
Australia

British assets upset at LaRouche presence

by Allen Douglas

Australia's Anglophile establishment has gone absolutely nuts over the expanding presence "downunder," of the ideas of physical economist and U.S. Democratic Party Presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

The most recent campaign against LaRouche's Australian co-thinkers, the Citizens Electoral Councils, opened on Jan. 27, with a front-page diatribe in *The Age* newspaper of Melbourne. *The Age* is controlled by British intelligence's Conrad Black, whose Hollinger Corp. has otherwise been on a jihad to destroy the Clinton Presidency. The article announced that CEC National Secretary Craig Isherwood was running for federal Parliament in the suburban Melbourne electorate of Wills, but then got right to the point: "In the electorate of Wills everyone knows [former Prime Minister] Bob Hawke and [current Member of Parliament] Phil Cleary. They are now about to become acquainted with Lyndon H. LaRouche."

There followed a wild series of allegations: that the CEC was raising funds under false names; that it had brought an "intelligence specialist" into the country to target Jewish groups, in particular the Anti-Defamation League-connected Isi and Mark Leibler; that this "intelligence specialist" had helped set up right-wing death squads in Spain; and that the CEC had provided a federal Member of Parliament with documents showing that Mark Leibler and his associates were involved with the Israeli Mossad and drug money out of the South American country of Surinam.

The drumbeat continued over the weekend, with Australian Broadcasting Corp. (ABC TV) nationwide evening news coverage of the charges, a Radio National interview with Mark Leibler, a hotshot tax lawyer, and coverage in Rupert Murdoch's newspaper, the *Australian*. On Jan. 30, a full-page article in *The Age*'s features section was entitled, "Families Fight Back: Defectors Tell of 'Psycho Sessions' and Relentless Demands for Cash Inside the Citizens Electoral Councils." The latter featured a parade of disgruntled populists, defectors, and other flotsam and jetsam whining about one or another disagreement that they had had with the CEC.

Leibler calls for an investigation

The media barrage served as the pretext for Mark Leibler to issue a call on Jan. 28, for a federal investigation of the

CEC. Said Leibler, in a letter to Prime Minister Paul Keating: "I draw your attention to recent press reports in *The Age* of 27 January 1996 on activities of the Australian far-right political organization Citizens Electoral Councils, [and] the notorious American cult of Lyndon LaRouche. . . .

"I am appalled and deeply disturbed by the racist anti-Semitic objectives and activities of these organizations. . . . For a number of reasons, not least the national interest, it is imperative that the government undertake a full investigation as well as initiating a wide-ranging inquiry into these matters. . . .

"I have written to Mr. John Howard, leader of the opposition, urging that he and the opposition lend full and unqualified support to such an investigation. . . . I look forward to receiving your response on this disturbing matter."

The following day, the CEC's Isherwood responded with a press release entitled, "The Issue Is Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr." Isherwood asserted: "There is only one matter at issue here, and that is the political personality of Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. The CEC and myself are being attacked solely because we have been forceful and effective advocates of Mr. LaRouche's ideas."

Asking, "Who is Mr. LaRouche?" Isherwood answered, "First, he is presently the second-ranking candidate, behind President Clinton, for the 1996 Democratic Party nomination for President of the United States. The first nationwide TV broadcast of his campaign was aired on ABC-TV [in the United States] Saturday, Jan. 27, the same day as the libel appeared in *The Age*."

Second, said Isherwood, "Mr. LaRouche has the same differences with the British monarchy today (and its influential appendages such as part-owner of *The Age*, Mr. Conrad Black), which President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Gen. Douglas MacArthur had with Winston Churchill, over the 1942-43 defense of Australia," when the British tried to cede Australia to the Japanese, in order to prolong the war in the Pacific, to British advantage.

Isherwood elaborated that in its haste to dump speculative investments for commodities, the British Crown-centered international financial oligarchy was once again targetting Australia, "one of the richest repositories of such strategic assets on the face of the earth." Surmised Isherwood, "What consternation must have afflicted the Crown's advisers, to find here an organization such as the CEC, which is aggressively promoting Mr. LaRouche's ideas for national sovereignty and economic development—and becoming a major force in Australian politics."

Indeed, *The Age* bitterly complained that the CEC "has raised \$900,000 for each of the past two years and is one of the largest political fundraisers in the country." The next federal elections, in which the CEC is running a nationwide slate of candidates, were called by Prime Minister Keating for March 2. He made his announcement on Jan. 27, the day the first libel appeared in *The Age*.