

CAN cult seeks bill against older people

by Bruce Director

The Cult Awareness Network (CAN) and Delegate John Overington of West Virginia are pushing a fascist legislative proposal in state legislatures throughout the country, which targets the political movement associated with Lyndon LaRouche under the guise of regulating "elderly solicitation." In late February, the House Economic Matters Committee of the Maryland state legislature held hearings on the bill which became a platform for lying anti-LaRouche diatribes from CAN supporters.

The bill calls for police-state control over the affairs of anyone over 60 years old. The bill defines "elderly solicitation" as solicitation of anyone over 60 years old between the hours of 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. It would require any organization which solicits funds to submit a report to the secretary of state with the name, address, age, and amount of money solicited from elderly persons. It would require any organization to refund any contribution within one year and give any information requested to a family member of the elderly person. Any telephone solicitation call must state within 30 seconds after beginning the call that the call can be terminated at any time and this must be repeated every 10 minutes. Any solicitor must post a bond of 1.5 times the amount of money to be raised. These measures are clearly an infringement on the constitutional rights of citizens who happen to be over 60 years old, and are indictative of a growing and dangerous contempt for the "elderly."

Although proponents of the bill claim its purpose is to protect the elderly, testimony at the hearing was aimed solely at the LaRouche movement. Testifying in support of the bill were Delegate Overington's mother, Helen Overington, Galen Kelley, a "deprogrammer," and other supporters of CAN. Opposing the bill were direct marketing groups and other Maryland business organizations.

CAN is a hate group with ties to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). CAN's leaders are a sordid group of perverts, brainwashers, and kidnapers. CAN's former president, Mike Rokos, resigned after it was revealed he had been arrested in Baltimore for soliciting perverted sex from an undercover police officer. Galen Kelley, who testified at the hearings, has been involved in kidnappings and forced "deprogrammings." CAN works with a network of psychiatrists such as Jolyon West, Margaret Singer, and Robert Lifton, who are veterans of the CIA's experiments in mind control, drugs, and brainwashing. There are numerous reports of CAN's involvement

in kidnappings and forced "deprogrammings" of people whom CAN considers to be members of "destructive cults."

Recently CAN established a "LaRouche Victims Support Group" made up of family members of LaRouche supporters. These family members use coercive techniques to force the supporter to discontinue his or her support for LaRouche's political movement. It is reported that the group's efforts are funded by E. Newbold Smith, the father of Lewis du Pont Smith. The younger Smith is a former candidate for Congress and a supporter of LaRouche. In 1985, E. Newbold Smith went to court to have Lewis Smith declared mentally incompetent because of his political beliefs. CAN assisted in this effort making Smith the first person in the United States who was subjected to this Soviet-style use of psychiatry.

The case of Helen Overington is illustrative of the methods used by CAN. According to published accounts, Mrs. Overington was an independent woman who was an enthusiastic supporter of the political views of Lyndon H. LaRouche. In late 1990, Mrs. Overington was pressured by her children, who also called on the Virginia State Police, the ADL, and the FBI to pressure her to change her political views. According to one press account, Mrs. Overington said she was a supporter of the LaRouche movement and, "When I tried to talk to politics with my children, they'd say 'Oh Mom, you don't really believe that stuff do you? . . . especially Peggy, the most liberal. She finally told me, 'Look, Mom, we can't discuss these things. We just don't agree.' " Mrs. Overington later changed her mind, but admitted that she did so only after being pressured by the ADL, the police, and her family.

In its letter supporting the bill, CAN reveals its true contempt for the rights of anyone over 60. The letter states, "Many seniors are particularly vulnerable to solicitation techniques that are pitched specifically to make them feel they still have a useful contribution to make to others."

Win the Battle For America's Future

Money is needed to wage the fight to free Lyndon LaRouche and to overturn the convictions of his associates. Your contribution to the Constitutional Defense Fund will help finance legal efforts against the federal and state government agencies, private organizations like the ADL and NBC, and individuals, which have engaged in an illegal conspiracy to frame up LaRouche. This conspiracy is a threat to everyone's freedom. There is no limit to how much you can give.

The Constitutional Defense Fund
P.O. Box 6022 Leesburg, Virginia 22075

Paid Advertisement