

# ADL-FBI 'liaison' revives Cointelpro political vendettas, dirty tricks

by Scott Thompson

A document received by *EIR* shows that since Feb. 4, 1985, by order of then-FBI Director William Webster, there has been horizontal "liaison" between every major regional office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the corresponding regional offices of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL). But, the FBI is running a coverup of the full dimensions of its criminal collusion with the ADL, arguing that other documents must be protected because of Executive Orders and because the ADL is an important source. Nonetheless, documents released to date, when combined with testimony of ADL officials and members of the "Get LaRouche" task force who have been biased by ADL "animus," show that the ADL-FBI collaboration portends a revival of the bureau's dreaded "Cointelpro" program of the 1950s-1970s.

The Webster Airtel directive culminated a decades-long effort by the ADL to cement a marriage of convenience with the bureau, an effort that began when J. Edgar Hoover was FBI director. Steps leading up to this FBI-ADL liaison are proven both by FBI documents released to *EIR* under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and by statements of top ADL officials appearing in their 1984 six-volume memoirs, *Not the Work of One Day*.

FBI documents released under FOIA prove that for years the ADL collaborated with the notorious Cointelpro program which has been shown in congressional hearings to have employed provocateurs to set up the murder of leaders on both sides of the civil rights dispute, to foment race riots, and to harass American political leaders such as the Dr. Martin Luther King. Cointelpro sought to deny the aspirations of minorities for equal legal and economic rights, and nearly plunged the U.S. into civil war. Today, this ADL-FBI collaboration includes political vendettas against American leaders, such as that which led to the railroading of statesman Lyndon H. LaRouche.

Benjamin Epstein, ADL national director for over 30 years, reports in the ADL memoirs that this ADL-FBI collaboration is longstanding: "We cooperated very closely with government bureaus. The FBI was terribly important in those days and we made our files and information available to the FBI and other government agencies."

At one point during the 1940s, according to the ADL memoirs, the FBI was invited to photocopy thousands of ADL files containing venom on American citizens, such as neo-isolationists prior to Pearl Harbor. But, the February

1985 Airtel from Director Webster to the Special Agents in Charge and Assistant Directors in Charge of major FBI Regional Offices, put this "liaison" almost at the level of governmental "inter-agency" cooperation.

The Airtel states that after a Jan. 18, 1985 meeting between the New York Division of the FBI and ADL officials, the ADL acknowledged "the primary jurisdiction of the FBI in civil rights matters." "Civil rights matters" is here a bureau codeword for the sort of Cointelpro activity that had FBI informants in the Ku Klux Klan, such as Gary Rowe, provoking the assassination of civil rights organizer Viola Liuzzo. It also, for example, applies to how ADL New Orleans regional director Adolph "Sam" Botnick paid KKK provocateurs to provoke a bombing attempt, where the FBI shot Klanswoman Cathy Ainsworth. The Webster document notes that an ADL official "expressed his desire to cooperate and stated he would notify all regional ADL Offices of the FBI's responsibility."

The Webster document concludes: "It was also established that each FBI Office contact each Regional Office [of the ADL] to establish a liaison and line of communication. . . . Each receiving office should contact the Regional ADL Director(s) listed in your Division and establish this liaison. FBIHQ need not be notified of the results of these contacts with the exception of any significant cases or problems. These contacts should be documented in each filed office 44-0 file."

Enclosed with the Airtel was a listing of ADL regional offices, their regular telephone numbers, the names of the directors, the time difference between each ADL office and New York, and even "speed call numbers" for rapid communication. A sampling of documents received from FBI Regional Offices show that they followed Director Webster's instructions to set up liaison with their ADL counterparts.

## Joint FBI-ADL Cointelpro operations

ADL reporting to the FBI was not limited to such groups as the KKK and neo-Nazis. It appears that the ADL has long been spreading lies on anyone who might be a political opponent, whether on the left, right, or mainstream of the political spectrum. The ADL's liaison with the bureau for such political vendettas raises serious questions about why the ADL continues to have tax-exempt status. It also raises questions about why the bureau has protected a source whose

only apparent purpose is to spread malice.

A sampling of some of the ADL documents in bureau files includes:

- FBIHQ main file 100-530 contains a Research and Evaluation Report by the ADL dated Oct. 22, 1968 entitled “The Meaning of the SNCC-Black Panther Split” which was co-authored by Jerome Bakst and Carl Gershman. It concludes with a warning to law enforcement to expect “increasingly frequent and increasingly violent encounters . . . between the Panthers and the police.” Questioned by *EIR*, former ADL Research Director Bakst apologized for the document saying: “Well, it was not just the Panthers who provoked the violence”—an allusion to the cold-blooded murder of several leaders of this militant black organization by police primed with inflammatory statements. Bakst added: “Carl Gershman, who had been a student radical at Yale, gave us his knowledge of how the Left then worked, when he joined us.” Gershman, now president of the government-funded National Endowment for Democracy which figured prominently in the Iran-Contra scandal, refused to talk about his role as an FBI informant.

