

Du Pont heir airs LaRouche forecasts

The blanket of media of silence over Lyndon LaRouche's warnings of a new round of financial collapse was suddenly lifted last month, when Lewis du Pont Smith, the chemical industry heir who has been ruled mentally incompetent because of his political and financial support for LaRouche, hit the nationwide television talk-show circuit, following articles in the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, and elsewhere.

On Feb. 28, Smith and his wife Andrea Diano-Smith appeared on the popular Larry King show on Cable Network News. In the half-hour interview, Smith described how he had lost more than \$3 million in the October 1987 stock market crash, because Wilmington Trust, the court-appointed guardian over his \$12 million inheritance, had refused to follow Smith's advice to pull funds out of the stock market on the basis of LaRouche's May 1987 forecast of the crash. King, who had earlier attempted to bait Smith and his wife with out-of-context quotes about LaRouche, confessed at the end of the interview, that Smith's situation is "bewildering" to him, and promised "more to come."

The Smiths have also made appearances on both the Gerardo Rivera and Sonia Friedman television talk shows, and is slated for a story to appear soon in *People* magazine. Meanwhile, the press in Great Britain has also covered the case.

LaRouche to testify

Smith's claim that it is his family and the guardians of his fortune who are incompetent—and not Smith himself or his friend LaRouche—is at the heart of a court case in the Orphans' Court in Chester County, Pennsylvania, in which Smith is demanding Judge Lawrence E. Wood reverse his 1986 decision that Smith be forbidden to manage his personal affairs—a decision which also deprived him of the right to vote and to marry. (His marriage to Andrea Diano, performed in Rome, Italy with the blessings of the Vatican, was only validated in the United States after another court battle before Judge Wood last year.)

videotaped testimony as part of the court hearings, which are expected to continue through May.

EIR has already extensively reported on this unprecedented case of an American being deprived of his human rights solely because of his political beliefs. (See, e.g., *EIR*, Jan.

5, 1990, "Du Pont heir puts 'Get LaRouche' mob on trial"; Jan. 12, "Pa. paper defends rights of Lewis du Pont Smith"; and Feb. 9, "New York Times covers du Pont Smith Case.") What follows is a sampling of how the rest of the media have belatedly picked up on it—conveying some realities despite repeated references to the media myth of the "LaRouche organization."

Times of London, Jan. 30: "The scion of one of America's wealthiest families, declared legally insane after his parents feared he would squander his inheritance on the maverick right-wing politician Mr. Lyndon LaRouche, is suing to get back his sanity and his money. . . . [Smith] continued to work for the LaRouche organization, running on the party ticket for a congressional seat in New Hampshire in 1988. His platform, calling for universal testing for AIDS and the colonization of the Moon and Mars, proved unpopular with the voters [Smith received 8.5% of the vote—ed.]."

USA Today, Feb. 13: "Lewis du Pont Smith might be crazy about Lyndon LaRouche's politics, but he's saying in court that it doesn't mean he's mentally ill. . . . 'They want to keep the family money in the family, and anyone who stands up against the politics of the Main Line, blue-blood Establishment is no longer considered a member of the family,' he says. 'The bottom line is that I am not mentally ill, nor have I ever been.' . . . Smith says he never imagined his political beliefs would result in a humiliating declaration of mental illness. . . . [He] says he's sure he'll prevail this time. And he says his family needn't worry: 'Lyndon LaRouche is not a designing person and I'm not enamored by him. I am not going to empty my wallet for Lyndon LaRouche.' . . . He and his wife plan to have children if 'the stigma of mental incompetence hanging over me' is removed. He also plans another run for Congress."

Philadelphia Inquirer, Feb. 16 [reporting on a court hearing the previous day]: "Diano-Smith and the couple's friends also testified that far from being a mental pushover, as his family have portrayed him in court documents, Smith is a stubborn intellectual who doggedly sticks to his point of view. As a result there have been frequent arguments between Diano-Smith and Smith, they testified. 'They're a romantic couple, but they fight over ideas,' said Dennis Speed, who works for the LaRouche organization in New Jersey. 'But the friction gets resolved humorously.'

"Diano-Smith said the du Pont family had questioned the validity of her marriage to Smith because they did not think she was good enough. She is of Italian descent. . . . 'The du Pont family rejects me because I'm Italian,' said Diano-Smith. 'His mother said I had no culture in South Philadelphia. In the court papers, they said I'm a seductress for Lyndon LaRouche.' . . .

"Victor Girauta y Armada, a lawyer from Barcelona, Spain, testified that he found Smith's mental abilities normal. After the hearing, Girauta said that the case was a violation of Smith's human rights."