

Was Meyer Lansky the 'best man' in the ADL's marriage to the FBI?

by Scott Thompson

Over the last five years, *EIR* investigators have been fighting for release under the Freedom of Information Act of all FBI files on the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith—the front for organized crime that masquerades as a Jewish civil rights group. The thousands of pages that have been released so far from the FBI's main file on the ADL (FBIHQ 100-530) tell a story of decades of collusion between the two. The FBI's longtime director, J. Edgar Hoover, kept his close ties to the ADL "in the closet," rejecting every invitation to speak before ADL national conventions (every subsequent FBI director has willingly taken up the ADL offers). Hoover's behind-closed-doors collaboration with the ADL may have been motivated by the fact that the director was well aware of the League's extensive ties to both organized crime and communism.

Despite the avoidance of publicity, Hoover was an enthusiastic collaborator of the ADL. As early as Sept. 8, 1941, he started to write directives to the effect that Bureau agents must maintain contact with the ADL, which was then based in Chicago. Hoover wrote dozens of letters over the decades to protect the ADL from those investigating or reporting on the ADL's criminal nature. During the McCarthy period in the early 1950s, Hoover praised the ADL's alleged role in the fight against communism in his book *The Masters of Deceit*, when many in the ADL were justifiably under probe as suspected Soviet agents and fellow travellers.

'Unreliable, unwise, and dangerous'

The budding ADL-FBI relationship was given major impetus before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, when the ADL let the FBI make wholesale use of its files on neo-isolationists, whom the Bureau labeled "subversives." According to FBI files, one ADL official boasted that the League had assisted the FBI in 373 such cases. That particular collusion was abruptly ended by the attorney general in a July 16, 1943 memorandum to Assistant Attorney General Hugh B. Cox and J. Edgar Hoover. The attorney general wrote:

"After full re-consideration of these individual danger classifications, I am satisfied that they serve no useful purpose. . . . It is now clear to me that the classification system

is inherently unreliable. The evidence used for the purpose of making the classifications was inadequate; the standards applied to the evidence for the purpose of making the classifications were defective; and finally, the notion that it is possible to make a valid determination as to how dangerous a person is in the abstract and without reference to time, environment, and other relevant circumstances, is impractical, unwise, and dangerous."

In short, the attorney general told Hoover that the ADL's "fact finding" was gossip to be disregarded.

Despite this assessment, Hoover ensured that the Bureau maintained a regular liaison with the ADL. After Hoover's death on May 2, 1972, the relationship grew until then-FBI Director William Webster on Feb. 4, 1985 issued an order that represented a virtual marriage between the two organizations.

Lansky's National Crime Syndicate

One of the questions raised by the new revelations of J. Edgar Hoover being blackmailed over his homosexuality by mobster Meyer Lansky, is whether Lansky was the hidden "best man" in the marriage between the ADL and the FBI. As is documented in *EIR*'s book *The Ugly Truth About the ADL*, the ADL's leadership has included many lieutenants of Lansky, who have steered the group as a protection arm for the Zionist component of the National Crime Syndicate. The ADL-Lansky links were notorious from the Prohibition era onward. The ADL's bank, Sterling National, which helped save the ADL from bankruptcy, was founded in 1929 by one of Meyer Lansky's New York City crime lieutenants, **Frank Erickson**, who was a specialist in money laundering. Erickson also handled all of Hoover's horse race betting.

By 1985, when **Kenneth Bialkin**, the attorney and silent partner of fugitive narcotics financier **Robert Vesco**, became ADL national chairman, the ADL-Crime Syndicate links were so public that the League gave its prestigious "Torch of Liberty" prize to Las Vegas "businessman" **Morris Barney Dalitz**. While the FBI maintains the fiction that Dalitz has "gone legit," honest investigators of organized crime have documented that Dalitz was a lifetime right-hand man of

Meyer Lansky.

Starting out in the Cleveland Purple Gang, where he ran a “Jewish Navy” to smuggle rot-gut whiskey from Canada into the United States (in partnership with the Bronfman family), Dalitz emerged by the 1930s as a privileged partner of Lansky when the latter set up his first offshore gambling, narcotics, and money-laundering haven in Cuba. Next, Lansky chose Dalitz to take over the lion’s share of “**Bugsy**” Siegel’s Las Vegas casino interests—interests the ADL award-winner still holds today—after the Syndicate decided to have Siegel assassinated.

