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The Lyndon Larouche political movement

Russo, Andrew, M.A.
San Jose State University, 1989



THE LYNDON LAROUCHE POLITICAL MOVEMENT

A Thesis

Presented to

The Faculty of the Department of Political Science
San Jose State University

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of Arts

Ву

Andrew Russo

December, 1989

APPROVED FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Dr. Rox Young

Dr. H. K. Schellenger

Dr. Peter Haas

APPROVED FOR THE UNIVERSITY

Serena St. Stanford

ABSTRACT

THE LYNDON LAROUCHE POLITICAL MOVEMENT by Andrew Russo

This thesis addresses the topic of the Lyndon LaRouche movement, the most bizarre political phenomenon of our day. It examines the personal background of Lyndon LaRouche, the history of his movement, the philosophy and ideology of LaRouche and his followers, and the role the movement plays in current-day American politics. In addition, the final section and the conclusion offer some possible explanations for the appeal of the LaRouche party to several important segments of American society.

This thesis discusses a number of major issues connected to the rise of the LaRouche movement, including its attempts to infiltrate and control the American labor movement, the American right wing, and the Democratic Party as well as the ties to the Reagan administration which developed during the early 1980s. LaRouche's efforts at mind control, his extensive private intelligence service, controversial fund-raising techniques, and byzantine conspiracy theories are also explored.

DEDICATION

To John Adams Wettergreen

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	•
Chapter	
1. LYNDON LAROUCHE AND HIS BACKGROUND 3	ļ
2. THE ROOTS OF THE LAROUCHE MOVEMENT 15	;
3. THE PHILOSOPHY AND IDEOLOGY OF THE LAROUCHE MOVEMENT	}
4. THE ROLE OF THE LAROUCHE MOVEMENT IN PRESENT-DAY AMERICAN POLITICS 45	5
CONCLUSION	;
ENDNOTES)
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Ļ

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study is to examine and analyze the most bizarre political phenomenon of our day: the Lyndon LaRouche political movement.

The LaRouche movement emerged from America's political underworld in 1986 when two of its followers captured nominations for lieutenant-governor and secretary of state in the Illinois Democratic primary. The upset victories of Mark Fairchild and Janice Hart led to the withdrawal of gubernatorial candidate Adlai Stevenson III from the Democratic ticket. Stevenson refused to run on the same ticket as individuals who espouse "the hate-filled folly of Lyndon LaRouche." He subsequently sought to have his name listed on the ballot as an independent candidate for governor, but the courts vetoed such an attempt. He finally landed a spot on the state ballot as the nominee of the newly-created "Solidarity Party," but was handily defeated by Republican Gov. James Thompson in the general election.

The LaRouchies did not gain immediate political respectability from their Illinois experience, but they did gain widespread media exposure and generated major new public awareness, an awareness that soon led to government investigations of LaRouche's questionable fund-raising tactics. These investigations have resulted in serious

legal problems for the movement, including the imprisonment of LaRouche and his top aides.

This paper will be divided into four chapters. The first chapter deals with Lyndon LaRouche and his background. The second chapter examines the roots of the LaRouche movement. The third looks at the philosophy and ideology of the movement. The fourth assesses the role of the LaRouche movement in present-day American politics. A conclusion will follow.

The Lyndon LaRouche Political Movement is not intended to be an exhaustive treatment of this highly controversial subject. Instead, it is offered as an overview in the hope that the information provided will whet the reader's appetite for further studies on this fascinating topic.

CHAPTER ONE

LYNDON LAROUCHE AND HIS BACKGROUND

Lyndon Hermyle LaRouche, Jr. is the undisputed leader of a far-flung political empire with international connections. It is an empire that boasts thousands of fanatical followers worldwide, a plethora of front groups and expensive publications, a major private intelligence network with a global reach, a Telex line linking it to its European bureaus, and countless millions of dollars to finance its operations.

To say that Lyndon H. LaRouche is the leader of this empire may be somewhat of an understatement. He is its master. The movement is Lyndon LaRouche. Without him, the movement would not exist. He exercises a psychological control over his followers that is akin to the control Jim Jones exercised over his adherents and Sun Myung Moon exercises over his supporters.

Lyndon LaRouche was born in Rochester, New Hampshire, on 8 September, 1922, to evangelical Quaker parents. A friendly biography tells us his parents were "native-born U.S. citizens who were steeped in the fact of their ancestors' first-arrival in North America during the 17th century. Both parents were hard-rock New Hampshire Republicans by prejudice, his father emphatically so . . .".2

LaRouche claims a solid Whig tradition in his family background. A great-great grandfather on the maternal side is said to have been a personal friend and backer of the famed American Whig, Henry Clay. LaRouche's biography tells us:

The impact of the Whig political tradition on him during childhood was the original source of his preoccupation with history and shaped the way in which he adopted the family's strong support for scientific and technological progress. The strongest impressions to this effect from within the family were mediated by his two grandfathers, by the strong impression of one meeting with his maternal great-grandfather, and the legends, broadly true to fact, associated with other nineteenth-century forebears.

"About the age of twelve, the young LaRouche's intellectual development took a turn toward decided, increasing independence from the prevailing opinions of the family household," claims the aforementioned biography of LaRouche issued by his organization. It seems that Lyndon LaRouche decided to become a philosopher at this time. He recalls wading "through the family library, pulling out as many of the writings of European philosophers as that library contained, and then arranged the assembled collection in order of date of birth of the author in question." He supplemented these works with whatever material the Lynn,

Massachusetts Public Library had to offer in addition. By the age of sixteen, LaRouche had reached Immanuel Kant's Critique of Pure Reason which, he says, he was still struggling through until 1940.

I recall that I emphatically disliked Bacon, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, and Hume; my first year in high school,

when I was fourteen, was dominated by Leibniz Later, Kant threw me off balance for a while, but I returned to Leibniz. After Leibniz, I could never force myself to accept ideas about mathematics or physics which were philosophically contrary to what I had assimilated from Leibniz about the time I was fourteen. Until I became more deeply acquainted with Plato's work and with Cusa's work later on, Leibniz's was the most powerful and convincing mind I ever met.⁵

Baron Gottfried Wilhelm von Leibniz was a German philosopher, mathematician, and statesman of the 17th century. His contribution to mathematics was to discover, in 1675, the fundamental principles of infinitesimal calculus. the philosophy expounded by Leibniz, the universe is composed of countless conscious centers of spiritual force or energy, known as monads. Each monad represents an individual microcosm, mirroring the universe in varying degrees of perfection and developing independently of all other monads. The universe that these monads comprise is the harmonious result of a divine plan. Man, however, with his limited vision, cannot accept such evils as disease and death as part of a universal harmony. This Leibnizian universe, "the best of all possible worlds," is satirized as a utopia by Voltaire in his romance, Candide. Leibniz was considered a universal genius by his contemporaries and is often mentioned as one of the greatest thinkers of the 17th century by modern historians.

The other strongest influence on LaRouche's outlook
from childhood through adolescence was the King James Bible.
"I carried it around with me more or less constantly, even

to school, into my sixteenth year. Once I had reached Leibniz, I studied much of it, especially the New Testament, all over again."

LaRouche says his study of the philosophers at a young age "were a point of reference I used to resist that which I disliked in the pressures of peer-group opinion around me."

His identification with what he viewed as the cultural standpoint of his grandparents and their forebears as distinct from his parents' and other influence, he considers the most important of the family's influences acting upon his early development.

It appears as if young LaRouche's school days were rather unpleasant. Classmates called him "Big Head." He had few friends and seemed always to be in trouble in school.

The third grade was particularly hellish. The teacher, for her own -- undeciphered -- reasons, chose to make me her special goat, and put me in the back of the class, where my myopia prevented me from seeing much of anything but blurs in the front of the room Except for my reading, adolescent life was chiefly bitterly boring and gray.

Later, in Lynn, Massachusetts, problems with an eighthgrade teacher led to "a battery of psychological and related
tests," and a midyear transfer to a school on the other side
of the city. "Intellectually I almost never 'felt myself'
with persons of my age-group . . . I was much more at
ease with adults . . . I survived socially by making

chiefly Descartes, Leibniz, and Kant my principle (sic) peers," LaRouche writes.

LaRouche attended, but did not graduate from, Northeastern University in Boston. Because of his Quaker background, he was interned in a conscientious objectors' camp during World War II. While in camp, he met former communists who introduced him to Karl Marx's Das Kapital.

After Adolf Hitler turned on his erstwhile Soviet allies and invaded the USSR in 1941, LaRouche felt the call to arms and joined the U.S. Army. He served as a medical corpsman in India and Burma. Apparently, he joined the Communist Party in Calcutta at this time. Returning home after the war, he was a management consultant, systems designer, and computer programmer. At one time, he headed a successful computer software service called Computron.

