

Driver had a stroke while testifying. After Mrs. Driver's stroke, the judge declared a mistrial.

It was later revealed that, after Mrs. Driver suffered a stroke, Schumacher, NBC producer Lynch, and Driver's daughter, Mary Ann Ploch, continued to attempt to coerce Driver into giving false testimony against Fredman and Noble-Schenk.

It was also revealed that Ploch, Mrs. Driver's "loyal" daughter, had instructed doctors not to resuscitate her mother if her mother slipped into a coma. All three went to the nursing home where Driver was a patient and pressured her to give an interview to NBC and testify against Fredman and Noble-Schenk. Fragments of the interview were subsequently featured May 21 on a national NBC Nightly News television broadcast attacking LaRouche and his associates.

When Fredman and Noble-Schenk subpoenaed portions of the videotape of these interviews which NBC did not show on the air, Schumacher dropped the charges against them.

Schumacher's baseless criminal charges became a major focus for the "Get LaRouche" strike force's nationwide operations against LaRouche's associates. On numerous occasions Schumacher represented, on the record, that his real aim in the prosecution was to stop the political activity associated with LaRouche. NBC broadcast the charges. Mira Bolland of the Anti-Defamation League, which has coordinated and facilitated the extra-legal witchhunt against LaRouche supporters, was scheduled to appear as a witness for prosecutor Schumacher in the Driver case. Loudoun County, Virginia Sheriff's Deputy Don Moore had testified that this was a test case to bring criminal charges against LaRouche associates in connection with selling political literature.

Malicious prosecution

The civil rights suit charges Schumacher, Lynch, and Ploch with conspiracy, extortion, and malicious prosecution. The suit alleges that the defendants "conspired together to obtain baseless indictments against Fredman and Noble-Schenk for the improper purposes of punishing them for their exercises of constitutionally protected First Amendment political activity, cutting off political contributions to and support of the organizations and activities supporting the political movement led by LaRouche, utilizing an Illinois grand jury and a criminal prosecution to improperly attempt to extort the payment of money by the Plaintiffs to a private individual, and utilizing the discovery mechanism of grand jury subpoenas to obtain information for a private law firm to use in preparing a planned civil lawsuit to harass and intimidate political supporters and contributors to political organizations in support of LaRouche."

In so doing, the complaint continues, "Dennis Schumacher acted outside his legitimate role as a prosecutor in utilizing the grand jury and criminal processes for purposes of political harassment and for promoting a civil lawsuit by a private party."

Interview: Denise Quinn

N.J. group demands: Let the governed rule

Denise Quinn is a first grade school teacher who became one of the initiating organizers of a rally of 10,000 people in Trenton, New Jersey on July 1 to protest Gov. James Florio's tax package. The rally, organized on an entirely grassroots basis, included a motorcade of several hundred cars. Many had festooned themselves and their cars with toilet paper, one of the items taxed under the new laws, and with tea bags, a reference to the Boston Tea Party. The rally organizers have vowed to continue to build the movement until they "straighten out government" and are now engaged in a petitioning campaign to raise the issue of recall of the governor and the legislature. The interview was conducted by Patricia Salisbury.

EIR: I know that you announced at the Trenton rally that that event was only the beginning. What are your current activities and plans?

Quinn: What we are basically doing right now is gathering some petitions which say that we want legislation that will permit me to recall you, the legislator, if I feel you are not representing me. . . .

EIR: Would this also permit recall of the governor?

Quinn: Right, to permit this when the government becomes too big for itself, and becomes a closed system, when the people's voices are not heard anymore. We would like the right to be able to do something about this. We live in a democracy, we don't live in a socialist government or a dictatorship and we feel that we are heading toward that, slowly but surely.

EIR: Is your petition a formal petition for the ballot?

Quinn: No, a petition only carries so much weight in New Jersey. The weight it will carry is that we will show up with hopefully one million signatures and present them to the governor. In his campaign speech, in his inaugural night, where he got elected—I have a copy of that—his last line says, "Keep talking, New Jersey, and I'll keep

listening.” . . . And all we are doing is talking, and we are going to see if he listens, when we show up with a million names or however many we show up with. . . .

EIR: How far along are you on the petitioning now?

