

EIR Investigation

Wall Street Tory John Train revives 'Get LaRouche' salon

by Jeffrey Steinberg

Early this year, writer Christopher Byron pitched a story idea to the editors of *Worth* magazine, a glossy New York City-based publication that caters to an audience of upper-middle-class stock market and mutual fund investors. According to sources at *Worth*, which started out as an in-house publication for clients of a major Boston mutual fund, Byron proposed to do a piece on a "dangerous cult" headed by Lyndon LaRouche. *Worth* accepted Byron's story proposal and the article is scheduled to appear later this year, perhaps in the July-August 1994 issue. Lawrence Hooper, Byron's editor at *Worth*, refused to provide *EIR* with the exact publication date, but acknowledged that the article is already in the editing stage.

Byron, who has already published one slander against LaRouche in the Oct. 5, 1992 issue of *New York* magazine, covering for the Bush administration's stonewalling of the Pan Am Flight 103 probe, makes no bones about the fact that he has consulted with Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) official Mira Lansky Boland in preparation for the *Worth* story. Back-and-forth discussions between Byron and several *EIR* writers revealed that his forthcoming article follows a story line crafted by the ADL and other participants at a series of highly illegal secret planning sessions held during the early to mid-1980s. Those sessions led to federal and state railroad prosecutions against LaRouche and a score of his associates during 1985-88.

Documentation of those secret gatherings, which took place at the Manhattan townhome of Wall Street investment counsellor John Train, is on file with the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. In a string of civil and criminal cases between 1984 and 1993, attorneys for the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) and the ADL, along with U.S. and state prosecutors in Massachusetts, New York, and Virginia,

systematically withheld evidence about the Train gatherings that would have led to the acquittal of all LaRouche associates, on the grounds that they had been framed up by a secret, combined government and private task force, whose co-conspirators knew all along that LaRouche and his associates were entirely innocent. Had the truth about those meetings come out, NBC and the ADL could have been fined millions of dollars, and could have been enjoined by court order from circulating further slanders against LaRouche. In sum, none of the subsequent federal and state prosecutions would have been even conceivable, had the truth about the Train sessions come out in court.

The pawprints

The pawprints of John Train are all over the planned Byron smear job, which was initiated at about the same time that Lyndon LaRouche was being released from federal prison in late January 1994, after having served five years behind bars:

- Mira Lansky Boland, the former CIA employee who served as the liaison between the ADL and federal and state prosecutors throughout the 1980s, and who is one of Byron's "sources" for the LaRouche story, was a participant in the Train-led meetings. She was forced to admit her involvement only after she was subpoenaed to testify at an evidentiary hearing in the case *Commonwealth of Virginia v. Welsh* in state court in Roanoke, Virginia on May 24, 1990.

- Train himself is a regular contributor to *Worth* magazine. A marketing statement issued by *Worth* and circulated on the Internet computer network prominently features Train: "*Worth's* editorial mission is to help readers take control of their financial destinies through a unique and wide-ranging approach to financial journalism. Contributors include re-

spected financial practitioners, such as America's best-known stock picker Peter Lynch, Walter Mead, and John Train."

Train's 1989 book *The New Money Masters* featured a chapter on *Worth's* senior contributing editor, Peter Lynch, former head of Fidelity Investment Corp.'s Magellan Fund. Fidelity originally launched *Worth* magazine under the name *Investors Vision* in 1986 as an in-house publication servicing its 850,000 clients (Fidelity is the world's largest mutual fund, holding \$340 billion in assets and accounting for 12% of the daily trading on the New York Stock Exchange). In 1991, Fidelity launched a publishing subsidiary and took *Investors Vision* "independent," under the name *Worth*. NBC's cable television subsidiary CNBC airs a nightly show by *Worth* magazine.

Christopher Byron denied that he knows Train personally, although he said he is familiar with Train as an author. "I wouldn't know him if I sat next to him on a bus," Byron told *EIR* in a May 14 telephone interview.

Other anti-LaRouche scribblers who similarly denied links to Train and the "Get LaRouche" salon, were later shown to have been lying.

The 'Get LaRouche' strike force gathers

On April 23, 1983, one month to the day after President Ronald Reagan's historic television address announcing the LaRouche-designed Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) as U.S. strategic policy, Wall Street investment counsellor John Train convened a gathering of approximately 25 journalists, government officials, and at least one representative of the ADL. The meeting's purpose: to launch a barrage of media slanders against Lyndon LaRouche, preparatory to a government frame-up drive against LaRouche and his political movement.