In 1948, he joined the Trotskyite Socialist Workers
Party (SWP) -- the U.S. section of the Fourth International.
The main difference between orthodox communism and the
Trotskyites was the Communist Party's strategy of patient
gradualism versus the Trotskyites' call for immediate bloody
revolution. As author Gary Allen put it: "The Socialist
Workers Party served as a sort of safety valve -- a place
for the Communist Party to puts its more embarrassing
psychotics."

10

It is ironic that LaRouche flirted with Marxism earlier in his life when he now states he never had any "use" for Marx as an economist.

While in the SWP, LaRouche adopted the party name "Lyn Marcus" (a combination of Lenin and Marx). He left the Party in 1957, but remained active in various Trotskyite circles. In 1963, he became closely involved with Tim Wohlforth's Workers League, an offshoot of the Socialist Workers Party. LaRouche claims that in the early 1960s he tried to launch a number of leftist movements "from scratch," but had no success until the summer of 1966, when he began teaching courses at the Free University of New York (subsequently called the Free School of New York and Alternate U). The 1966 summer catalog described LaRouche (using the name "Lyn Marcus") as a "professional economist and Marxist."

According to author Gary Allen: "The Free University of New York was opened in July 1965 'in response to the intellectual bankruptcy and spiritual emptiness of the American educational establishment.' Key man in its creation was Dr. Allen Krebs, who had been forced out of Adelphi University after having traveled to Cuba in 1964, contrary to State Department regulations. As it happens, he made the trip with members of the Progressive Labor Party, a Maoist faction which split away from the Communist Party, USA."

According to the late Representative Lawrence Patton McDonald (D-Georgia):

Associated with FUNY at the time Lyn Marcus was involved as an instructor -- 1966-1968 -- were a variety of 'New Left' intellectuals including Monthly Review writers M. S. Arnoni, Stanley Aronowitz, Tana DeGamey, and John Gerassi; Sharon Krebs, who later became a supporter of the Weather Underground, was convicted and served a prison term for conspiracy to bomb banks, and who now works with the National Lawyers Guild in New York City' Tuli Kupferberg and Ed Sanders, founders of the Youth International Party; Staughton Lynd; Irvin Silber of the Guardian, an 'independent' Marxist-Leninist newspaper; and the ubiquitous supporter of the Viet Cong, Walter D. Teague III.¹²

It would appear that June 1968 was the turning point in LaRouche's bizarre political career. At that time, the radical Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) were spear-heading student disturbances at Columbia University.

LaRouche, a "professor" without a college degree, taught a course on "Elementary Marxist Economics" at the SDS Summer Liberation School. This course was described in the SLS catalog as "the development of Marx's method from the German ideology to the 'tendency for the rate of profit to fall.' Pre-Marxian, Marxian, and recent theories of value; elementary models of economic growth." 13

Another course at the Summer Liberation School was "U.S. Economic Growth and Political History" which had among its instructors a C. LaRouche, identified by radicals as Carol Schnitzer. Schnitzer, it seems, left the Socialist Workers Party with Lyndon LaRouche and later lived with him until she left him for another man in 1972.

LaRouche's associations with the Free University and the Liberation School allowed him to develop a leadership role in the SDS Labor Committee, a short-lived faction which originated from a split in the Maoist Progressive Labor Party cadre within Students for a Democratic Society. The SDS Labor Committee faction worked to create "class-wide support for student strike committees particularly in the New York and Philadelphia areas."

At this point, it is worthwhile to discuss how LaRouche currently attempts to describe his immersion in far-left politics in the 1950s and 1960s.

In LaRouche: Will This Man Become President?, a sympathetic biography published by the editors of Executive Intelligence Review (a key component of the LaRouche network), we read that LaRouche favored the nomination of General Dwight Eisenhower for the presidency in 1948, the very year LaRouche joined the SWP! The biography explains:

He became briefly involved in 'left politics' through some former GIs in the American Veterans Committee, and became active briefly in a campaign against Senator Joseph McCarthy, whom he saw as the distilled essence of Trumanism, and whom he described in published statements as both 'The Appleton Ape' and a replica of the seventeenth-century Sir George Jeffreys of the Bloody Assizes. After McCarthy was defeated, LaRouche 'lost my stomach' for 'left politics,' and concentrated on his researches and management-consulting work. He did not begin to think of political activity until after 1957, as he thought of developing a vehicle for propagating his proposed redirection of U.S. economic policy. He was back, on a new basis of developed competence to where he had been politically in Calcutta and in proposing that Eisenhower seek the 1948 nomination. By the middle 1960s, he decided that the only pathway to building an institution which might influence the course of U.S.

economic policy was to plunge into the area of university ferment, attacking and challenging the dangerous influence of the 'New Left.' This led him to begin teaching a one-semester course at various campus locations in the Spring of 1966, a part-time practice he continued into Spring 1973.¹⁵

LaRouche claims his activities at Columbia University in 1968 were efforts aimed at "preempting control of New York SDS from the agents deployed on Ford Foundation funds through the League of Industrial Democracy (LID) and Thurman Arnold's left-wing intelligence-organization, the Institute for Policy Studies of Marcus Raskin and later also of Philip Agee."

As Lyndon H. LaRouche's present-day movement has its roots in the Labor Committee faction of the SDS, subsequent events in LaRouche's life will be incorporated in the next section dealing with the background of his organization. However, a few details should be mentioned about LaRouche's personal life.

According to veteran LaRouche researcher Dennis King,
LaRouche was married to a woman named Janice in the 1950s.
They were divorced after having a son, Daniel, now in his
late 20s. An article which appeared in The New York Times
in January 1974 stated that LaRouche's first wife was a
psychiatrist. After the divorce, LaRouche began living with
follower Carol Schnitzer. She left him in 1972 for another
group member (male) and the two went to Great Britain. It
was about that time, according to King and others, that
LaRouche underwent a personality change. "All of the

defectors say that definitely triggered a period of retreat," says King. "He would sit in his apartment with stockpiles of canned food and guards at the door." LaRouche has been reported as saying that most women are lesbians and marry men to hurt them.

Later, LaRouche began living with Helga Zepp, a follower whom he first met in West Germany. The two are now married and Zepp runs the LaRouche operations in Western Europe.

Lyndon LaRouche certainly has an exalted view of himself. He dubs himself the "leading economist of the 20th century" and used to call himself "the American Lenin." He has all but taken complete credit for Ronald Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). Under his picture on the back cover of a book he authored, The Case of Walter Lippmann, is this modest statement:

Mr. LaRouche is currently involved in international negotiations aimed at the establishment of a new private bank which would serve as the vehicle for creating a new world monetary system replacing the International Monetary Fund. Mr. LaRouche is committed to head such a bank until such time as he is called to serve the United States as President.¹⁸

He has compared his work to that of Dante and Plato and believes the implementation of his program is the only way to save the human race from annihilation. Some have suggested Lyndon LaRouche suffers from a Messianic complex. One suspects that is indeed the case.

Matching his colossal ego is an innate charisma that has enabled him to develop such a solid core of fanatical adherents. "He is one of the most personable, charming, and charismatic men I've ever met," said Gregory Rose, a former member of LaRouche's movement who, in the early 1970s, spied on the group for the FBI. "It's very difficult to describe But there's something about the way he looks at people, focuses his eyes and modulates his voice that is terribly riveting -- almost mesmerizing."

LaRouche is also, undoubtedly, a paranoid. He believes he is always in imminent danger of assassination. As he told Newsweek in 1986:

I've had a number of security problems. The Colombian drug pushers have a hit out against me . . . The Soviets have been running nasty little operations against me. (FBI Director William) Webster and (Executive Assistant Director Oliver) Revell are adversaries of mine. You know, I have to worry like everybody does about the odd kook, particularly when I have this controversial image.20

LaRouche also believes former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has plotted to kill him. For this reason, LaRouche claims, he must be constantly spirited from one "safehouse" to another for security reasons. He must also surround himself with security personnel. Prior to his recent imprisonment, LaRouche lived on a plush manor-house compound outside Leesburg, Virginia. The compound is protected by guards, dogs, electrified fences and a moat. He rarely left the estate for fear of assassination.

LaRouche supporters describe a typical day in the life of their leader as follows:

Except for occasional travels to Ibero-America or Asia, his daily routine in Europe or the United States is almost constant, usually seven days a week. His waking day begins with a review of reports transmitted overnight from various parts of the world, and the work ends between eleven p.m. and one a.m. most days, usually ending with a long session together with those members of the executive committee available in that locality. In between, the rest of the day is spent in meetings, on the telephone, or working at a desk.²¹

Consider how the LaRouchies describe the effect of their leader's work:

Out of these daily routines have come numerous decisions which have affected the circumstances of various nations, decisions which have directly or indirectly affected the circumstances of your life."

Once again, shades of Lyndon H. LaRouche's exaggerated view of his own importance.

CHAPTER TWO

THE ROOTS OF THE LAROUCHE MOVEMENT

The present-day LaRouche movement has its roots in the Labor Committee faction of the Students for a Democratic Society.