Quinn: It’s really hard to tell. They’re out everywhere. Every time someone calls for a petition, I send one out. We get hundreds of letters every day asking for petitions. We sent out hundreds of petitions every day to people who make copies of them and send hundreds more of them out. They have not all been returned, people are saving them up. . . .

EIR: You seem to have quite a grassroots movement going.

Quinn: I think they [the governor and the legislators] actually organized it; they motivated the people to act when they gave themselves raises, because we were all angry, and everyone knows the facts that there is waste, and so on. But as soon as they gave themselves those raises I think they mobilized the people to act. They themselves started this grassroots movement, and that I think is the irony of the whole thing. . . . We’re just all regular people. People have contacted us, now we will not accept any political support at all. We’re non-partisan. We think it’s great if the Republicans want to jump on our band wagon, but we know things about the Republicans. We want to straighten out government. . . . People have joined together and it seems like this is a common cause that affects everyone, and it seems like everyone is going to do something. It’s unfortunate that we can’t get together like this about other problems in the world.

EIR: What kinds of things are you thinking of?

Quinn: The drug problem, the problem of the homeless. If people mobilized the way we have over this tax issue, I can’t see how we would have a problem anymore. . . .

EIR: And people don’t see these other issues the same way?

Quinn: If it doesn’t affect you, you are not prone to move as quickly. On this tax package they hit everyone in some way. They lied to us. They are tricking us, they are looking at us as ignorant people who don’t know what they are doing, and they don’t want us involved in government. Their attitude is, “Leave us alone.”

EIR: That is pretty funny, given that they are elected public officials.

Quinn: And I think we’ve brought it upon ourselves by the mere fact that we are busy working people; we trust our government to make good decisions for us. That’s their job, that’s why we have them there; we pay them to represent us so that we can work and take care of our families. We have overlooked that we have not been watching them carefully, and they have become a closed system, and represent only their own political parties, and they are self-serving. That’s what we are all about—to change that.

EIR: Are you planning more rallies?

Quinn: Where there are people, that’s where we will be. We have not determined the exact sites yet. When we planned the Trenton rally we did it in nine-and-a-half days. . . . And we plan on getting people involved in the local government. We are trying to get them to show up to meetings of city councils and school boards, and propose they endorse the recall. There are several towns in which this has been done already. We are asking people to show up to these councils with a pad and a pen. That’s all. Draw a picture while you are sitting there.

We feel we have two choices: to do something, or to do nothing. We have already done nothing, and look where that has gotten us. . . . Our objective is to bring about change and that has already happened. . . . At the rally I went up to the crowd and I said, “You people are scary. It’s not because of the way you look”—they had tea bags hanging from their heads, they had toilet paper all over their bodies. I said it’s because you’re informed, you’re involved, you are madder than hell, and you’re not going to take it any more.

EIR: I had heard from press reports that a lot of this was organized through radio talk shows.

Quinn: I feel we were in the right place at the right time, which is listening to radio station WKXW. They have a type of talk show, and were discussing the tax issue, and they were flooded with calls, everyone just complaining and complaining. And [rally initiator] John was the original person who called first, and the disk jockey said to him, “I’m tired of you people complaining and not doing anything. Why don’t you people do something? John said, “I’ll get something going before the 4th of July. I’ll put my number on the air,” and so Pat called [another of the initiating organizers], and together they made “Hands Across New Jersey.” Maybe about 50 calls later I called, and was given the information, and then I took initiative: I made fliers and I made phone calls.

I called John back the next day, and I said, “I want to be your secretary. I want to do more,” and then we added a few more people. We stopped at seven main organizers because you can get carried away. People are just self-motivated. They are so self-motivated that they can’t get enough to do. They keep calling to ask, what can I do, what can I do? So my message to the politicians is that the people are not going to forget. If we were the motivating factor only, they might forget, but they are self-motivating. And when people are informed and involved and madder than hell all by themselves, and all we are doing is giving them a little organization, they are not going to forget.

EIR: Are you a civics teacher?

Quinn: I teach first grade. The reason I started this is because I like to pursue the truth of matters, and I feel as long as you are pursuing the truth, you can’t go wrong. . . .