaRouche movement. The New York indictments came in the middle of a series of wild attacks on LaRouche and his associates, including: Oct. 6-7, 1986: a 400-man raid led by the FBI on the Leesburg, Virginia headquarters of businesses and organizations run by LaRouche associates; the indictments in October and December 1986 of nine LaRouche activists in the federal "Boston" case; the Virginia state indictments in February 1987 of 17 more LaRouche fundraisers; the New York indictment in March of that year; in April 1987, the federal government-imposed involuntary bankruptcy of several LaRouche-associated publishing companies; and then, in July, the indictment of Lyndon LaRouche himself in the Boston case (which

mistrried on May 4, 1988).

The case brought by Abrams (some of whose office staff are rumored to be members of NAMBLA, the North American Man-Boy Love Association), initially indicted 16 people on a vast array of charges of "securities fraud," grand larceny, and so on. In the two years since the case was first brought, and two superseding indictments later, 90% of the charges have been dismissed (by presiding New York State Supreme Court Justice Stephen Crane), or dropped (by prosecutor Dawn Cardi, an Assistant Attorney General, after her predecessor, Katharine Law, had left both the case and Abrams's office abruptly in the summer of 1988). Seven of the defendants originally named have been dropped from the case altogether.

The New York case promises to be long, and is certainly controversial. On the eve of trial, professional LaRouche slanderer Dennis King published a book (released by Doubleday) entitled *Lyndon LaRouche and the New American Fascism*, with a view to influencing the outcome of the trial. King has appeared on radio talk shows across the country since then, vilifying the LaRouche movement and demanding that it be crushed; one such show, the Bob Grant Show in New York, was heard by millions of New York metropolitan area listeners.

On the other side, a LaRouche initiative to lower musical pitch, being organized internationally by the Schiller Institute, has been the subject of significant coverage in the New York press, including in the *New York Post* and *The New Yorker* magazine.

Presiding Judge Stephen Crane is no stranger to controversy, having conducted the trial of "subway vigilante" Bernhard Goetz, who made front-page headlines internationally when he shot several teenagers who, he said, were trying to mug him.

An Ollie North angle

The present case also promises to be dramatic. Defense attorney Jeffrey Hoffman, who is representing Robert Primack, was quoted in the *New York Daily News* April 26, under the headline "LaRouche Legacy," on his "plans to subpoena a Who's Who of Republican politics, including former FBI chief William Webster, Henry Kissinger, Richard Secord, and Ollie North." Hoffman was quoted as saying that the " 'government conspired' to force the LaRouche network into bankruptcy. The evidence," the *Daily News* continued, "is in government documents, Hoffman said. Among them: the now-infamous Ollie North notebooks and a memo to Webster from Kissinger when he was the President's National Security Adviser."

Other defense counsel are: Larry Hochheiser, representing Lynne Speed; Mayer Morganroth, representing Marielle Kronberg; and Susan Wolfe, representing George Canning. On the prosecution side, in addition to Cardi, is Assistant Attorney General Rebecca Mullane.