In January 1969, the SDS National Council placed an embargo on the Labor Committee to stop it from using the SDS name. A quarrel had developed between the SDS and the Committee because the latter supported striking New York City teachers, members of the United Federation of Teachers (UFT) -- led by Albert Shanker. The UFT struck in opposition to the "Balkanization" of the New York City schools in a "community control" scheme which seated an assortment of radicals and agitators on local school boards. The Labor Committee's support of the strike was considered a violation of the New Left's revolutionary orthodoxy.²³

Also, LaRouche's followers championed a brand of socialism quite different from that advocated by the SDS "regulars." The Labor Committee favored a strong centralized government and nuclear energy. The members believed economic reform would come only with technological progress. The "Small Is Beautiful" sentiments of the counterculture were branded a "blueprint for extinction." The Weathermen

(another SDS offshoot) were ridiculed as "the scum of the student movement."24

As the Labor Committee parted company with the SDS in 1969, Lyndon LaRouche renamed it the National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC).

From 1969 to mid-1972, the new group was in a period of dormancy. LaRouche was not, however. He continued to "develop and expound his peculiar interpretations of Marxist theories with the New School for Social Research in New York providing the forum" according to the late Representative Lawrence Patton McDonald (D-Georgia).25

Representative McDonald inserted the following information into the <u>Congressional Record</u> for 26 January 1977:

The National Caucus of Labor Committees first gained notoriety in far left circles in 1972 when it commenced a series of vitriolic and obscene attacks on LeRoi Jones, a militant racist in his own right, and on the late George Wiley, head of the National Welfare Rights Organization. From scurrilous vehement verbal attacks on its political rivals, NCLC moved into direct assaults on members and offices of rival revolutionary organizations. The Communist Party, USA -- CPUSA -- the Trotskyite Communist Socialist Workers Party -- SWP -- were singled out for attacks by mobile NCLC goon squads who beat Trotskyites and Stalinists on the streets and in their offices.²⁶

In 1973-74, LaRouche launched "Operation Mop Up," an attempt to eliminate his rivals on the far left. NCLC members would arrive at meetings, confront opponents, and use "psywar" techniques as a means of "poking at their minds." An article in the NCLC newspaper, now called New Solidarity, described a fight that erupted when some of LaRouche's followers tried to disrupt a meeting of a

Communist youth group in Buffalo. When a member of the group attempted to call the police, LaRouche's people stopped him. By the time the fight was over, the article stated, three of the foes had to be hospitalized. An AFL-CIO investigation of LaRouche's activities described similar attacks:
"Usually (LaRouche's) goon squads numbered between fifteen and fifty persons generally armed with numchukas. (A 'numchuka' is an Oriental martial-arts weapon made of two clubs connected with a chain)."27

"Operation Mop Up" mounted some seventy armed attacks in a number of cities on activities of the CPUSA and the SWP. Reportedly, a good part of the original NCLC membership began to defect during the "Mop Up" period. It should also be noted, as an aside, that LaRouche began organizing the now-defunct Revolutionary Youth Movement (RYM) among ghetto youth gangs, primarily in New York, Newark, and Detroit in the summer of 1973.

"Operation Mop Up" was followed in 1974 and 1975 by a campaign to take over the American labor movement. According to Gregory Rose:

An NCLC leaflet dated April 4, 1974 attacks various members of the New York AFL-CIO Central Labor Council as 'homosexuals,' 'perverts,' and 'criminals.' These unionists and their families were subjected to a campaign of obscene and threatening phone calls by NCLC cadres, orchestrated by the NCLC Security Staff in New York. Another NCLC leaflet referred to the president of a UAW local in Toledo in terms the mildest of which was 'Woodcocksucker.' He and his family were also subjected to obscene and harassing phone calls. The father of an NCLC member, who was attempting to persuade his daughter to leave the organization, was greeted one morning by a

hearse whose driver and attendant had been told 'to pick up the body,' an unmistakable threat.28

LaRouche's efforts to infiltrate the American labor movement were the subject of a major story in <u>Mother Jones</u> for January 1982. <u>Mother Jones</u> described some basic LaRouche tactics:

His followers have been responsible for intimidation, phony letters, fake newspaper articles and other cleverly constructed 'dirty trick' campaigns against Teamster reformers and progressives in other unions, including Leonard Woodcock, former president of the United Auto Workers.

Hate-filled, often inaccurate 'intelligence' information on the supposed 'enemies' of organized labor has been transmitted to union leaders with no indication that the information reflects the bias of the increasingly reactionary U.S. Labor Party or its spin-offs. This activity echoes both the style and substance of the intelligence that LaRouche and company have provided to corporations and government intelligence agencies.

Through the <u>American Labor Beacon</u>, a widely circulated, glossy magazine, LaRouche associates are now trying to effectively propagandize not only union leadership but rank-and-file workers. Locals in at least four different unions have already responded favorably to the <u>Beacon</u>, and several union local presidents or past officials have taken up the magazine's line. The <u>Beacon</u> flatly denies affiliation with LaRouche or the U.S. Labor Party, even though its editor and publisher are both Labor Party regulars.²⁹

It appears as if LaRouche and his NCLC (also known by its political arm, the U.S. Labor Party) have made inroads into the Teamsters Union. LaRouche disciples, who call the union "the biggest and strongest trade union in the country, which has consistently used its power to press for industrial growth," apparently ingratiated themselves with

Teamster leadership by spearheading a campaign to discredit reformers within the union.

The LaRouche organization produced forged newspaper articles and letters smearing the two largest reform groups within the Teamsters, the Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU) and the Professional Driver's Organization (PROD). These missives were distributed at union halls across the country in order to influence union elections. The LaRouche material invariably attacked the reformers as drug pushers, terrorists, or linked with Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini. One Oakland, California Teamster, Jim Rush, filed a \$350,000 libel suit against the U.S. Labor Party and LaRoucheaffiliated publications in 1977 for linking him to drug dealers. Rush was seeking an office in an upcoming union election when he incurred the wrath of the LaRouchies. LaRouche onslaught was so vicious and so well-organized that it cost Rush (a perennial top vote-getter) that election and he was never able to return to his local union. Rush has since been offered a libel settlement by LaRouche's organization.30

Due to the assistance provided by LaRouche in crushing reformers within the Teamsters Union, he gained access to top Teamsters leaders. The late general president Jackie Presser was a LaRouche ally, according to the aforementioned Mother Jones article. So are two international general organizers, Larry McHenry and Rolland McMaster. McMaster

even endorsed LaRouche for president when he ran as a Democrat in the 1980 primaries. Mother Jones quotes Second Vice President Harold Gibbons as saying of the ties between Presser and LaRouche forces: "They came out with some pretty snazzy material. And it probably impresses him. That's why he associates with them. He seems to admire the literature they put out. The more I see, the more suspicious I become."

While working to gain a foothold in the labor movement,

LaRouche was preparing his followers for armed struggle.

In the summer of 1974, the NCLC held a military training school for selected members at a farm near the villages of Argyle and Salem in upstate New York. Among the subjects covered were explosives and demolition, small arms, small unit tactics, and military history. Defector Gregory Rose tells us: "The explosives and demolition classes were taught by an NCLC technical expert who had been a member of the Puerto Rican terrorist organization MIRA."²²

Rose relates his experience as an instructor at the Argyle camp:

Imagine the worst aspects of Marine boot camp. (Party leaders) had the training of SS officers in mind Members would get up at six in the morning, shit, shine, shower, shave, military fashion. Then calisthenics, breakfast . . . an hour or so of weapons training, breaking down your gun. Close-order drill until noon, more calisthenics, lunch, then weapons practice out on the range . . . demolitions class, dinner, more drill, night classes in techniques of interrogation, scientific approaches to collating information . . . treatment of prisoners.

That was the first week. For the second week, we started two or three days of field problems. How to take this hill, that hill. How to ambush. For the rest of the week, members divided into two twenty-member squads, one at each end of the farm, and played a deadly earnest version of 'capture the flag' with dummy grenades, weapons with blanks."

The camp in New York has since been abandoned. By the early 1980s, the LaRouche forces were sending some members to Cobray International, a commercial "counter-terrorist" training school in Georgia that offers lessons in combat and weaponry. According to author George Johnson:

The teacher is Mitchell Livingston Werbell, star of Spooks, a book on 'the haunting of America by private intelligence agencies,' written by Jim Hougan, a former Washington editor for Harper's. Werbell has worked as an international arms dealer, free-lance secret agent, and promoter of right-wing causes. His efforts to produce and sell silenced sub-machine guns earned him the nick-name 'Wizard of Whispering Death.' In the early 1980s, he was a security consultant for LaRouche. The party's explanation was that they must train members to guard LaRouche against terrorist agents of the conspiracy. Other presidential candidates, they noted, got Secret Service protection.³⁴

The discussion of Werbell's involvement with LaRouche serves to initiate us into the next phase of Lyndon LaRouche's strange odyssey.