- FBIHQ main file 161-895 on former ADL national director Dore Schary shows longstanding contact between Schary and ADL officials to inform on liberal Communist Party fellow-travelers in the film industry, while Schary was president of Metro-Goldwyn-Meyer. FBIHQ main file 353399 shows that Schary was on a first-name basis with top Hoover “insider” L.B. Nichols, who protected him in many ways—e.g., from charges that, as head of MGM, Schary worked closely with his former childhood neighbor, “Lil Abner” Zwillman, who ran the organized crime operation to take over Hollywood in the 1950s and 1960s.

- FBIHQ main file 100-530-506 contains correspondence from then-ADL Acting Director Justin J. Finger to FBI Acting Director L. Patrick Gray, III dated Nov. 13, 1972, that requests a meeting between ADL General Counsel Arnold Forster and Gray to discuss a newly published ADL *FACTS, Danger on the Left* allegedly exposing “anti-Semitism” among leftists.

- FBIHQ main file 100-530-511, dated March 22, 1974, is a letter from an ADL official to FBI Intelligence Division executive W. Raymond Wannall that requests a new liaison be assigned between the New York FBI Regional Office and the ADL National Headquarters because of the “untimely death” of James Brody, who “was for several years your liaison man with us here in New York.” A notation shows Wannall did assign a new “liaison man.” Included with the mailing is a defense of the bureau’s role in securing the execution of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

### **The ADL and ‘Get LaRouche’ task force**

FBI documents released under the FOIA also confirm that one of the main vehicles used by the ADL to curry favor with FBI Director Webster prior to Webster’s directive, was

the ADL’s role in fomenting the “Get LaRouche” task force. FBIHQ main file 62-118203, which dates from 1978-1979, contains a complaint to Attorney General Griffin Bell that ADL national director Burton Joseph of Minneapolis, Minnesota, had unwittingly bragged to investigators associated with LaRouche that:

“I saw Judge Webster back in February [1979] in Washington and I mentioned [LaRouche’s organization] and he . . . led me to understand that he, they [the FBI] were watching them closely. . . . Well, we have a full exchange of files [on associates of LaRouche]. . . . Where? You see, you can do that locally, Judge Webster will not admit to anything like that or agree to anything like that at that level. I know what happens locally. [Laughter.]”

FBI files released by the FBI Regional Office in Minneapolis, Minnesota confirm that there had been correspondence between local ADL officials, led by Joseph, and the FBI with regard to Lyndon LaRouche at this time. But, the local FBI, in complicity with FBI national headquarters, is running a coverup. It is refusing to release most documents on grounds that disclosure would violate an Executive Order—presumably E.O. 12356 governing classified information—could reveal internal practices of the bureau, and could disclose the identity of a confidential source, i.e., the ADL. The Minneapolis FBI office has even refused to release its copy of the February 1985 Airtel from Director Webster ordering local integration with the ADL or any of the reports in its 44-0 files arising from such contact, claiming that the document should never have been released since the ADL must be protected.

The Principal Legal Adviser to the New York FBI Regional Office, James J. Roth, similarly claims that all FBI local documents on the ADL, likely thousands of pages, cannot be found.

Protecting the ADL as a source is buncombe. Not only did Virginia Judge Clifford Weckstein of Roanoke, whom the ADL sought to bribe in a case against an associate of LaRouche, stipulate that the ADL had animus as a source on LaRouche, but the liaison highlighted between Judge Webster and Burton Joseph might almost as well have been with the Russian intelligence services.

As *EIR* has documented, one of the main Minnesota ADL benefactors and a close friend of Epstein and Joseph is Dwayne Andreas, whom the *Wall Street Journal* has identified as Mikhail Gorbachov’s “pal,” superseding Armand Hammer for close ties with the Soviets. Another ADL official close to the ADL “Minneapolis Mafia” is Edgar Bronfman, whose father built their fortune on booze-running and prostitution. Bronfman himself was decorated by East German dictator Erich Honecker shortly before he was toppled by the democratic revolution. Andreas began to pump hundreds of thousands of dollars into the ADL in 1978-79 (helping to save it from bankruptcy), precisely when Joseph was trying to get Webster to target LaRouche.