FBI files, especially a voluminous file on **Dore Schary**, who became ADL national chairman in 1963, show that Hoover’s agents systematically dismissed charges that Schary was close to Syndicate higher-up **Abner “Longie” Zwillman** of New Jersey—even though the files themselves acknowledge that the two had been friends since childhood. In fact, experts on organized crime report that Zwillman sent Schary to the West Coast and installed him at Metro Goldwyn Mayer studios, where Schary became the reigning superstar. According to source reports in FBI files, Schary was close to Zwillman, who was one of the first Lansky aides to get involved in the Hollywood motion picture industry; however, Schary simultaneously became a confidant of Assistant FBI Director **Louis B. Nichols**. The latter wrote several memos in 1961 to Hoover’s aide **Clyde Tolson**, which were aimed at protecting Schary from charges that he was a “communist fellow traveller.” Instead, Nichols argued that Schary was a “Liberal.” Shortly after these Nichols memos, Hoover was himself writing Schary to thank him for his work on “The Hoaxsters,” a film that Hoover said “exposes in a most effective manner the menace of Communism.”

Meanwhile, Schary’s patron Zwillman got into trouble with the Internal Revenue Service, and on Feb. 27, 1959 he was found hanged in the basement of his West Orange, New Jersey mansion. Apparently some of his Syndicate associates feared Zwillman would cut a deal and talk. During a 1961 background check requested by the White House, which was thinking of giving Schary an appointment, it emerged that witnesses had seen Schary at Zwillman’s funeral.

A long report from the FBI’s Newark Field Office to the director on Schary, dated Aug. 2, 1961, includes a virtual eulogy for the mobster from a clipping in the *New York World Telegram*; the FBI synopsis states: “. . . Abner ‘Longie’ Zwillman . . . [was] once the perfect underworld czar and one who headed a fifty million dollar bootlegging ring in Prohibition days.” The *Telegram* continued: “Nobody . . . followed so successfully for so long the approved underworld formula for success—from rags to riches to respectability.”

Although the Kennedy administration finally decided that Schary was too tainted for an appointment, the Bureau refused to follow up his ties with Lansky aide Zwillman. Two years later, in 1963, Dore Schary was elected national chairman of the ADL.

Organized crime expert Hank Messick, who wrote biographies of ADL patrons Lansky and Dalitz, aptly summed up the situation with the remark to a PBS interviewer that the only good thing that J. Edgar Hoover ever did for American law enforcement was to drop dead!

Cointelpro and the KKK

Files received from the New Orleans Regional Field Office of the FBI, through the Freedom of Information Act, document that ADL regional director **Adolph “Sam” Botnick** had close ties with **Guy Bannister**, who was a leading member of the Bureau’s counterintelligence Division Five. Bannister gained notoriety when New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison identified him as a close associate of **Lee Harvey Oswald** as well as other figures whom Garrison believed to be part of the team assembled to assassinate President John F. Kennedy. **Clay Shaw**, the man Garrison indicted for the Kennedy assassination, was closely linked to Bannister.

Although Bannister was officially retired from the FBI by the time of the JFK assassination, he was still considered the most important “Bureau man” in New Orleans right up until his death in 1967. His collusion with the ADL’s Botnick came in the context of the FBI’s now notorious Operation Cointelpro.

Cointelpro was a “strategy of tension” that pitted black against white, left against right. One of the dirtiest operations that came out of Botnick’s collaboration with remnants of Guy Bannister’s network came to light in 1970 through an exposé in the *Los Angeles Times*. The story recounted a June 30, 1968 ambush in Meridian, Mississippi outside the home of ADL official **Meyer Davidson**. A local schoolteacher, **Kathy Ainsworth**, was killed by police, and a second person, **Thomas A. Tarrants III**, was shot 70 times by 22 FBI agents and police, but managed to survive.

Tarrants and Ainsworth were Ku Klux Klan members who were sent by local KKK leaders **Alton Wayne Roberts** and **Raymond Roberts** to plant a bomb at Davidson’s home. What the two would-be bombers did not know was that the Roberts brothers had just been paid \$69,000 by the New Orleans office of the ADL to work as agents provocateurs. Ainsworth’s murder was stage-managed by the ADL, apparently to put forward Davidson as a hero-victim of a racist attack upon Jews. Adolph Botnick passed the cash to the Roberts brothers with the full approval of local FBI officials, although the Bureau knew that the Roberts brothers were suspects in 10 terrorist incidents in the previous year. They were under federal indictment for the 1964 murders of three civil rights workers, Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner, in Philadelphia, Mississippi. The ADL has been trying to capitalize on their deaths ever since.

As a side benefit of the collusion with the FBI and the ADL, the Roberts brothers received slap-on-the-wrist sentences for the Philadelphia murders and their other terrorist

escapades, and they were eventually squirreled away into the Federal Witness Protection Program.

Throughout the period of Cointelpro, from the 1960s to the mid-1970s, FBIHQ main file 100-530 shows that the League's "Research" and "Fact-Finding" units regularly passed inflammatory "intelligence" to the Bureau and other law enforcement agencies. For example, the ADL sought to incite violence against the Black Panther Party, the Nation of Islam, and other African-American groups.