The Nation for 16-23 August 1980 tells us that the LaRouchies "were brought to Werbell by an even gamier figure of the right -- Roy Frankhouser, a leader in the Klan, the Minutemen and the American Nazi Party. Werbell and Frankhouser introduced LaRouche to the shadowy world of spooks and the activist right-wing underground." ²⁵

Apparently, Frankhouser's introduction of LaRouche to Werbell was part and parcel of LaRouche's effort to form a marriage of convenience with the extreme right. Former NCLC member Rose says contacts were made in 1974 with Ken Duggan, leader of a far-right group called the Provisional National Government and publisher of The Illuminator. Rose states that Duggan introduced the NCLC's Scott Thompson to Willis A. Carto of Liberty Lobby and that both Thompson and Carto met regularly during 1975 and 1976. Liberty Lobby is a Capitol Hill-based populist organization that is militantly anti-communist and anti-Zionist. It has denied close ties to LaRouche and even sued National Review which published Rose's allegations. However, there is little doubt that there were contacts between the two groups: Liberty Lobby's weekly publication The Spotlight has occasionally carried advertisements for LaRouche literature and sold a major U.S. Labor Party study, Dope, Inc.

A spring 1975 NCLC "Security Memorandum" provided the rationale for the LaRouche scheme to penetrate the American right-wing. The memo stated that there was growing "sympathy for our 'Impeach Rocky' campaign among right-wing circles." The reference to "Rocky" is, of course, to the late Nelson Rockefeller, Vice President of the United States from 1974 to 1977. "Right-wing organizations offer four opportunities," the directive continued, "1.) sources for fund-raising (especially related to our organizing); 2.)

political contacts to circulate our perspective in anti-Rocky political-financial-military circles; 3.) opportunity to expose and discredit Rocky's Buckley-FBI-CIA penetration of the Right; 4.) potential USLP members and periphery."³⁶

The memo, however, indicated that the NCLC/USLP was only interested in using the far right. " . . . the real enemy is Rocky's fascism with a democratic face, the liberals and social fascists. We can cooperate with the Right to defeat this common enemy. Once we have won this battle, eliminating our right-wing opposition will be comparatively easy."

Although such rightist groups as The John Birch Society rejected LaRouche overtures, contacts were made with key members of the American Party, a remnant of the 1968 George Wallace campaign for president. A working relationship was established with Col. Tom McCrary's Independent Party of Georgia. Apparently, the sole attraction of certain rightwing elements for LaRouche was his movement's virulent hatred of the Rockefeller family. The Rockefellers have long been a particular "bete noire" of the extreme right. A discussion of the LaRouche obsession with conspiracies involving the Rockefellers will follow in the next section.

LaRouche's effort to forge a united front with the American right met only limited success. At the same time he was courting the right, he was courting the Soviet Union and Palestinian movement.

Defector Gregory Rose tells us he was asked by LaRouche in 1974 to establish contact with the Soviet mission to the United Nations. Rose says LaRouche met twice with a Soviet diplomat -- once at the Soviet mission in New York and once at U.S. Labor Party headquarters.³⁸

Beginning in 1974, Rose states, the NCLC cultivated contacts with Palestinian guerilla movements, particularly the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). A close liaison with the Iraqi mission to the UN culminated in LaRouche's trip to Baghdad in the spring of 1975 at the invitation of the socialist Ba'ath Party to meet with Iraqi and Palestinian officials.¹⁹

As the mid-1970s approached, numerous front groups sprouted from LaRouche's original National Caucus of Labor Committees. Such fronts as the International Caucus of Labor Committees, the U.S. Labor Party (USLP), the Fusion Energy Foundation (FEF), the Committee for Fair Elections (CFE), the International Press Service (IPS), the Labor Organizer's Defense Fund (LODF), the International Workingmen's Association (IWMA), the Club of Life, the National Anti-Drug Coalition, and the National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC) emerged. A few of these NCLC offshoots deserve some discussion.

The U.S. Labor Party, founded in 1973, was (it is now defunct, having been replaced by the NDPC in 1981) the political arm of the LaRouche movement. LaRouche was

himself the presidential candidate of the Party in 1976, garnering about 40,000 votes in two dozen states. USLP presidential campaign reported expenditures of \$180,000 and wound up its activities with a nationally-televised address by LaRouche over NBC the day before the election. The broadcast cost the USLP about \$90,000, reportedly half the money coming from Republican Party circles. In the address, candidate LaRouche inexplicably endorsed the candidacy of "Whig-constitutionalist" President Gerald R. Ford. He said Ford was the candidate most worthy of popular support after himself. The USLP ran 140 candidates for public office in 1976 -- more than any other third party. It has since run many more candidates under its banner across the country. New West for 24 March, 1980 reported: "The LaRouche political machine has been used in about 300 different election campaigns since 1974."40

The USLP was replaced by the National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC) in 1981, soon after Lyndon LaRouche unsuccessfully sought the 1980 Democratic presidential nomination. LaRouche managed to raise \$526,000 in federal matching funds during the 1980 campaign. The LaRouche campaign paid for a number of expensive 30-minute nationally-televised broadcasts during the Democratic primaries, but they had little effect. He drew only a smattering of votes in the several states he was on the ballot. In New Hampshire, for example, his campaign spokesman claimed

eleven offices, 350 full-time volunteers, and predicted LaRouche would capture 15% of the vote. Instead, he netted 2%. Not one to be discouraged, LaRouche sought the presidency again in 1984, as an "independent" Democrat in the general election.

Running on a ticket with Mississippi farmer Billy Davis, he raised \$6.1 million (\$494,000 in federal matching funds). He appeared on national television in fourteen half-hour commercial spots at a cost of up to \$230,000 each. On the ballot in 18 states, LaRouche polled 78,000 votes, well behind the Libertarian Party contenders but slightly ahead of the Citizens and Populist Party nominees. The village Voice claims LaRouche's NDPC ran more than 2000 candidates nationally in 1984, with some winning as much as 30% of the vote, and some have been elected to local school boards, city councils, and party committees. 41

In 1988, LaRouche, facing indictment on mail fraud and conspiracy charges, ran for President on the "National Economic Recovery" ticket. Despite having purchased numerous half-hour TV commercials, he polled just 25,082 votes in the November election. 42

The Fusion Energy Foundation (FEF) is probably the LaRouche front most Americans have encountered at one time or another, usually at airports.

"Feed Jane Fonda to the Whales," "More People Have Died in Ted Kennedy's Car Than in Nuclear Power Plants," and

"Chappaquiddick 1, Three Mile Island 0" are typical of the messages that adorn FEF booths at air terminals and elsewhere. The Fusion Energy Foundation is undoubtedly one of the most successful of the many LaRouche spinoffs, producing the slick <u>Fusion</u> magazine as well as the children's publication, <u>The Young Scientist</u>. It was founded in 1975 and is committed to nuclear energy (particularly fusion power) and technological progress. <u>The Nation</u> tells us:

". . . the Fusion Energy Foundation has gained a solid foothold in the pro-nuclear scientific community. The foundation calls for a \$5 billion crash program to create an American fusion-energy capability by the year 2000. Although the operating leadership of the foundation consists entirely of U.S. Labor Party members, it has lured dozens of corporate executives, physicists, government planners and plasma biologists to serve -- largely as figureheads -- on its scientific advisory board, and it has also salted its board of directors with non-party members. Most of these people are unaware of the foundation's connection with the Labor Party; those who do know of it are usually unaware of what the party stands for.

The foundation has become deeply involved in fusion energy research, and most fusion researchers in the country have at one time or another had direct contact with foundation representatives; even the head of fusion research for the Federal Government has cooperated with the group. The ties between the foundation and the scientific community are so strong that, according to one energy researcher, 'they get information on new fusion energy developments and pass them on to us literally months before the government does. And they're always accurate.'

The ability of the LaRouche organization to gather information is one of its trademarks. The movement operates a global intelligence-gathering network centered around its expensive weekly magazine, Executive Intelligence Review

(EIR) -- \$400 a year. The EIR has been praised by top government officials and is known to supply government agencies and corporations with intelligence. EIR has quoted top Reagan administration officials as commending the publication. Former Assistant Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Robert Hormats is quoted as saying, "I read EIR all the time." "EIR is the expert in Soviet development of space-based ABM systems," comments Dr. Richard DeLauer, a former Under-Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering. "5

An article which appeared in the New Republic for 19 November 1984 raised serious questions about LaRouche penetration of the Reagan administration through its intelligence network. Apparently, LaRouche people have consulted with top members of the National Security Council (NSC).

