

Judge protects Ollie North, ADL cronies

by Bruce Director

With the Roanoke, Virginia trial of three LaRouche associates entering its seventh week, Judge Clifford R. Weckstein continued to cover up for his cronies in the Iran-Contra "secret government" and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. Dropping all pretense of impartiality, Judge Weckstein quashed subpoenas for Oliver North and three Virginia ADL officials who had attempted to bribe Weckstein himself, who were being called as hostile witnesses by the defense.

The defense attorneys sought these witnesses' testimony in order to prove that defendants Anita Gallagher, Paul Gallagher, and Laurence Hecht, accused of "securities fraud" by the Commonwealth of Virginia, were in fact soliciting legitimate political loans that could not be repaid because of a "political enemies" operation run by a "Get LaRouche" task force which wielded U.S. government resources for its private evil ends.

North had been subpoenaed to testify about how he, as a staffer of Reagan's National Security Council, engaged in covert actions against Lyndon LaRouche and associates because they opposed North's illegal Contra supply operation. North's attorneys moved to quash the subpoena asserting North's Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination. They said North was still under investigation for possible criminal prosecution concerning the very activity he was being asked to testify about. Defense attorneys had demanded that North at least be required to take the stand and invoke the Fifth before the jury, but Judge Weckstein refused.

Taking the stand for the defense, Richard Morris, a former aide to former National Security Adviser William Clark in 1981-83, testified that LaRouche and his associates provided the National Security Council with valuable information on various areas of national security. Morris said that it was LaRouche's opposition to the Contra policy which generated hostility among the Project Democracy group in the NSC. Morris named Walter Raymond, Roy Godson, and Kenneth deGraffenried as LaRouche's main antagonists. He said that it was then-Major Oliver North who ran the covert operations for Project Democracy.

Weckstein also quashed subpoenas for Murray Janus, a National Commissioner of the ADL, Ira Gissen, the Virginia regional director of the ADL, and John Lichtenstein, Janus's law partner and a family friend of Judge Weckstein. All three were involved in the now-infamous effort by the ADL to

bribe Judge Weckstein. In his opening statement, defense attorney Don Randolph told the jury they would hear testimony about the ADL's bribe offer, but Weckstein didn't want the jury to hear a word of it.

More ADL dirty tricks

Meanwhile, Weckstein has gone outside the courtroom to get help in keeping the anti-LaRouche railroad on track. On Dec. 14, a Jewish cemetery in Roanoke was desecrated by an unknown person. It is a well-known tactic of the ADL to sponsor such anti-Semitic activities. The desecration occurred the same weekend as the international Commission to Investigate Human Rights Violations began circulating a leaflet in Roanoke which exposed Judge Weckstein's corrupt links to the ADL and the *Roanoke Times and World-News*. On Dec. 18, the newspaper ran an editorial linking the graves desecration with the leaflet attacking Weckstein. The editorial claimed that "amid paranoid fantasy" the leaflet "contained more than a hint of anti-Semitism" because it attacked the ADL and accused Judge Weckstein of usury. Weckstein denied the defense attorneys' request to question the jurors to determine if they had been biased by the newspaper editorial.

The Commission on Human Rights Violations issued a response, which states in part:

"Is it a 'paranoid fantasy' that Judge Weckstein married the daughter of *Roanoke World News* editor John Eure? That Weckstein's brother-in-law Robert Eure is a political reporter for the paper? That the Eure family is still part owner of the paper? Perhaps the Judge would like to produce a divorce certificate, or show that the family has disowned him?"

"Did [*Roanoke Times and World News*] reporter Douglas Pardue not go to Bolivia in the Caballero dope case, with Weckstein's partner Bill Cleaveland? Did he not give the Caballero family a clean bill of health in his reports? What deal was arranged between the U.S. government and the Bolivians?"

"The leaflet describes the Anti-Defamation League as gangster-led, and says the ADL bribed Judge Weckstein in the LaRouche case. The judge admitted the bribe attempt on the record. Does the *Roanoke Times and World-News* deny that? Why didn't they report it when it happened, or later?"

"The leaflet says the *Roanoke Times and World-News* has carried on a propaganda war for seven years against the LaRouche political movement. Do they deny publishing those dozens of attacks? Will they try to collect back issues from the public libraries and burn them? . . .

"They claimed that the leaflet 'accuses Judge Clifford Weckstein of usury.' The leaflet quite precisely stated the facts on Weckstein's relations with the Lichtenstein family, and the unsavory nature of the Lichtenstein family business. Will someone deny this? Since the question of the ethnic or religious background of the usurers in question did not come up, why should the 'WASP' Roanoke newspaper bring it up?"