

'Get LaRouche' sheriff raided in FBI probe

by EIR Staff

On April 21, the FBI conducted a raid and seized documents from the Loudoun County Sheriff's Department in Leesburg, Virginia, pursuant to an ongoing investigation of the department, which played a key role in the frameup conviction of Lyndon LaRouche and several of his associates. Now it appears that the worm has turned against the corrupt sheriff and his cohorts.

The Sheriff's Department issued a press release saying that Sheriff John Isom was interviewed by two FBI agents about the "alleged investigation." The April 24 issue of the *Loudoun Times Mirror*, a newspaper which has run venomously biased coverage against LaRouche, printed a front-page banner headline about the raid, accompanied by a picture of FBI agents carting off boxes from the sheriff's office. According to the weekly, the FBI is investigating financial matters, disposal of seized items during arrests, and the office's relationship to the Armored Response Group of the United States (ARGUS).

ARGUS is a shadowy, private non-profit corporation founded by Isom, who is vice president, and a Col. Herbert Bryant, a sheriff from Mississippi who owns land in Loudoun County. ARGUS supposedly purchases police equipment which it donates to local police agencies.

ARGUS provided the armored personnel carrier used in the Oct. 6, 1986 raid against publishing companies and individuals associated with presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, who has his residence in the Northern Virginia county of Loudoun County. In that raid, nearly 400 heavily armed local, state, and federal agents, equipped with dogs and sledgehammers, descended on peaceful businesses under the pretext that LaRouche and his friends were prone to violence. The court order justifying such force cited affidavits in which Sheriff Isom's office blatantly lied that the LaRouche people were likely to violently resist arrest.

The Sheriff's Department may also be under investigation for sexual improprieties. According to sources, a female sheriff's deputy was promoted in exchange for providing sexual favors to her superiors.

Coverup ordered

According to a Sheriff's Department internal memorandum dated April 17, obtained by *EIR*, John Isom has ordered all employees of the Sheriff's Department not to speak to the FBI without first consulting the private attorneys representing the department, directing, "If any deputy or employee of the

Sheriff's Office is contacted by the FBI, that the attorney's office should be notified and would like to be present during any interview." The local press has reported that at least four sheriff's deputies have spoken with the FBI.

The Motion 2255 filed earlier this year by LaRouche's attorneys to free him from his current imprisonment and grant a new trial based on new evidence, specifies that the concert of illegal government and private action against LaRouche was centered in the Loudoun County sheriff's office. As early as 1985, Anti-Defamation League hate lobbyist Mira Lansky Boland was found in the Loudoun sheriff's office to coordinate such operations.

Not only is LaRouche languishing, as he serves a 15-year sentence, but several of his associates face multi-decade draconian terms in Virginia state frameups for alleged "securities fraud."

Linked to statewide corruption

The corruption now coming to light in Loudoun County is part of a statewide pattern of corruption in Virginia, involving Attorney General Mary Sue Terry and other Democratic Party officials. The obscene rivalry of the Terry-Isom combination with the federal agents, over who would make the biggest public relations splash in the raid against LaRouche, was exposed last year and was even denounced by the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, the state's major daily, which is far from friendly to LaRouche.

In January, the sheriff of Bristol, Virginia, Marshall Honaker, committed suicide after the FBI and Internal Revenue Service seized documents from his office and home. Honaker was under investigation for skimming money that was paid to the Sheriff's Department to house federal inmates in the county jail. The department had received \$55 a day from the federal government, while it only cost \$6 a day to house the inmates. Honaker kept his costs low by using the inmates to grow food on a prison farm. Honaker was also suspected of using inmate labor for a profit-making tobacco farm. Honaker was also being investigated for possible connections to pornography distributors. After he killed himself, stacks of pornographic videotapes were found in Honaker's office.

Honaker figured large in Virginia Democratic Party circles, and like Isom, played a prominent role in Mary Sue Terry's election apparatus. Before he killed himself, Honaker was elected president of the National Sheriffs Association and was scheduled to be given the man of the year award from the U.S. Marshals Service. He had been appointed to several statewide task forces by Gov. L. Douglas Wilder and Terry. According to the *Roanoke Times and News World*, "The money was supposed to go into city coffers. But city officials rarely questioned Honaker, a Democratic kingpin who had been sheriff since 1973 and kept a double set of books to conceal his thefts. Instead, city officials seemed content that Honaker's jail ran at no cost to the city in recent years and was touted as a national model."