Dr. Norman Bailey, who resigned in December 1983 from his posts as a special assistant to the President and as the NSC's senior Director of International Economic Affairs, has said LaRouche offers "one of the best private intelligence services in the world." Dr. Ray Pollock, a chief architect of former President Reagan's SDI project, met with LaRouche officials on various occasions and said he was intrigued by them and claimed some of the statements they made spoke well for their intelligence network. Former Interior Secretary James Watt is known to have conferred with LaRouchies and

reportedly gave serious consideration to appointing Lyndon LaRouche an administration consultant.46

EIR has provided intelligence reports to local police forces, corporate executives, and foreign governments like South Africa and the Shah's Iran. Lyndon LaRouche himself has met with such important international figures as Mexican president Jose Lopez Portillo and the late Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi.

Perhaps the most curious aspect of the LaRouche operation is its financing. Where does the money come from to publish half a dozen periodicals, operate a publishing house, manage dozens of offices at home and abroad, maintain a global intelligence service, recruit thousands of candidates worldwide, and fund the multimillion dollar presidential campaigns of Lyndon LaRouche?

It is believed that it costs \$200,000 a week to maintain the organization. Much of this money comes from magazine and newspaper subscriptions, book sales, heavy membership dues, and the money collected by followers hawking their literature at air terminals and other public locations. Other sources include contributions from wealthy members, loans from supporters (often unwitting), and profits from firms allied with LaRouche. In 1979, The New York Times reported claims that five members had each given LaRouche \$100,000 and that a computer firm (now bankrupt) run by several of his disciples might have helped supplement

the organization's budget." Other probable sources of financing are "conscience payments" (members turning over family inheritances) and the sales of intelligence data.

LaRouche has now been convicted by a federal court and sentenced to prison in connection with his fund-raising tactics. This will be discussed in more depth in the final section of this paper.

Many people would suggest that the LaRouche movement is not a political movement at all, but, rather, a cult.

Certainly, defectors from LaRouche add credibility to this assertion. Gregory Rose has written:

Discipline in the organization is strict, and dissenters from LaRouche's particular brand of orthodoxy are dealt with severely. Several NCLC members were arrested in New York in January 1974 for allegedly kidnapping a dissident member and holding her against her will (the woman later dropped the charges). The personal lives of members are extensively regulated by the organization. Ties with family and former friends are discouraged. 'Unauthorized' personal relations are forbidden. Activities as varied as marijuana-smoking and masturbation are expulsion offenses. Any activity that does not serve the NCLC's interest will generally result in the attention of the NCLC's equivalent of the GPU, the Security Staff.⁴⁸

The 16-23 August 1980 edition of <u>The Nation</u> informs the reader:

Like many cult leaders, LaRouche has developed a highly effective arsenal of mind-control techniques based on his self-proclaimed 'groundbreaking' psychological discoveries. Those who question his reported assassination plots are diagnosed as 'paranoid.' Political doubts are ascribed to a 'mother complex,' homosexuality or sexual impotence. Dependence is enforced not only in group therapy sessions, during which LaRouche explains the worthlessness of each member without the organization but also in private, one-on-one sessions. 'The people who were the leaders and movers and shakers were all

psychologically crushed, broken almost physically sometimes,' says an ex-member. 'They were locked in a room and ego-stripped for days.' Another ex-member recalls that the most brilliant members of the organization were 'psychologically castrated' and then 'assigned for rehabilitation,' to write reports, and locally, to sell newspapers."

LaRouche's demand for total subservience from his followers indicates his obsession with security. Author George Johnson describes the NCLC headquarters in Manhattan:

At their headquarters in Manhattan, the reception area is monitored by a closed-circuit television camera; the receptionist sits behind a sheet of bullet-proof glass. Each of the three doors leading from the lobby to the inner offices is secured with an electronic lock with a constantly changing push-button code. Inside, LaRouche's followers sit at desks, telephoning government and corporate officials, gathering bits of information to be woven into the Dark Ages plot. Sometimes information is solicited by posing as newspaper reporters. 'We're an intelligence operation,' says Paul Goldstein, LaRouche's chief of counterintelligence. 'Sometimes you have to be shrewd.'50

The "nerve center" of the LaRouche movement is currently located in Leesburg, Virginia where the leader, until recently, lived on a 172-acre complex. The main head-quarters was moved to Leesburg from Manhattan a few years ago. Offices are located in fifteen cities across the nation, including New York (where a number of LaRouche fronts still operate) and Los Angeles. Foreign offices are maintained in Montreal, Mexico City, Bogota, Caracas, Paris, Brussels, Copenhagen, Milan, and Dusseldorf. The European headquarters is located in Wiesbaden, West Germany. It is estimated that Lyndon LaRouche probably has no more than 1,000-2,000 close followers, but peripheral supporters nationally could run as high as 300,000.

CHAPTER THREE

THE PHILOSOPHY AND IDEOLOGY OF THE LAROUCHE MOVEMENT

Trying to describe precisely the political ideology of the Lyndon LaRouche movement is somewhat akin to trying to sew a button on a scoop of ice cream, to use a worn analogy. Syndicated columnist John F. McManus has labeled the LaRouche philosophy "a curious mixture of socialism, elitism, anti-establishmentism and fantasy." Harvard political-economy Prof. Marc Roberts has called it a "crazy and naive mixture of extreme-left and extreme-right arguments." **

To study the LaRouche ideology is to delve into the world of complex, byzantine conspiracy theories that are, undoubtedly, the strangest collection of theories found anywhere in the conspiratorial sector of American politics.

Conspiracy theories are not uncommon in American political history. Hysteria swept the new republic in the late 1700s as news of the Bavarian Illuminati and its freethought, cosmopolitan, and rationalist agenda surfaced. In the 1820s and 1830s, a political party (the Anti-Masonic Party) emerged as a reaction to the murder of a renegade Freemason who was threatening to expose the secrets of the order. It was believed lodge brothers killed William Morgan. In the latter part of the 19th century, the

Populists promoted conspiracy theories of East Coast Jewish bankers plotting to destroy the American farmer. 53

Most recently, right-wing organizations like The John Birch Society and Liberty Lobby have championed conspiracy theories involving Communists, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Trilateral Commission, the Bilderbergers, Zionists, international bankers, and the United Nations -- all scheming to dissolve America's national sovereignty in a one-world government.⁵⁴

While elements of many of the aforementioned theories can be readily discovered in the writings of LaRouche and his associates, other theories and LaRouche's basic world philosophy differs vastly from the traditional right-wing conspiracy buffs.

The philosophy of Lyndon LaRouche is unusual in that it defines itself as the present-day champion of the views of Plato in the never-ending war against the views of Aristotle. As author George Johnson writes:

In the world of LaRouche, the standard left-right political scale has been twisted into a Mobius strip. 'Left' and 'Right,' LaRouche says, are false distinctions, smokescreens used by the conspirators. What counts is whether you are on the side of Plato or Aristotle, whose philosophical descendants supposedly are engaged in an ongoing psychological battle to see who gets to define the way we perceive reality. While other conspiracy theorists explain all of history as a plot, LaRouche's system also includes science, philosophy, and mathematics. The result is the quintessential version of the Illuminati conspiracy theory, a vision so complex and engulfing that it appeals to his youn; followers who consider themselves intellectuals.⁵⁵

As Platonists, the LaRouchies see themselves on the same side as such historical giants as Bach, Beethoven, and Shakespeare; mathematicians Gottfried Leibniz, Bernard Riemann, and Georg Kantor; physicist Erwin Schrodinger; Franklin Delano Roosevelt; and Mohammed and Jesus Christ. Opposed to them are the Aristotelians -- figures like Henry Kissinger, Bertrand Russel, John Locke, Adolf Hitler, H. G. Wells, Isaac Newton, and Jeremy Bentham.

LaRouche believes that, since ancient times, the Aristotelians have worked to enslave the masses "by opposing technology with environmentalism, encouraging drug use, controlling the world economy, and, most of all, by demoralizing everyone with a world view in which all truth is relative." The Platonists like LaRouche believe truth is absolute, not relative. Like the philosopher-kings described in Plato's Republic, the members of LaRouche's elite claim to be rightful rulers because they possess unquestionable wisdom.

Author Johnson continues:

With Platonism defined as good and Aristotelianism as evil, LaRouche has squeezed the history of philosophy into a conspiracy theory in which everyone is on one side or the other. He sees Aristotelianism as a tool the British have honed into a weapon to demoralize mankind with a world view in which a snail darter has as much right to life as a human; where aborigines are not inferior, just different. And LaRouche points out, it was such British empiricists as John Locke, Bishop Berkeley, and David Hume who developed Aristotle's emphasis on the observable to the extent that they believed only the world discerned by the senses is real. As LaRouche sees it, British philosopher Jeremy Bentham's utilitarian morality is based entirely on the senses:

good is what maximizes pleasure for most people. British economist Adam Smith's capitalism is also rooted in the senses, LaRouche says: it is based on hedonism, the pleasure-pain principle. The capitalists brainwash the people into believing the purpose of life is to consume all they can. Then they maximize profits by ensuring that supply never quite matches demand. 57

The Platonic ideal embraced by LaRouche is Progress. Science, technology, and economics must be arranged to promote progress. If man can use the earth's resources to support an increasing density of human beings, then man is progressing. If man, instead, looks at dwindling fossilfuel reserves, recoils in fear, and calls for limits to population growth, man is reverting to the Dark Ages -- just as the conspirators planned.

