

CAN nervous as trial date set in kidnap plot

Appearing before Federal Judge James Cacheris in Alexandria, Virginia on Oct. 13, the conspirators who allegedly plotted to violently kidnap Lewis du Pont Smith and his wife Andrea Diano Smith and “deprogram” them from their political association with Lyndon LaRouche, all pleaded “not guilty” and asked for a jury trial.

The government presented a superseding indictment, naming as a fifth conspirator Anthony Russo, a former New York City police officer. He joins self-styled “cult deprogrammer” Galen Kelly of New Jersey; former Loudoun County, Virginia Sheriff’s Lt. Donald L. Moore; Robert “Biker Bob” Point, a New Jersey lawyer; and the alleged paymaster, E. Newbold Smith.

Meanwhile, the heat is on the Cult Awareness Network (CAN), which steers the national campaign of lies smearing the LaRouche movement as a “cult.” In an AP interview widely published on Oct. 11, a jittery CAN executive director Cynthia Kisser admitted that Newbold Smith was a “member” of CAN. She claimed that Moore, Kelly, and Biker Bob were not members of CAN but were “merely associated” with the organization through discussions on cult issues.

In the weeks since the du Pont Smith kidnap arrests, 19 new lawsuits were filed against CAN by members of the Church of Scientology, bringing to a total of 30 the number of such lawsuits in multiple jurisdictions. Kisser, who said CAN is the target of a “harassment” effort, protested, “We are not a criminal group. We don’t engage in kidnaping.”

Yet in seven separate lawsuits filed in Glendale, California, seven Scientologists, who had joined the Cult Awareness Network, charge that CAN, “despite its purported goals . . . is actually engaged in unlawful and evil conduct, in ‘mind control,’ and [has] hired persons with criminal backgrounds to kidnap, sexually abuse, mentally abuse, intimidate and coerce persons by depriving them of food and water and forcing them to take drugs against their will, all under the guise of educating them about their religious . . . freedoms.” The Glendale lawsuits name as defendants, besides local CAN officials, Kisser and three other national officers of CAN: Rachel Andres, Corey Slavin, and Herbert Slavin.

In Loudoun County, Virginia, the Sheriff’s Department has formally expanded an internal investigation of its employees to find out if any of them illegally passed information to ex-cop Don Moore after he was fired last February. According to a front-page article in the *Loudoun Times-Mirror*

on Oct. 14, the Sheriff’s Department announced that it is involving Virginia State Police to determine if Moore was illegally given confidential computer information. FBI agents searched Moore’s house for several hours on Sept. 30, the day of his arrest, but did “not confirm or deny” that any teletype documents (from the state and federal crime information computer) were found.

New charges added

John Markham, the former co-prosecutor of Lyndon LaRouche in Boston and Alexandria, and currently in private practice, made a formal entrance to represent E. Newbold Smith at the Oct. 13 arraignment. The Radnor, Pennsylvania socialite is the father of kidnap target Lewis Smith, an heir to the du Pont chemical fortune through his mother, née Margaret du Pont. Newbold Smith in 1985 moved to have his son declared incompetent, in order to take away his control of his trust fund, after Lewis contributed generously to a pro-LaRouche publication. While a corrupt Pennsylvania court went along with that maneuver, apparently Newbold was not content. According to a *Washington Post* story on Oct. 14, his lawyer will try to convince the jury that his plans to use ex-Green Berets and motorcycle gangs to kidnap Lewis were motivated by “love.” Judge Cacheris has set a trial date for Dec. 14 and a pre-trial motion day for Nov. 20.

The superseding indictment presents further facts which date the start of the conspiracy back to September 1991. All five co-conspirators are charged with the federal felony of attempted kidnaping. Smith and Moore face a second felony count, soliciting for kidnaping. According to the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, the superseding indictment states that Moore had illegally entered Lewis Smith’s home last month for surveillance. A woman was paid to join the target’s health club in order to spy on him there, as well.

In the county where Newbold Smith resides, *Delaware County Daily Times* columnist Gil Spencer published an editorial column on Oct. 9, printing in full a written statement by Lewis Smith defending his right to his own political beliefs. Spencer adds: “This is the United States of America and in this country no one, not well-meaning parents, not benevolent friends, no one is legally permitted without due process of law to physically abduct, drug and attempt to ‘deprogram’ another person. As for the danger ‘cults’ pose in this society, I am very skeptical. Here, according to cult expert Dave Clark of Swarthmore, is how to know if you’re in a cult: Your group requires absolute loyalty; it might alter your diet (no proteins, lots of carbohydrates), and deprive you of sleep to make you easier to hypnotize. It will isolate you from the community at large; make you emotionally dependent; give you no privacy from the group for intellectual reflection; operate on severe peer pressure; encourage chanting; and teach you not to question the authority of the leader. Now, to me this sounds like the studio audience of the Oprah Winfrey Show.”