For a period of eight months leading up to that meeting, former secretary of state and self-proclaimed British agent Henry A. Kissinger had been conducting a personal lobbying effort with FBI Director William Webster, and with members of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (PFIAB), to rig a government crackdown on LaRouche. At a Jan. 15, 1983 meeting of PFIAB, Kissinger cronies Leo Cherne, Edward Bennett Williams, and David Abshire succeeded in activating an FBI national security probe of LaRouche, on the laughably bogus grounds that LaRouche was a suspected foreign agent.

Senior Reagan administration officials were well aware that for the preceding year, LaRouche had been functioning as a White House-sanctioned back-channel to senior Soviet officials, pursuing informal discussion of possible U.S.-Soviet collaboration on developing and deploying a global ballistic missile defense system based on new physical principles that would render offensive nuclear weapons obsolete. The program that President Reagan announced on March 23, 1983 as the SDI was precisely the program devised by

LaRouche and negotiated with the Moscow representatives. The SDI effort was one of a half-dozen classified projects in which LaRouche participated during the early years of the Reagan administration.

The Kissinger-promoted "LaRouche=KGB" line was a hoax, calculated in part to wreck the Reagan SDI initiative. At Train's "Get LaRouche" sessions, Train rammed through the Kissinger message: The key to slandering LaRouche was to label him "KGB."

Eyewitness account

Michael Hudson, a former consultant to Chase Manhattan Bank, attended the first of three known meetings of the John Train salon devoted to the Get LaRouche effort. On May 26, 1983, Hudson told Robert Greenberg, then a reporter for *EIR*, about the gathering. Greenberg taped the discussion.

Hudson asked: "Do you know who John Train is? . . . there was a fairly large meeting about a month ago at his house, you know, presumably all of the people, all of your enemies in the publications, journalism field. . . . It was he [Train] who has been introducing me to quite a few people, and seems to want to step it up to the government level."

Asked by Greenberg whether the "government people" mentioned by Train were from the FBI, Hudson responded: "Well, of course they are. . . . What he's trying to do is to put me in with the—he's actually one of the people who's trying to get me in with the IRS." Hudson continued: "He seems to think you're KGB. . . . He writes for the *Investors Chronicle*, Financial Times Publishing, London; *Le Matin*, Paris; and *Harvard Magazine*. . . . [The meeting] had to do with coordinating national magazine stuff about you guys, and working with federal law enforcement agencies to try to, I think, deny you funding and tax exemption, is the delicate way to put it. [The reporters] all seemed to come into it committed to do something."

Another participant in the Train salon sessions was Sol Sanders, a former editor of *Business Week*. On March 7, 1984, Sanders told *EIR* reporter Herbert Quinde that two defamatory broadcasts on NBC in January and March 1984 had been planned out at the Train salon gathering. Pat Lynch, a producer for NBC, attended the Train sessions and produced one of the LaRouche smear broadcasts, a 20-minute segment on NBC's television news magazine, *First Camera*.

In 1984, Lyndon LaRouche filed a defamation suit against NBC, Pat Lynch, and the ADL in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Virginia. In the course of the pre-trial discovery, Lynch produced a wall-sized chart depicting the structure and alleged goals of the LaRouche political movement. The chart attempted to construct a profile of the LaRouche movement as KGB-linked. It also focussed on recent successful efforts by LaRouche to promote the idea of a debtors' cartel among Ibero-American governments. Lynch claimed under oath that she had received the chart from Peter Spiro,

a reporter for the *New Republic* who had penned one of the slander stories against LaRouche in January 1984.

In fact, the chart was produced by Virginia Armat, an aide to John Train, and was presented at the "Get LaRouche" salon meetings by Train himself, a fact that Lynch personally knew at the time she was deposed. During discovery and trial in the *LaRouche v. NBC* case, Pat Lynch repeatedly lied or evaded any mention of her participation in the Train salon sessions, thereby concealing crucial evidence confirming LaRouche's contention that the NBC story was part of a government-linked plot to trash the LaRouche movement.

A revised version of the same chart turned up with the New York State attorney general in the course of a prosecution of four LaRouche associates in 1989.

It would be years before witnesses, including Lansky Boland, would admit that the Train meetings had involved government agents, including representatives of the FBI and the National Security Council (NSC), proving that the entire "Get LaRouche" effort had constituted an illegal "active measures" program. Most of the crucial evidence did not surface until after LaRouche and six co-defendants were convicted in a federal trial in Alexandria, Virginia, and other LaRouche colleagues were fraudulently tried and convicted in state courts in New York and Virginia.

