

Editorial

The rule of law?

As we celebrate Martin Luther King's birthday, in the 30th year after his death, it is appropriate that we look again at the question of justice, and how "justice" has been perverted in this interval. In King and his movement, we had a force for establishing principle in law, which was crucial to fulfilling the commitments of our Declaration of Independence and Constitution. Those commitments are now being totally overturned, and not just in the area of "civil rights" law.

What we have seen take off in these last 30 years, is the practice of throwing overwhelming judicial, and extra-legal, power against declared political enemies. While this has been carried out through an allegedly professional staff at the Department of Justice, this permanent bureaucracy has in fact acted like a political hit squad, and used the "law" the way the Nazis did.

The preeminent example of such fascist "legal" practice is the prosecution of the LaRouche movement, which former Attorney General Ramsey Clark has identified as representing "a broader range of deliberate cunning and systemic misconduct, over a longer period of time, utilizing the power of the Federal government, than any other prosecution by the U.S. government, in my time, or to my knowledge." The goal was to "get LaRouche," and no resources were spared in order to accomplish that goal.

This same practice has been institutionalized, in effect, through the "independent counsel" (special prosecutor) system. For all the complaints about the independent counsel on Iran-Contra—Lawrence Walsh spent \$40 million over seven years—Walsh at least kept to the subject he was asked to investigate.

Just the contrary has been the case with the raft of anti-Clinton independent counsels—five in all. These independent counsels have already spent at least \$50 million, in pursuit of such trivial "crimes" as the receipt of football tickets, and misreporting of payments to a former mistress, and they are expanding their purview from one month to the next. One com-

mentator has aptly characterized the relative balance of these investigations, and the indictments resulting from them, as "swatting a fly with a sledgehammer."

All of these independent counsels are united by only one thing—the desire to *get* people who will testify against President Clinton. And they are willing to, and, so far, able to—spend as much money as they need to, for as long as they need to, to get it.

Kenneth Starr, for example, has already spent \$30 million on his free-wheeling Whitewater witchhunt. He has FBI agents swarming all over Arkansas, to try to get what he wants. The most flagrant symbol of his ruthlessness is the ongoing imprisonment of Susan MacDougal, for her refusal to give Starr the testimony he wants before his grand jury. MacDougal has been jailed on "contempt" for over a year now, often under conditions generally relegated to the most violent criminals, in an attempt to break her will.

Donald Smaltz, the independent counsel against former Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy, has spent over \$10 million, on a case centering around \$35,000 of allegedly illegal gratuities. This disproportionality is reminiscent of that used in another purely political case, that of the Commonwealth of Virginia against Mike Billington, an associate of LaRouche who was given a 77-year sentence for alleged "securities violations" amounting to much less than \$100,000.

This is nothing less than Nazi judicial abuse: unlimited funds, used to carry out a targetting operation against a political foe. Constrained at this point from simply sending out the police to round up their enemies, or topple them from office, the pro-British establishment which is determined to destroy Clinton and the United States, just keeps up the legal attack. The weak ones will plead, and say, "You can't fight the government." Only the stalwart ones who believe the truth will finally prevail, will hold out.

Our existence as a nation, committed to our founding principles, depends upon our overturning this system of Nazi justice.