

Editorial

Stop the Justice Department treachery

As the world careens into the worst economic crisis in centuries—a crisis which demands U.S. Presidential leadership—it seems likely that by mid-summer, the President of the United States will be under assault from an impeachment campaign being orchestrated by independent counsel Kenneth Starr and House Speaker Newt Gingrich. This comes on top of the hysteria being fanned by the news media accusing the President of treason for alleged “technology transfers” to China—a charge based on lies, misinformation, and illegal Justice Department leaks.

Starr is said to be preparing a report to the House, compiling alleged impeachable offenses committed by President Clinton; that report may be submitted by the end of June—which explains Starr’s frenetic activation of his grand juries in Washington and in Alexandria, Virginia (the notorious “rocket docket”), and his rush to get various appeals resolved within weeks.

Starr has been getting considerable assistance in his assault on the Presidency from the U.S. Department of Justice, which is operating as a traitorous fifth column within the Clinton administration.

Attorney General Janet Reno, at the behest of the corrupt permanent bureaucracy in the DOJ Criminal Division, has time and time again recommended the appointment of new independent counsels—the latest one to probe Labor Secretary Alexis Herman. At the same time, Reno has refused to rein in Starr, despite his documented record of misconduct and conflicts of interest.

But worse, it has now been disclosed that Reno filed a friend-of-the-court brief *opposing* the President’s assertions of Executive privilege and attorney-client privilege with respect to Starr’s efforts to compel White House advisers to testify before his grand jury. Reno justified this, saying that it was important that the court be aware of the DOJ’s “institutional position,” irrespective of the fact that the DOJ is supposed to take its direction from the President of the United States.

The Justice Department also played a treacherous role in a far more serious matter: giving only lukewarm support to efforts of the U.S. Secret Service and the

Treasury Department to prevent Secret Service agents from being forced to tell Starr’s prosecutors and grand jury what they observed while protecting the President. After the May 22 court ruling rejecting the administration’s assertion of a “protective function privilege,” there have been reports that the Justice Department may refuse to even handle the Secret Service’s appeal of this ruling. This, despite the repeated and adamant assertions of career Secret Service officials that forcing agents to testify will result, sooner or later, in the assassination of a President, because Presidents will keep agents at a distance during their confidential conversations.

The Justice Department has played an equally treacherous role around the “Chinagate” fundraising allegations, constantly leaking information to the news media. The most flagrant example was the *New York Times* story of May 15, claiming that former Democratic fundraiser Johnny Chung had told DOJ investigators that money which he had given to Democrats during the 1996 reelection campaign, had come from Chinese military sources. Chung, who has already pleaded guilty to bank-fraud and tax-fraud charges, is obviously trying to save his own skin; he could be properly described as the “David Hale” of the DOJ’s campaign-finance investigation. It was these blatantly illegal DOJ leaks to the *New York Times* which triggered the current wave of “yellow peril” hysteria aimed at the President and his China policy.

Enough is enough. The DOJ permanent bureaucracy must be reined in. The most efficient means of doing this is to have hearings on the McDade-Murtha “Citizens Protection Act of 1998” in the House of Representatives during June. At the center of these hearings must be the LaRouche case. Although there are many other instances of DOJ prosecutorial abuse and misconduct, no other case cuts to the quick as does the LaRouche case, which represents, to the knowledge of former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, “a broader range of deliberate cunning and systematic misconduct, over a longer period of time, than any other prosecution by the U.S. government.”