Lyndon LaRouche and his adherents see the world as manipulated by supra-national forces that the average citizen knows little or nothing about. These forces create war, famine, and pestilence to increase their power and wealth and prevent the average man from challenging the oligarchies. While traditional right-wing conspiracy theorists would agree that hidden forces (a shadow government, if you like) manipulate world events from behind the scenes, they would probably identify these forces as such internationalist elite networks as the Trilateral Commission or the moguls of international finance. LaRouche goes further, however. He traces this conspiracy to enslave mankind in an Aristotelian Dark Ages world to the British crown and the aristocratic "blue-blood" families of Europe.

A special report issued by <u>Executive Intelligence Review</u> in 1981 tells us:

To this point, most enemies of the Trilateral Commission follow us, identifying the conspiracy in terms of the 'Eastern Establishment' network of elite financier families 'like the Rockefellers.'

These families, however, are allied and often intermarried with the generally wealthier and much more powerful families of the British aristocracy, whose old ducal family leadership is centered in the household of the English Queen.

Thus, 'mother' to the Trilateral Commission is, one might say, Queen Elizabeth II -- that is, the Empire families of the old English and Scotch-border Anglican noble hierarchy, relative to whom the Cabots, Lodges, Harrimans, Russells, Sages, and such relatively wealthy (for American) individuals and families of the Rockefellers are mere parvenus 58

The report goes on to trace the British monarchs to the families of the "black nobility" of the 13th and 14th centuries. These families were based in Venice and Genoa and, LaRouche says, were responsible for the "unravelling of European civilization and the general depopulation of the continent which culminated in the 'Black Death' of the 1350s."59

The British crown, as the present-day descendants of the "black nobility," is the prime mover in the campaign to destroy Western civilization and create a modern Dark Ages era. "We must save our youth and our nation from the destruction the British monarchy has projected for us," LaRouche once proclaimed. According to LaRouche, the British crown is waging a \$200 billion annual drug war against the United States. In a meticulously-detailed

400-page book released in 1978 and entitled <u>Dope, Inc.</u>, the nature of the drug war is described. According to <u>MacLeans</u> for 29 October 1979:

The report accuses the Royal Bank of Canada of having directly ordered the government of Guyana to plant marijuana to raise foreign exchange income; four other banks (Montreal, Nova Scotia, Toronto Dominion and Commerce) of being 'intimately implicated' in laundering drug money out of Southeast Asia; the Hudson's Bay Co. of being a mere front for the 'grand old families of opium trade'; and CP Air of being responsible for carrying (knowingly) much of the heroin that reaches North America. There's an entire chapter devoted to exposing the evil machinations of the Bronfman family, who 'funded the FLQ (Front de Liberation du Quebec) as an extension of earlier efforts to assassinate DeGaulle.'

Appearing on the NBC television program "First Camera" on 4 March, 1984, LaRouche was asked: "Do you really believe the Queen of England is a dope pusher?" He replied: "Of course she's pushing drugs -- that is in a sense of a responsibility: the head of a gang that is pushing drugs; she knows it's happening and she isn't stopping it."62

LaRouche's obsession with the supposed machinations of the British crown and British intelligence is a relatively new phenomenon. Earlier, he had set his sights on the Rockefeller family as the cause of all evil in the world. Typical of the NCLC/USLP position on the Rockefellers is a newspaper article that appeared in New Solidarity some years ago. As cited by author Gary Allen: "The following, which appeared under the subtle heading: 'YOU HAVE ONLY A FEW WEEKS TO LIVE . . . UNLESS YOU STOP ROCKY NOW' is typical: 'The U.S. is on the edge of thermonuclear war! Unless

ordinary people come out to protest now, the drunken Rockefeller's insane game gives you and your children a few weeks or even days before the hydrogen bombs start dropping on you!'"

In the NCLC theoretical journal <u>The Campaigner</u> for July 1975 we read:

The world stands on the threshold of the greatest dangers and the greatest promise it has faced in decades. Rockefeller will use any political loophole to try to clamp down his police terror regime. His vision is 1946: terror bombing of millions in Japan, massive European Communist Parties doomed to impotence, whole populations starved into submission. Again he aims to be lord of the rubble -- the rubble of Brazil, Western Europe, and the United States. 64

Apparently, the decision to shift attention from the Rockefellers to the House of Windsor coincided with the revelation that the NCLC had once borrowed money from the Chase Manhattan Bank, flagship of the Rockefeller empire. Suddenly, David Rockefeller, whom LaRouche once accused of plotting a "program for work reorganization . . . modeled after the conceptions of Hitler's finance minister," became less prominent in the pages of the LaRouche publications. 65

The new evil is centered in London. LaRouche has written: "The ruling British elite . . . are clever animals, who are masters of the wicked nature of their own species, and recognize ferally the distinctions of the hated human species." He has also said that Oxford University invented Zionism and that "Israel is ruled from London as a zombie-nation." He claims that neo-Nazis working with

networks of Freemasons are responsible for Palestinian terrorism and that both Nazis and Zionists are British controlled. To him, the Middle East crisis is a British operation to destabilize the region, furthering the oligarchs' attempts to take over the world. Rock and roll is a British scheme to brainwash American youth. Henry Kissinger is an agent of British intelligence as well as a Soviet agent.

Traditionally, the LaRouche forces have been pro-Soviet, seeing the Kremlin as the "ultimate enemy of Rockefeller" and champions of scientific and technological progress as opposed to the no-growth Malthusian "kooks" financed by Britain. LaRouche, for example, attacked the Solidarity movement in Poland and lauded the brutal Gen. Wojceich Jaruzelski (who militarized the Polish nation at the behest of his masters in Moscow in 1981). Lately, however, LaRouche's position has shifted. The Soviets are indeed bent on world domination and the United States needs to embark on a crash program to develop anti-missile beam weapons to deter a Soviet attack. Kissinger is a Soviet mole and former Vice President Walter F. Mondale is a "Soviet agent of influence." The NBC television network is riddled with KGB agents and is called the "National Bolshevik Company."

Two major villains in the LaRouche view are the Club of Rome and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The Club of

Rome (an elite "think tank" committed to population control and environmentalism) is accused of planning the genocide of 2 billion human beings by the year 2000 and the IMF is accused of plotting to kill millions of "useless eaters" in the Third World in order to assure that the debtor nations honor their obligations to the international bankers. The austerity measures imposed by the IMF on the debtor nations are responsible for the spread of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) in central Africa. AIDS itself may be a form of bacteriological warfare unleashed to radically reduce the world's population per Club of Rome dictates.

According to LaRouche, environmentalism is cult that can be traced back to ancient pagan sun-worshipping sects like Isis. Former Secretary of State Alexander Haig and the late Rep. Larry McDonald (a leader of The John Birch Society) plotted to assassinate President Reagan and Pope John Paul II. Swiss bankers, neo-Nazis, the CIA, FBI, KGB, and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) were also implicated in the plot, which was supposedly coordinated by a 20th century extension of the medieval Hospitalers, a rival of the Knights Templars.

Also, President Jimmy Carter was planning mass murder on a global scale because his administration issued the Global 2000 report. The late Democratic Party stalwart, Ambassador Averell Harriman, was a fascist because his family supposedly supported eugenics research. Henry

Kissinger was involved in the murder of Italian premier Aldo Moro and is a homosexual. The conservative Heritage Foundation is an "outpost of British intelligence" and economist Milton Friedman is tied to organized crime. Solar-power enthusiasts are linked to the Nazis because the swastika was an ancient solar symbol. Former White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan is involved in drug trafficking. Adolf Hitler was an agent of the British.

Walter Mondale is a tool of Cargill, the giant international grain cartel which is heavily implicated in a scheme to create a famine in America by breaking the farmer through the importation of Argentinean wheat. Former Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker used tight monetary policies to "Africanize" the American continent in order to increase the spread of AIDS "pandemic." The Gramm-Rudman law is part and parcel of Volcker's plan to reduce Americans to starvation living standards. The State Department is "the biggest hot bed of treason in this Nation since Aaron Burr killed Alexander Hamilton." Former OMB director David Stockman is an agent of the Socialist International. Former Democratic National Committee (DNC) chairman Charles Manatt is controlled by organized crime. The National Education Association (NEA) serves the interests of those who would allow the Soviets to achieve world hegemony. The Anti-Defamation League is the "American Drug Lobby." Stanford Research Institute engineered the drug culture of the 1960s.

The Tavistock Institute in Britain is conspiring to create an Orwellian world order.

