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## Roanoke 'LaRouche' Trial

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# Laurence Hecht takes stand for defense

The defense began to present its case on Dec. 11 in the Roanoke, Virginia trial of three close associates of Lyndon LaRouche, who face serious charges for the "crime" of organizing politically. As in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, the real reason for this political railroad, being carried out in the courtroom of Judge Clifford A. Weckstein, has been disguised under the fiction of a technical violation—in this case the charge that Anita Gallagher, Paul Gallagher, and Laurence ("Larry") Hecht were illegally selling "securities" when they solicited loans to support political, scientific, and humanitarian causes espoused by LaRouche.

The defense has set out to prove that the failure to repay loans, which is the only basis for this prosecution, is not the result of any fraudulent intentions or actions by the defendants, but rather of a massive effort by the government and certain private groups that operate with government protection, to shut down LaRouche's movement as unwelcome critics and dangerous political rivals.

Judge Weckstein, an unabashed ally of the political foes of LaRouche who have rigged the current frameup, has already presided over the trials of several other political organizers in related cases. One innocent defendant, Michael Billington, was incredibly sentenced by Weckstein to 77 years in prison for this "white collar crime." As the defense began its case, Weckstein continued to cover up for his cronies in the nationwide "Get LaRouche" strike force, by quashing renewed requests for subpoenas for officials of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL), the influential lobbying group for major sectors of the organized-crime world.

### State 'investigator' exposed as liar

The prosecution rested its case on Dec. 10, after the prosecution's chief investigator was exposed as a liar. The dramatic confrontation between defense attorney Jeffrey Hoffman and Virginia State Police investigator C.D. Bryant unfolded when Bryant was faced with the existence of a tape recording of a meeting between Bryant and a supporter of the LaRouche movement. On the tape, Bryant and Cam Moffit, an assistant to prosecutor John Russell, are heard describing LaRouche and his associates as bad people. Bryant was informed of the tape moments after he had testified under oath that he would never have said such a thing—showing

obvious bias—to anyone. While Weckstein did not allow the tape to be played for the jury, Bryant was forced to recant his testimony in front of the jury.

Meanwhile, Weckstein denied renewed defense requests for subpoenas for ADL officials Mira Lansky Boland and Irwin Suall and Wall Street Establishment insider John Train. The new requests relied on testimony already given in the trial, which showed the materiality of these witnesses. Weckstein also refused subpoenas for former Democratic National Committee Chairman Paul Kirk, and Barbara Newington, a Connecticut heiress who contributed to both the LaRouche movement and Oliver North's Contra supply operation—even though the judge admitted both would give relevant testimony. Kirk's testimony would help to establish the political, rather than prosecutorial motives of this case and the other trials against LaRouche and his friends, as Kirk publicly called for prosecution of the movement after two LaRouche associates won the Democratic primary in Illinois in March 1986.

In a related development, attorneys for Oliver North filed papers seeking to quash a defense subpoena for North, asserting North's Fifth Amendment rights. North's attorneys from the law firm of Williams and Connolly assert that North is currently the target or potential target of further criminal prosecutions and investigations, and cite many of the questions which the defense wants to put to Colonel North as ones which directly implicate pending criminal matters. Defense attorneys argued, though, that Hecht and the Gallaghers have a constitutional right to call witnesses in their defense. Even if Judge Weckstein should rule that Oliver North has a Fifth Amendment privilege, they say, this must be asserted before the jury with Colonel North in the courtroom.

### 1960s history of movement

Larry Hecht took the stand in his own defense on Dec. 11. He told of his involvement in the LaRouche movement from the time that it was a small group of people meeting in a living room with Lyndon LaRouche, in the late 1960s.

Hecht described how, during the Columbia University strike in 1968, Lyndon LaRouche led a group fighting around on issues of economics and philosophy. At that time, Hecht and others concluded that the government was lying, that it was full of people who compromised, and that something had to be done to shift the United States off its course toward disaster. Lyndon LaRouche had solutions to such crises. The National Caucus of Labor Committees was formed, and in 1970, a newspaper, *New Solidarity*, was founded, with Larry Hecht as its first editor. It began to develop a subscriber base.

Hecht testified that in the New York City teachers' strike of 1968, the Ford Foundation, through so-called community control, sought to divide parents from teachers, fomenting racial strife and planting anti-Semitic slurs against the teachers. Lyndon LaRouche and his associates defended the teachers.

