

National News

Four 'LaRouche' firms appeal draconian fines

Twenty million dollars worth of contempt fines were called a "death knell" in legal briefs filed Sept. 19 with the First Circuit Court of Appeals on behalf of four entities identified with independent Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche.

The National Democratic Policy Committee (an FEC-registered political action committee), Campaigner Publications, the Fusion Energy Foundation, and Caucus Distributors are appealing Boston Judge A. David Mazzone's February 1987 order which fined each of these organizations \$5 million for being in contempt of then-U.S. Attorney William Weld's grand jury witchhunt against LaRouche's 1984 campaign. The fines were initially imposed at \$10,000 per day in March 1985.

Three central arguments raised in the briefs are 1) whether fines of this magnitude can be summarily imposed without even holding a hearing, 2) that the fines were in fact punitive rather than coercive, and 3) whether the court lacked the authority to continue to impose fines after the grand jury had expired.

The appeal had been noticed in the spring of 1987, but before it could go forward the government filed an unprecedented involuntary bankruptcy petition against three of the four entities, thus staying the appeal. It was the \$5 million fine against each entity, which was the predicate for the bankruptcy action. "The filing of the bankruptcy petition also showed the accuracy of trial counsel's earlier prediction that the effect of enforcing the contempt decree would be 'the death knell of every one of these organizations,'" one brief argued.

Civil contempt fines are designed to coerce compliance with court orders, rather than to punish the alleged contemnor, the brief observes. Since the record clearly demonstrates that certain documents at issue in the proceeding were already in the possession of the government, there is no "coercive" result in imposing fines. Under these conditions, the Mazzone decision is nothing more than the unbridled exercise of arbitrary

power without any constitutional restraint. The contemnors were literally fined out of existence without recourse to a trial by jury, an opportunity to cross-examine their accusers, and other due process rights, the briefs state.

memoranda obtained by attorneys for LaRouche and associates, in coordinating an "investigation" into LaRouche.

Sessions disciplines secret FBI unit

A "clandestine" cell of agents inside the Federal Bureau of Investigation was disciplined in mid-September by FBI Director William Sessions for mishandling the investigation of the left-wing Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES).

The unit had set up an "off-line" chain of command, according to a recent affidavit prepared by former FBI employee Frank Varelli. In that affidavit, which was reported in the *Boston Globe*, Varelli, who helped coordinate the FBI investigation into CISPES, alleged that the investigation was "secret and outside of regular [FBI] channels." The chain of command, as outlined, was from Varelli to his Dallas case agent Daniel Flanagan, to Ronald Davenport, director of the Washington-based counterterrorism unit, and then directly to Oliver "Buck" Revell.

CISPES was a known target of the dirty-tricks operations of Col. Oliver North's various interagency task forces involved in the Iran-Contra fiasco. FBI number-two Oliver Revell is known to have worked with North in operations against opponents of the administration's Contra policy, including CISPES and Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. But the FBI, in announcing the disciplining, made no mention of Revell or this "political" side of the clandestine unit.

The unit did include at least one senior FBI official who worked on a "Get LaRouche" task force, assembled at the request of Henry Kissinger. Stanley Klein, former chief of the FBI's terrorism section and now special agent in charge of the FBI's Connecticut office, figures prominently, along with Revell, in numerous internal FBI

Temple Mount behind 'rapture' prophecy

The prediction that the world would be "raptured" in September, which gained wide credence among U.S. protestant fundamentalists, originated with the Christian-Jewish fundamentalist alliance that is behind a scheme to rebuild Solomon's Temple where the Dome of the Rock Islamic holy site is located, on Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

Since last spring, more than 1 million copies of "88 Reasons Why the Rapture Will Happen in 1988" have been given away by the World Bible Society of Nashville, Tenn., owned by Norvell Olive. The pamphlet, written by Edgar Whisenant of Little Rock, Ark., predicts that Jesus will "rapture the church"—i.e., raise all believers—during the Jewish New Year, that is, mid-September.

Some U.S. intelligence sources believe that the booklet was intended to aid the Dukakis campaign, by disorienting and depoliticizing a large audience that would tend to vote Republican. Dukakis is on record favoring recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Author Whisenant is a convert from Judaism, who has been a life-long friend of Rabbi Meir Kahane, founder of the terrorist Jewish Defense League in the United States and the Kach movement in Israel, key elements in the Temple Mount plot. Contributions obtained from the free distribution of the booklet have gone into real estate ventures.

Drug scandal hits Calif. nuclear plant

Alleged drug-use at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station near San Diego has become the subject of anti-nuclear press scan-

Briefly

dal-mongering there. The plant is operated jointly by Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas and Electric Co.