Such is but a sampling of the theories promoted by, and the charges made by, the LaRouchies. Far from embracing a coherent political ideology, their philosophy is but a strange concoction of peculiar and offbeat theories and extrapolations. While kernels of truth can be found in many of LaRouche's statements (nobody, for example, doubts that Paul Volcker's deflationary monetary policies were highly controversial and contributed to the deep 1981-82 recession), the extrapolations and conclusions derived from these truths are woven into such a complicated and incredible conspiratorial view of world events that one finds them difficult, if not impossible, to accept. These theories do not remain static, however. They shift and alter according to the whims of Lyndon LaRouche.

Despite the lack of a unified and comprehensible ideology which can be easily pegged on a normal left-right political spectrum, it cannot be denied that LaRouche maintains a definite attachment to his socialist past. In pursuit of the LaRouchean ideal of technological progress and re-industrialization, the federal government would have to assume the leading role in guiding and directing the economy (interestingly enough, one of the political figures most admired by LaRouche is Franklin D. Roosevelt, the man most responsible for the modern interventionist state).

Market forces could not be trusted to allocate the vast resources necessary for LaRouche's many "Manhattan"-style crash projects. Some of LaRouche's most notable proposals have included the immediate development of beam weapons, the colonization of Mars, a tariff on imported oil, a world parity price policy to support financially-strapped farmers, debt moratoria and the creation of new credit based on goldbacked bonds to finance investment in large-scale infrastructure projects and stimulate expanded world trade, the restructuring of farm loans at extremely low rates of interest (as low as 2%) and a moratorium on all farm foreclosures. None of these proposals fits the strict definition of either "right" or "left." Populist-oriented rightwingers as well as Jesse Jackson Democrats might back the moratorium on farm foreclosures and parity prices. Many liberals have endorsed an oil import fee to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign sources. Conservatives are attracted by the development of defensive beam weapon technology. Conservatives like the idea of gold-based currency, but would likely distrust artificially-created credit on the part of the state. The far left would probably endorse the restructuring of farm loans at below-market rates.

In the final analysis, it really matters little whether the LaRouche movement has a specific ideology or not. What matters to his followers is the word of Lyndon LaRouche. As in any cult, the word of the leader is holy writ, not to be

questioned or debated, regardless of how bizarre it might be. The devotion of his followers is not to an ideology, it is to Lyndon LaRouche himself.

CHAPTER FOUR

THE ROLE OF THE LAROUCHE MOVEMENT IN PRESENT-DAY AMERICAN POLITICS

The year 1986 marked the high point of the LaRouche movement's effort to insinuate itself into the American political mainstream. The astounding victories of Mark Fairchild and Janice Hart in the Illinois Democratic primary in March stunned Democratic Party officials across the country and set them scrambling to prevent other such occurrences in later primaries.

While most Democrats dismissed the Illinois victories as a fluke caused by voter ignorance, apathy, and, possibly, prejudice (a preference for Anglo-sounding names rather than the ethnic names of their opponents), at least one pollster did claim to understand the appeal of the LaRouche candidates and to forecast a possible victory. Michael McKeon wrote a memo in January 1985 that was ignored by gubernatorial candidate Adlai Stevenson's organization.

McKeon wrote about "the trend among blue-collar and union workers to move away from both parties . . . This trend seems to accelerate in areas where major threats to their home and family exist . . . An example of this is the growth of the LaRouche party in areas plagued by crime and unemployment, such as the Joliet, Ill. area." McKeon went on to describe victories by LaRouche supporters in

local Illinois elections, and added: "In interviews with union households who expressed a willingness to vote for LaRouche party candidates, most had no idea of what the party stood for, but were fed up with the way the two major parties were handling crime and unemployment issues." 68

"People are frustrated," McKeon concluded. "They want action. And that's what the LaRouche people promised, action on crime and action on jobs. The real issue is people losing their jobs The major problem is that people don't see any difference between the two parties. And the more the parties move toward the middle, the more they look the same."

LaRouche candidates contested almost 4,000 Democratic primaries and general elections in over thirty states between 1982 and 1988. Fund-raisers brought in tens of millions of dollars while the NDPC candidates attracted over four million votes, including voting percentages above ten percent in hundreds of contests. In at least seventy statewide, congressional, or state legislative races, LaRouchies received more than twenty percent of the vote. At least 25 appeared on the general election ballot as Democratic Party nominees, either by defeating a regular Democratic opponent or by running unopposed in the primary. None was elected to any public office higher than local school boards or city councils. Hundreds won Democratic Party posts (mostly county committee seats) across the country.70

In 1982, Mel Klenetsky, LaRouche's candidate for mayor of New York City the previous year, polled over 162,000 votes in his unsuccessful primary campaign against incumbent Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan. He obtained the support of Long Island Teamster powerhouse John Cody as well as several Laborers International Union officials. Steve Douglas polled 19% in the Pennsylvania Democratic gubernatorial primary, placing second out of four candidates. Debra Freeman drew 19% of the vote in the Democratic primary against Barbara Mikulski for a Maryland House seat. Pat O'Reilly, former Minnesota state president of the American Agriculture Movement (AAM), polled 32% of the vote in a congressional primary race. 71

1984 proved to be an even better year for LaRouche.
Family farmer Don Scott ran as the NDPC candidate in Ohio's
7th Congressional District and beat the regular Democrat by
a sizable margin. He garnered a quarter of the vote in the
general election. In Pennsylvania, the NDPC contested
twelve congressional seats, receiving 46% in the 17th
Congressional District and over 20% in four others. A
California LaRouche-backed candidate for Congress polled
nearly half of the vote in the Democratic primary. In
Georgia, a LaRouche Democrat captured more than one-third of
the vote in a runoff election for a U.S. House seat.
LaRouchies won 56 suburban county committee seats (including
all 31 of the seats they sought in Du Page County) in

Chicago in 1984. The National Democratic Policy Committee claimed its candidates drew almost two million votes nationally in 1984.72

Lyndon LaRouche fielded more than 800 candidates in Democratic primaries across the country in 1986 -- 14 for the U.S. Senate, 7 for governor, 157 for the House of Representatives in 27 states, and more than 600 for various state offices. Ten of the 1986 candidates made the ballot in November as Democratic nominees (four by winning primaries, six by filing for uncontested nominations). Oklahoma's NDPC U.S. Senate contender polled 33% of the vote in a two-way race. An NDPC candidate for the U.S. Senate in Indiana polled 26% on a platform pledging an end to factory closings and farm foreclosures. A LaRouche nominee for the Idaho state legislature won 41% of the vote in the general election. The NDPC claimed about fifty victories in races for positions within the Democratic Party, mostly county committee seats. Altogether, well over a million votes were cast for LaRouche supporters in the post-Illinois primaries and general elections of 1986.73

In California, LaRouche backers involved themselves in the initiative process, gathering enough signatures to qualify an AIDS quarantine initiative for the November 1986 ballot, but it was soundly defeated. A second AIDS measure was placed on the ballot in June 1988, but it received only 32% of the vote.⁷⁴

Lyndon LaRouche has met with some success in his campaign to gain a toehold in American electoral politics because of his clever ability to emphasize pressing issues that appeal to popular frustrations and court key constituencies.

For example, LaRouche has developed a strong following in the depression-wracked farming areas of the Midwest. LaRouche-backed candidates in the Farm Belt have attracted considerable support. Tommy Kersey, the Georgia farm organizer long associated with the militant American Agriculture Movement, has crisscrossed the Midwest speaking on the LaRouche platform. LaRouche's 1984 vice presidential running-mate was Mississippi farmer Billy Davis. Pat "Family Farmer" O'Reilly, the well-known Minnesota farm organizer, has been identified with LaRouche in the past and has run for public office under the NDPC banner. According to the <u>Village Voice</u> for 1 April 1986: "LaRouche politicks among farmers in the Midwest through regular conference calls where Billy Davis and other organizers mix talk about the price of hogs with discussions of the destructive influence of the IMF."75 A new LaRouche front called Food for Peace has held at least 25 recruitment meetings in mostly rural areas across the country since Labor Day, 1988 in order to mobilize financially-distressed farmers.76

LaRouche has also courted the black vote, running black candidates for city council in Atlanta and elsewhere. Roy

Innis, the former director of the Congress on Racial Equality (CORE), appears at LaRouche functions, as did Hulan Jack, the former Manhattan borough president prior to his death.

LaRouche has packaged his anti-population control views to appeal to the "pro-life" movement. In 1982, LaRouchie William Wertz attracted the support of anti-abortionists in his unsuccessful primary bid for the Senate seat sought by then-California governor Jerry Brown.

In the summer of 1982, <u>New Solidarity</u> announced plans to "draft LaRouche" for president in 1984. The movement's supporters included an unusual combination of leaders of Hispanic groups, farm organizations, and labor union locals, as well as Baptist ministers and a few engineers and college professors. The roster included a woman identified as an official of the National Black Women's Political Leadership Caucus and a leader of the Student Government Association at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

As the LaRouche movement attracted new and widespread public attention due to the Illinois wins and the ongoing campaign to infiltrate the Democratic Party nationally (interestingly, some have speculated that the reason LaRouche chose to target the Democratic Party was due to the fact that the Party -- following the political demise of George Wallace -- lacked an organized right wing, providing the fertile territory necessary to recruit millions of

disenchanted voters), the LaRouche fund-raising methods came under closer scrutiny. Reports of wealthy senior citizens duped into contributing to the movement surfaced all across the country.