On Aug. 15, 1971, Hecht recalled, President Nixon took the U.S. dollar off the gold reserve standard. Lyndon LaRouche and his associates had been proven right in their warnings about the economy, and *New Solidarity* published an alternative of high-technology growth, global monetary reorganization, and ways to solve the looming depression. This led in 1972 to a reorganization of the LaRouche movement's efforts around the model of a major newsweekly. Hecht also described the formation of the first candidates' movements in 1973. In 1975, Hecht himself ran for U.S. Congress in New York.

About one-third of the people whom he knew from the 1960s are still in the movement. Others dropped away, he testified, because of pressures such as having to withstand FBI and U.S. government harassment. Hecht documented this with the FBI Cointelpro operation which put out a leaflet at Columbia University attacking LaRouche's friends as a "Mousecrap Revolution." When LaRouche's associates were assaulted by the Communist Party, the police and the FBI assisted the Communists.

By 1975, Hecht said, hardly a day passed when a member was not arrested on some bogus charge somewhere. He described Dennis King (who now styles himself as an investigative reporter) from the late 1960s when he shared an apartment with him. Dennis King then became the leading slanderer of LaRouche. King wrote for the ADL, for the League for Industrial Democracy, for Social Democrats U.S.A., a group headed by Roy Godson, and the filthy magazine *High Times*, which promotes legalized drugs, and the New York City throwaway *Our Town*. Dennis King was the initiator of many of the unfounded charges that the LaRouche movement was a cult and was anti-Semitic.

Hecht described his work in 1980-84, as a managing editor of *New Solidarity*, then his work in sales and fundraising, getting out the message that the world of drugs and spreading immorality had to be combatted. Hecht said that he continued pursuing scientific research, especially in his friendship with Dr. Robert Moon, the veteran of the Manhattan Project, with whom he had worked in educating children in science. Starting in 1986, he worked intimately with Dr. Moon on the model of the atomic nucleus—the kind of new scientific ideas which are necessary to save our civilization.

### **As in George Washington's day**

He reproduced for the court his discussions with various lenders and supporters, where he had asked them to lend their money, and view this as a kind of war bond, just as George Washington's army needed money. He recounted how Robert Morris, Washington's fundraiser, had knocked on doors to raise money for Washington's army, and when asked on what security, he said, "on my honor." Hecht had always emphasized that there are risks. There is not only a risk for the loans, he told supporters; the biggest risk is the risk to

our nation if we do not do something to stop a new dark age.

Hecht testified to the financial warfare waged against the association. He said that every lender was informed, through newspapers and other publications, about seizures and attacks by NBC and government agencies.

By 1985-86, Hecht had an optimistic sense of the strong potential for growth. The SDI, based on LaRouche's idea, had been adopted as national policy; spokesmen of LaRouche were meeting with people in the National Security Council and other branches of government. Mark Fairchild and Janice Hart's primary victories in March 1986 indicated that our political hour was coming, he told the court, and the overall political situation and economic situation was proving that LaRouche's forecasts had been correct. In 1986, the eruption of the Iran-Contra scandal also proved the veracity of *EIR's* 1980 exposé charging that the U.S. intelligence community was supplying arms to Ayatollah Khomeini.

Hecht also recalled *New Solidarity's* mid-1970s scientific study, directed by Lyndon LaRouche, which forecast a spread of large-scale contagious diseases caused by the collapse of economic conditions, especially in Africa. By 1985-86, Hecht and his associates felt that they were gaining credibility because the spread of AIDS proved this forecast correct, although the U.S. government was doing everything possible to distort the truth.

### **Illinois victories**

Former Illinois Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor Mark Fairchild testified for the defense about the political vendetta launched by the government and private interests after his electoral victory in 1986, along with Janice Hart. Fairchild's testimony showed how the failure to repay some political loans solicited by the defendants was due to a systematic operation on the part of powerful enemies, to silence political critics who were obviously gaining credibility among voters.

He said that the state Democratic Party in Illinois refused to even allow him and Hart to enter the convention, after voters nominated them as the Democratic candidates. Adlai Stevenson III, the gubernatorial nominee, even resigned from the Democratic Party.

Fairchild testified that the Illinois victory prompted an avalanche of negative media publicity. Income to organizations linked to LaRouche decreased by as much as 60% after the primary. By October 1986, just when the movement was recovering from this, armed men numbering several hundred descended in a spectacular raid on the headquarters of LaRouche-tied publications in Leesburg, Virginia. By April 1987, there was an involuntary bankruptcy and shutdown by the federal government of three companies linked to the LaRouche movement. Even though years later, a federal court reversed these bankruptcies, the financial blow to the movement was stunning, Fairchild said, citing the permanent shutdown of *New Solidarity* and *Fusion* magazine.