The *Oceanside Blade Tribune* Sept. 15 broke a story on its front page under the headline, "Drug use at nuke plant 'unpunished,' doctor claims." A fired plant physician now claims, almost a year later, that he was fired in November 1987 due to his efforts to enforce the company's anti-drug policy. The doctor has filed suit against the company.

Sources who know the situation at the plant report that the company actually has an effective anti-drug policy at the plant, but rumors abound that drug-sniffing dogs have been brought in after a rash of discoveries of drugs inside the plant.

Aviation Week admits electronic warfare threat

The cover story of the Sept. 19 issue of *Aviation Week & Space Technology* is the first of a two-part feature on electronic warfare, purporting to expose the "expansion of the Soviet threat in quantity, capability and frequency spectra" in this domain. The report quotes Brig. Gen. Noah E. Loy, the U.S. Air Force director for Electronic Combat and Avionics, saying that the Russian "threat is still exploding. Every time I attend an intelligence briefing, there is a new threat. And it is not just an RF [radio frequency] threat. Probably the most critical area is in infrared." General Loy reports that the Russians are close to developing a "multi-spectral threat."

To prepare for Soviet "frequency-agile" and "spread-spectrum threats," the magazine reports, the Air Force has decided to form a new Air Force Electronic Combat Office (AFECO) under the command of Col. Ralph Graham at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio. AFECO is to coordinate national efforts in three areas: defense suppression weapons, C³ [command, control, and communications] countermeasures, and electronic warfare systems. The Air Force and Navy also maintain a Joint Electronic War-

fare Center (JEWC) in San Antonio, Texas, to evaluate all reports of electronic warfare and jamming worldwide.

Executive Intelligence Review was the first internationally circulated publication to warn of the Soviet push to develop electromagnetic-effects weapons, and has sponsored a series of seminars on this subject in Western Europe, as well as publishing a *Special Report* on it. Lyndon LaRouche's first article on electronic warfare was a centrefold in the June 5, 1987 issue of *EIR* under the headline, "The next Soviet 'Sputnik': strategic radio frequency assault weapons." So far, *Aviation Week's* reportage has fallen far short of telling the real story as it has been covered in *EIR*.

Impeachers of Mecham defeated at polls

The Republican leaders of the Arizona legislature who led the attack to impeach former Gov. Evan Mecham, over criminal charges of which he was later acquitted, were nearly all defeated in the September primary election, in what the *Wall Street Journal* called "stunning upsets."

Mecham, who launched a strong war on drugs immediately upon taking office, was impeached in 1986, after a broad campaign of press slander and trumped up ethics charges believed to have been directed by the Jacobs brothers and other organized crime circles heavily involved in the gambling interests of the state.

Seven of eight GOP leaders who ran the point for the "Get Mecham" campaign have now been defeated in their primary races. The lone survivor won by only one vote!

The *Journal* attributes the defeats to the arrogance of an old boy political network in the state out of touch with the voters. "They threw out an elected governor before a scheduled recall election could take place in which the voters themselves would have decided Mr. Mecham's fate. . . . This week's incumbent wipe-out in Arizona should serve as a reminder to political elites everywhere that voters are quite capable of deciding which issues matter and which do not."

● **THE HEAT WAVE** that afflicted the nation this summer led to damage of part of the power grid in Southern California, a power company engineer told *EIR*. Whereas normal nighttime drop-offs in consumption permit transformers to cool down, the heat wave caused far higher nighttime power consumption than normal. Damage to transformers resulted, many of them in the Orange County area "burning up." "There was just not enough power [capacity]," said the engineer.

● **LYNDON LAROUCHE** campaign spokesmen have announced that their candidate, running as an independent Democrat for President on the ballot in 10 states, two half-hour national television broadcast slots, one on ABC on Saturday, Oct. 1 at 10:30 p.m. EDT, and another on CBS on Monday, Oct. 3 at 11:30 p.m. EDT.

● **AMERICANS** are against legalization of illegal drugs, according to an ABC News poll reported in the Sept. 15 *New York Times*. About 70% of those polled said they wanted the federal government to increase spending to prevent drug abuse. The majority of those polled also said the legalization of drugs would lead to an increase in crime.

● **KITTY DUKAKIS** belongs to Peace Links, an organization denounced on the floor of the U.S. Congress several years ago as an East German front.

● **'NO SMOKING GUN'** has turned up in the Pentagon procurement case, following a review of subpoenaed documents, a *Washington Post* article of Sept. 20 admits. The case is so flimsy that no indictments are expected until the end of the year.