

Australia Dossier by Allen Douglas

Lawsuit filed against CEC

The Citizens Electoral Councils' 16-page pamphlet on the ADL's Australian branch has drawn blood.

A leading asset of the Australian wing of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the Anti-Defamation Commission (ADC), has filed a \$200,000 lawsuit for defamation against Lyndon LaRouche's co-thinkers in Australia, the Citizens Electoral Councils (CEC). Filed on Oct. 7, the suit is an attempt by the ADC to use the civil courts to silence its opponents.

Plaintiff Michael Danby complains that Citizens Media Group Pty Ltd., the publishing company of the CEC, together with two officers of that company, Craig Isherwood and Don Alexander Veitch, issued a document entitled "Is the Anti-Defamation Commission Spying on You?" Danby claims that this pamphlet suggests he was a "dupe," "lacked integrity," was "anti-Australian," "engaged in secret and underhanded spying activities," and was "the agent of a foreign power." This allegedly caused him to be "humiliated, embarrassed and extremely distressed."

In his legal papers, Danby cites the following excerpt he said was published in the CEC pamphlet: "In a conference held in Montreal, Canada in November 1991 Michael Danby, the editor of the *Australia Israel Review* since 1980, outlined plans to destroy rural protest movements in Australia. The *AIR*, which circulates widely to parliamentarians and other selected targets, has developed slander to an art form. Danby has recently left the *AIR* and now works as a personal assistant to the minister for industry, Alan Griffiths, a senior minister in the Keating cabinet.

"Danby was recruited in the early

1970s from Melbourne University as a student. During the time that Danby was active as a student politician, Isi Leibler's spy outfit, 'Research Services,' conducted joint operations with police and compiled dossiers on members of targeted ethnic groups. As president of the Melbourne University Students Representative Council, Danby regularly informed to the Commonwealth Police. His special targets were the supporters of the Palestinian cause. Information he handed to the Commonwealth Police was used to deny visas to Palestinian students. Whilst a student, Danby was spotted by the U.S. State Department and taken to America for training."

The CEC's pamphlet has been circulated in thousands of copies to all federal and state parliamentarians, to police and community organizations, and others. Obviously, the ADC and its asset Danby have been stung.

But Danby has a problem: Everything the CEC said about him is true. For instance, his activities at the ADL's Montreal conference, where he and an associate bragged of being in very close touch with U.S. ADL leaders and where he handed out a flow chart targeting the CEC and various rural action movements, is a matter of public record, as is his work as a snitch for the police while a student leader.

Danby also claimed that the CEC said he was a "dupe of Isi Leibler," a complaint which begins to get to the real reason why he filed the suit. In its dossier, the CEC detailed the way in which the ADC in Australia is controlled by the organized crime-linked ADL of the United States, itself now

under police investigation, and how the ADC had developed its spying activities against opponents over a period of years primarily under the direction of Isi Leibler. Leibler is co-chairman of the World Jewish Congress with Edgar Bronfman, the whiskey baron whose family has been involved in organized crime since the 1930s.

From Leibler's 1974 call for a "well-informed cadre of Jews" to combat anyone whom Leibler perceived as his enemies, emerged a battery of organizations, including "Research Services," the ADC, the Australian Institute of Jewish Affairs, and the *Australia Israel Review*, which Danby edited throughout the 1980s.

For the last three years, the *AIR* has relentlessly attacked and defamed the CEC and individuals associated with Lyndon LaRouche.

That this suit is a continuation of that political warfare is obvious. First, *nowhere in his writ does Danby claim that anything the CEC said about him was untrue*. As one lawyer said upon reviewing the case, "Danby's case is so weak, that it's as if Leibler et al., themselves, not game to sue, told Danby, 'Hey, you put your head up over the trenches and see what happens.'"

Second, is the timing of the suit. Normally when someone complains of defamation, they sue almost before the ink is dry. Danby waited three months to discover that he had been "defamed." He then filed his suit on the very day in which long-time LaRouche associate Gail Billington concluded a highly successful two-week lobbying effort in Australia's federal parliament, resulting in the parliament's Human Rights subcommittee formally taking up the LaRouche case and making an inquiry to the U.S. embassy in Canberra about it.