

After Stevens Case: Will Holder Shut Abscam II?

Even the *Washington Post*, which once played a pivotal role in the black propaganda drive to railroad Lyndon LaRouche into prison, saw the handwriting on the wall in Attorney General Eric Holder's April 1 decision to throw out the conviction of former Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Ak.). Reporting on the Holder action on April 2, the *Post's* Carrie Johnson and Del Quentin Wilber wrote: "Holder's decision invites tough new scrutiny of a unit that polices corrupt officials, and it could foreshadow a shakeup in the way the government prosecutes those crimes. . . . Current and former department lawyers predict an overhaul that will sweep aside senior leaders in the Public Integrity Section."

But Holder will need to go much further than a cleanup of the Public Integrity Section, according to sources familiar with the crisis at the Department of Justice and FBI. According to these sources, FBI Director Robert Mueller has launched the equivalent of "Abscam II," a political targeting of senior members

of Congress, to be framed up using the very tactics that have now blown up in the Stevens case. Sources say that, in the past year, the FBI has shifted scores of corrupt agents into the unit specifically charged with probing allegations of corruption by members of Congress. These agents, according to the sources, have been funneling half-baked allegations, wiretap data, and other illegally obtained or fabricated information to "private" think-tanks and select reporters, to build the climate for politically motivated prosecutions.

One source, who insisted on anonymity, put it in the following, blunt terms: "For the past few decades, the Department of Justice has become a haven for corrupt, incompetent lawyers, who could never make it in the private sector. It is as bad as the political corruption at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac." The source concluded, "It is going to take a serious clean-out to solve the problem. The eight years of Bush and Cheney compounded the problem, tremendously, but this is a longer-term disease."

A second source, also speaking anonymously, concurred. "This problem goes back almost 30 years. Look at Abscam, and you see the roots of this political targeting."

—Jeffrey Steinberg

the simmering efforts to indict and destroy LaRouche and those associated with him were significantly escalated.

The loan fraud portion of the LaRouche case involved witness "deprogramming" and other witness tampering by government prosecutors, rewards to key government witnesses, use of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Department and private agents and investigators employed by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) to engage in witness tampering, illegal searches, and black-bag jobs. The use of these tactics, thoroughly documented in LaRouche's post-trial filings, was adamantly denied by the Justice Department, despite defense requests for disclosure prior to LaRouche's trial.

As documented in the post-trial filings by LaRouche's legal team, the government's participation in a constant black propaganda media campaign and deliberate financial attacks against LaRouche and his as-

sociates, dates from President Reagan's endorsement of LaRouche's Strategic Defense Initiative program in March of 1983. Yet, by early 1987, according to government documents released after LaRouche's trial, the government discovered that individuals who had loaned money to companies associated with LaRouche still refused to testify against him, despite thousands of negative media articles, huge raids, and Federal indictments. As a result, in April of 1987, the United States brought an involuntary bankruptcy proceeding against the LaRouche companies holding the loans. The bankruptcy ensured that lenders would not be repaid and, according to post-trial disclosures, facilitated the government's witness recruitment efforts.

The unprecedented involuntary bankruptcy was subsequently denounced by U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Martin Bostetter as "a fraud on the court." The fraud had been the work of the Federal prosecution in the LaRouche cases.