The railroading of LaRouche

This obscene collaboration between the FBI and the ADL became a virtual marriage after ADL leaders struck an agreement in 1985 with FBI Director **William Webster**, that joint action should be taken against Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. Actual collaboration as part of the "Get LaRouche" task force, which resulted in LaRouche being railroaded in Alexandria, Virginia by U.S. Judge Albert V. Bryan, Jr., nonetheless took years to effect. (See the accompanying article for details of the FBI's war against LaRouche.)

The ADL had been trying to elicit FBI assistance in targeting LaRouche and associates since the ADL's leaders met with William Webster shortly after he became FBI director in early 1979. In a discussion with undercover investigators, ADL official **Justin Finger**, who attended the meeting with Webster, spilled the beans: "I saw Judge Webster back in February in Washington and I mentioned the U.S. Labor Party and . . . he wouldn't go into details with me, but it was very clear to me from what he said . . . that this is an active investigation and that they are watching these people very closely." Former ADL national chairman **Burton Joseph** of Minneapolis, Minnesota, who was also at the meeting, conveyed the same sentiment to undercover investigators, and files from the FBI Minneapolis Regional Office show that Joseph was trying to incite the Bureau by feeding it false information about LaRouche and his associates.

On April 2, 1979, associates of LaRouche filed a complaint about this ADL-FBI collusion with Attorney General **Griffin Bell**, and he ordered an investigation; the FBI was assigned to investigate the charges about its own director. That investigation, of course, turned up nothing. However, new material released under the FOIA demonstrates that FBI-ADL collusion had been established. A Feb. 5, 1979 letter from FBI Director Webster to ADL Director **Nathan Perlmutter**, who is listed in Bureau files as an informant, states: "Any information which you might wish to share with us should be communicated to Deputy Assistant Director **James O. Ingram** at FBI Headquarters."

On Feb. 4, 1985, FBI Director Webster finally consummated the marriage between the FBI and ADL by issuing an "airtel" ordering every FBI Regional Office to establish liaison with its ADL local counterpart. That airtel was transmitted shortly after Boston U.S. Attorney **William Weld** had initiated a witchhunt federal grand jury probe of publica-

tions and political committees associated with LaRouche. Although the Webster order for local-by-local ADL-FBI liaison was an all-encompassing mandate, LaRouche was one of the primary targets of the new arrangement.

The text of Webster's airtel states that on Jan. 18, 1985, the New York Division of the FBI initiated contact with officials at the ADL headquarters in that city. These individuals, known to include ADL Director Perlmutter, "were advised that any legitimate civil rights allegation should be immediately brought to the attention of the appropriate FBI Office. . . . It was also established that each FBI Office contact each Regional [ADL] Office to establish a line of communication to promptly receive any allegations of civil rights violations. Each receiving [FBI] office should contact the Regional ADL Director(s) listed in your Division and establish this liaison."

On Feb. 28, 1986 Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme was assassinated by a "lone gunman" in Stockholm, and within hours, Soviet Communist Party Central Committee member Georgi Arbatov blamed western "reactionary" forces. Over the next few days, *EIR* investigators traced how publications known to be conduits for Soviet disinformation were able to create a deluge of articles blaming associates of LaRouche. The head of the ADL's Fact-Finding Department, **Irwin Suall**, an Oxford University-trained member of the Socialist International, flew to Stockholm to fuel the disinformation campaign. Meanwhile, the ADL, in collaboration with officials at the Israeli embassy in Washington, D.C., peppered Swedish officials with slanders against LaRouche, according to undercover investigations. On his return from Sweden, Suall told the press that he had given a report to the FBI. To this day the FBI is running a coverup of the ADL role in propagating the Soviet charges that LaRouche associates murdered Palme.

There is no question that Suall has become very close with the FBI. For example, according to a letter from the Bureau to Suall dated Nov. 21, 1989, Suall is invited "to address an upcoming FBI civil rights supervisory training conference . . . [presenting] a national overview of the violent hate movement in the United States. . . . Your remarks will be attended by approximately 50 FBI Supervisory Special Agents who are responsible for the supervision of the Civil Rights Program at the field office level."

Another striking example of the ADL's "dirty tricks" collusion with the "Get LaRouche" task force surfaced in testimony in the Roanoke, Virginia courtroom of Judge **Clifford Weckstein**, where numerous associates of LaRouche have been subjected to a judicial railroad. Virginia ADL leader **Murray Janus** flagrantly sought to bribe Weckstein with a Virginia Supreme Court judgeship, to make sure that the "railroad" ran on time. Suall's Washington, D.C. lieutenant Mira Lansky Boland worked with state, federal, and local levels of the prosecution, preparing the railroad of LaRouche's associates.