On Aug. 9, 1990, Chip Berlet, an ADL collaborator and leading figure in the drug legalization lobby, admitted to Quinde that he, too, had been at several of the Train sessions between the Spring of 1983 and the Spring of 1984. Berlet's travel expenses between Chicago and New York City to attend the Train meetings were paid for in cash by John Rees, another salon participant who had been an FBI informant against the LaRouche movement since the 1970s (Informant No. WF-5728-S, according to FBI documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act). In the Spring of 1986, following electoral victories in the Democratic primaries in Illinois by two LaRouche associates, Rees and the ADL's Irwin Suall delivered slanderous testimony against LaRouche at a hearing of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. The testimony came right out of the Train salon sessions.

Chip Berlet named a half-dozen other participants at the Train gatherings he had attended, and described several other individuals who were only identified to him as "gentlemen with a government connection."

One government agent identified by name was Roy Godson. The son of a career CIA official, Roy Godson was employed at the time of the Train salon sessions by the NSC and the PFIAB.

'Moles' at the NSC

Richard Morris was the executive assistant to National Security Adviser William Clark in 1982-84. He testified under oath in Roanoke that Roy Godson and two other NSC employees, Walter Raymond and Kenneth deGraffenreid,

had repeatedly tried to force the White House to cut off all contact with LaRouche and his representatives, claiming to possess "proof" that LaRouche was, variously, a KGB agent, an anti-Semite, a fascist, etc.—all standard formulations used in the Train salon-generated "drip-by-drip" smear campaign against LaRouche.

Godson, Raymond, and deGraffenreid all had good reason to pitch the slanders against LaRouche in and around the White House. All three were prominent players in the George Bush-led secret Nicaraguan Contra supply operation—an operation that LaRouche had publicly criticized for drawing the Reagan administration into bed with Latin American cocaine chieftains and terrorists.

ADL officials Lansky Boland, Irwin Suall, Rabbi Morton Rosenthal, and former ADL employee Carl Gershman were also involved in the Contra effort, as well as the smear drive against LaRouche.

All told, the three Train salon sessions generated dozens of major media slanders against LaRouche, and fueled the climate for federal and state frame-ups. In cases such as the March 1984 First Camera broadcast, patently false allegations aired on TV actually triggered government probes. Among the most egregious of the Train-generated smears were:

- A January 1984 *New Republic* article calling for a media gang-up on "political extremist" LaRouche. The "extremist" label was incorporated in every subsequent slander.
- The January and March 1984 NBC-TV slanders.
- A November 1984 *New Republic* cover story by Dennis King, an ADL retainer, and Ronald Radosh, a paid Contra propagandist. The 12,000-word article was based on information leaked from the files of the Reagan NSC, identifying many of the administration officials who had worked with LaRouche representatives on the SDI and other sensitive national security projects. This leak constituted a serious breach of national security, and should have been the subject of an intense federal probe. It helped launch a witchhunt against the officials who had dared to work with LaRouche, and marked the beginning of a deterioration in Reagan administration policy.
- A March 23, 1986 *Wall Street Journal* article by Ellen Hume, another attendee at the Train salon sessions.
- A May 27, 1986 *Wall Street Journal* signed commentary by King and Lynch (who had met each other at the April 1983 Train salon session), featuring material illegally leaked to them from an ongoing Boston federal grand jury probing LaRouche campaign financing.
- Two April 1986 NBC television news broadcasts, both produced by Lynch, which featured allegations that LaRouche was involved in the assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, and had plotted to kill Henry Kissinger.
- An August 1986 *Readers' Digest* slander by senior editor Eugene Methvin, another Train salon participant and

a longtime close associate of Train and Train's assistant Virginia Armat.

On Oct. 6-7, 1986, the active government attempt to dismantle the LaRouche movement was launched when 400 federal, state, and county police raided publishing offices associated with Lyndon LaRouche in Leesburg, Virginia.

A Redcoat through and through

When John Train was a Harvard undergraduate in the late 1940s, he and a group of his friends once dressed up as British Redcoats and disrupted a Patriots' Day parade at Lexington Commons commemorating the ride of Paul Revere. It was a psychologically revealing incident, one that Train still likes to reminisce about today.