One case involved Charles R. Zimmerman, a 79-year old retired Bethlehem Steel executive from Sarasota, Florida. Zimmerman said he invested \$200,000 in a partnership with LaRouche associates that purchased WTRI, a small AM radio station in Brunswick, Maryland in early 1986. He said he does not recall how much money he has given or loaned organizations with ties to LaRouche -- mainly the Fusion Energy Foundation -- but one estimate puts the total at more than \$1 million. Receipts show that Zimmerman sent at least 24 overnight letters by Federal Express between Christmas 1985 and late February 1986. Zimmerman said each contained a check. Some were sent on successive days. 78

Zimmerman, an elderly, forgetful, and bewildered multimillionaire, claimed he was duped into making loans and
contributions to LaRouche front groups. Apparently under
the impression that LaRouche was a conservative, Mr.
Zimmerman was "persuaded" by the typical high-pressure
LaRouche tactics to sign over money to the movement.

Another case involved retired Monterey County

(California) rancher Scott Roddick and his wife Alma. The

Roddicks' problems began with a \$1 purchase spent at a

Washington airport in the late 1970s. Mrs. Roddick was

lured to the LaRouche booth in the airport terminal while waiting for relatives to collect her baggage. The LaRouchies obtained the address and telephone number of the couple from the one-dollar check Mrs. Roddick wrote to pay for a brochure.

The LaRouchies called the Roddicks repeatedly, sometimes several times a day. Many of their political views seemed in tune with those of the conservative Roddicks.

Although agreeing to subscribe to some of LaRouche's publications, they did not give any money. That's when LaRouche fund-raisers began to appear on the couple's doorstep. Instead of soliciting contributions, the fund-raisers offered business deals to the Roddicks. Claiming cash flow problems, they asked for short-term loans. The Roddicks agreed — making total loans of over \$30,000. When the notes came due, the Roddicks could not even locate the LaRouche backers who prodded them to loan the money. Not a penny was ever repaid."

Michael Hudson, a New York City economist, said the Roddicks "shouldn't be embarrassed about it . . . I was taken in myself. I loaned (some of the same organizations) a great deal of money. It turned out that they never had any intention of repaying it."

Other complaints were filed by the Swansons, a
Baltimore couple, and a Mrs. Bradley, 75, of Modesto,
California. Mrs. Swanson said her husband, 61, who was

impaired by a stroke, received repeated telephone calls from a woman seeking loans or contributions for LaRouche. She said that her husband would listen on the phone for hours, often trembling and in tears, and that he was persuaded to make \$5,000 in loans. She also said an additional sum of \$500 was charged to her but that she hadn't authorized such a donation. Mrs. Bradley said she had made loans of \$30,950 to a corporation with links to LaRouche. She said she has not been repaid and the money is most of her life's savings.⁸¹

On 14 October 1988, LaRouche was indicted by a federal grand jury on thirteen counts of mail fraud, conspiracy to commit mail fraud, and conspiracy to defraud the Internal Revenue Service. Six of LaRouche's associates were also indicted. The indictment claimed LaRouche and company conspired to raise more than \$30 million in loans that they never planned to repay. LaRouche was charged with scheming to defraud the IRS by having all his personal expenses paid by various corporations he controlled and claiming he had no taxable income. Government prosecutors said LaRouche had not filed federal income tax returns for any year since 1978. On 17 December, the perennial presidential candidate was convicted, along with chief fund-raiser William Wertz, chief legal officer Edward Spannaus, and fund-raisers Michael Billington, Paul Greenberg, Joyce Rubinstein, and Dennis Small. The jury returned its conviction after less

than twelve hours of deliberation, following a 3½ week trial. During the trial, it was revealed that in 1986, as the LaRouche organization was defaulting on millions of dollars in loans, it was making an estimated \$500,000 in improvements to LaRouche's heavily guarded Leesburg, Virginia estate, including a swimming pool, riding ring, pond, guest house, and a \$67,000 road.82

On 27 January 1989, U.S. District Judge Albert Bryan sentenced Lyndon LaRouche to fifteen years in prison and ordered him to begin serving his prison term immediately. LaRouche, who faced a maximum of 65 years in prison and \$3.2 million in fines, could be eligible for parole in five years. The six co-defendants were ordered to begin serving sentences ranging from three to five years. They were fined between \$6,000 and \$11,000. LaRouche claimed his conviction and sentencing was part of a government campaign to eliminate him from the political scene and said his prosecution had done grave damage to the United States abroad. Both he and his supporters say he will be killed in prison. While defense attorney Odin Anderson requested that his client be allowed to remain free on bond pending appeal, Judge Bryan refused, saying he saw no legal or factual matter likely to result in a successful appeal of LaRouche's conviction.

It is quite possible that the LaRouche movement died on the day he and his top aides were sentenced to prison.

However, with parole possible in five short years, it would be wrong to write the movement off as a factor in the wild and wooly world of American fringe politics. Eugene V. Debs continued to run the American socialist movement while behind bars during the First World War. Only time will tell whether the LaRouche organization can survive this serious setback to its cause.

CONCLUSION

The noted conservative political analyst Kevin Phillips has often warned of the serious threat of a radicalized middle class in the United States. Both the successes of George Wallace in his four presidential campaigns and those of Ronald Reagan in 1980 and 1984 can be interpreted as an incipient radicalization.

George Wallace was truly the apostle of the middle class counter-revolution against big government and modern liberalism in the 1960s and 1970s. The depth of the "bourgeois" discontent with a government that seemed only to serve the interests of the very rich and very poor was evidenced by the fact that Wallace drew his greatest support from lower-middle class, blue-collar workers, not from the upper-middle class professionals and managers who went for the orthodox conservatism of Barry Goldwater in 1964.

As Wallace passed from the national scene, the bulk of his middle class following shifted to Ronald Reagan, a man seemingly closer to the orthodox conservatism of Goldwater/Buckley than the fiery populism of George Wallace. Yet, Reagan, a more clever and perceptive politician than Goldwater, saw the Wallace constituency as a potential base of support and ably cultivated it with sharp rhetoric on social issues like crime, busing, and abortion, as well as

on "bread and butter" issues like taxes and welfare
"ripoffs." Indeed, it was the votes of "crossover" Wallace
Democrats that helped Reagan win crucial primary victories
in 1976.83

With Reagan's exit from the presidency, the American middle class finds itself without a champion for the first time in a quarter of a century. George Bush, despite all the populist rhetoric employed during his 1988 presidential campaign against Michael Dukakis, is still perceived as an aristocratic Ivy Leaguer unable to connect with middle America, the folks who saw Archie Bunker as a hero, not a pariah. The Democratic Party, still controlled to this day by its McGovern wing, is unable to produce any national leader who appeals to the middle class, their fears, frustrations, and cultural values. Certainly, Michael Dukakis does not gain much support in the heartland by proclaiming himself an "ACLU liberal."

Lyndon LaRouche, with his checkered political background and many unfathomable views, is hardly a plausible
successor to Wallace or Reagan. However, he has been able
to dupe many sincere Americans who were and still are interested in hearing a hard-line approach to drugs and AIDS as
well as the need to save the family farm and high-paying
industrial jobs. Like any adept demagogue, LaRouche knows
how to hit emotional buttons and appear to offer concrete
solutions to social problems the politicians are unable or

unwilling to address in a forceful fashion. In 1986, two
Furman University professors interviewed a random sample of
the thousands of LaRouche campaign donors listed with the
Federal Election Commission (FEC). Their survey found that
LaRouche contributors tended to be "populist" conservatives,
"profoundly uncomfortable with modern America and
susceptible to conspiratorial explanations of their
distress."

To many, LaRouche's views offered "a plausible
answer" to the question of who controls their lives.

Think back to 1933 Germany. Adolf Hitler rose to power as a result of middle class frustration, a frustration with the ineptitude of the Weimar governments, the cruelty of Versailles, and economic depression. To many Germans, the National Socialist Party was the only political force offering swift and decisive action on a variety of issues.

The government's recent crackdown on LaRouche's fraudulent fund-raising tactics may well have broken the back of the movement, condemning it to political extinction in short order. Regardless of whether the movement lives on or dies, it represents a mere symptom of a more basic difficulty in our political system: the idea that the "average man" has lost control of his government to an assortment of demons (the perennial "they") who act not in the national interest, but in their own private interest. You can call these demons politicians, international bankers, Zionists, Trilateralists, Rockefellers, or whatever. As long as such

a perception exists in the minds of so many, there will always be a receptive audience for the likes of Lyndon Hermyle LaRouche.

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