Longtime fan Sol Sanders affectionately refers to Train as "the last of the OSS old boys on Wall Street"—a reference to the U.S. Office of Strategic Services, an arm of British Intelligence established during World War II. But a far more appropriate label might be "British Tory turncoat." Train was born in 1928 to a New England family which had emigrated to North America from Scotland in 1640. The family became wealthy and prominent in the 19th century through its Enoch Train and Company, whose clipper ships profited in the Chinese opium trade, run from offices in Boston and Liverpool, England. The opium trade, facilitated by two British-run opium wars against China, was a cornerstone of Lord Palmerston's British Empire program, which sought to destroy everything the United States stood for (see *EIR*, April 15, 1994, "Lord Palmerston's Multicultural Human Zoo").

One of John Train's grandfathers was a founding partner in the House of Morgan. The other grandfather, Charles Russell Train, was attorney general of Massachusetts (1873-80). Through the J.P. Morgan family links, Train's mother was reportedly an intimate of Corliss Lamont, son of Morgan senior partner Thomas Lamont and a leading light in American Communist Party circles.

Following the traditional American Tory education at Groton and Harvard, John Train settled in Paris in 1952, and, following in his mother's footsteps, founded the decidedly left-wing *Paris Review*, along with British Fabian writer Stephen Spender, W.H. Auden, and fellow Harvard graduate George Plimpton. Train, like the *Paris Review* itself, was transformed into a Cold War "neo-conservative" institution during the post-McCarthy red scare epoch, and Train settled into a career in the investment business, working for deVegh and Co. until 1959, when he founded his own firm, Smith Train Counsel.

Smith Train manages the portfolios of a private clientele of wealthy families. Although the list of Train Smith's clients is a tightly held secret, some news accounts have linked Train to Maurice Greenberg of American International Group, and Train has been a close personal friend of Sir Jimmy Goldsmith and his brother Edward since Paris days. Train's founding partner, F. Randall Smith, started out with L.F. Rothschild.

Train's first wife, Maria Teresa Cini di Pianzana of Florence, Italy, came from an old Venetian family. When their marriage ended in divorce in 1976, Train married Frances Cheston, former wife of Whitney Tower of the Anglo-philic New York Whitney family.

In 1984, at the height of John Train's role in the "Get LaRouche" frame-up offensive, Train Smith Counsel was bought up by the British through an entity called English Association Trust. EAT's holding company, English Association Group, PLC, is a wholly owned subsidiary of PKBanken of Sweden, which is a joint venture of the Swedish government and Swedish investor Eric Penzer. PKBanken is closely allied with Nobel Bofors, the giant Swedish chemical and explosives manufacturer that was deeply implicated in the illegal sales of military hardware to the Khomeini regime in Iran at the time of the Iran-Iraq War.

'Get LaRouche, now get Clinton'

Over the past several years, John Train has contributed three articles to the *American Spectator*, the neo-conservative monthly that has been at the center of the recent assault on the U.S. presidency. The January 1994 issue of the *Spectator* helped launch "Clintongate" with its now infamous interview with two former Arkansas state troopers who accused President Clinton of a string of infidelities while he was governor.

Among the *Spectator's* leading financial backers are two of Train's longtime cronies, Sir Jimmy Goldsmith (see above) and Richard Mellon Scaife, Iran-Contra moneybags and personal participant in the Train "Get LaRouche" salon sessions.

As *EIR* has documented in recent months, the *American Spectator* is itself run from London by the Hollinger Corp., owners of the *Telegraph* newspapers, the *Jerusalem Post* and a string of other financial journals and newspapers in Britain, Canada, the United States and Australia (see, e.g., *EIR*, April 8, 1994, pp. 54-55). Sir Jimmy Goldsmith, a Rothschild cousin, sits on Hollinger's board of directors, along with two members of the Rothschild family.

The ties to the Clinton-bashers run even deeper. Two leading lights of the Train salon, Rael Jean Isaac and Midge Decter, are avid participants in the assault on the U.S. presidency. Isaac, a director of Americans for a Safe Israel (AFSI) and a paid operator of the ADL, has led the crusade against the peace accords between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, and appeared at an Oct. 10, 1993 rally in Arlington, Virginia calling for a new Middle East war. AFSI is deeply implicated in the Hebron settlers' movement that produced Baruch Goldstein, the mass murderer of the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron. She attended the "Get LaRouche" sessions in 1983-84.

Midge Decter, the wife of *Commentary* magazine publisher Norman Podhoretz and a leading neo-conservative, also attended Train's salon meetings. She sits on the editorial board of the *American Spectator*.