As the old man in the Democratic mayoral primary, Mel Klezner is behaving oddly indeed. Having entered his campaign with accusations that the mayor is in league with international drug pushers, he has recently shifted to rebid attacks on Frank Barbaro.

What are the voters to make of this? Thanks to the circumspectness of press and TV reporteurs, most New Yorkers so far have no idea that Klezner represents the latest obsession of Lyndon B. Johnson, maximum leader of a fascist political cult because "the public will believe anything that it can be made to believe". The cult, known as "NCLC" or "the Labor Committees", has its headquarters in the National Democratic Policy Committee - a typically misleading title.

Lack of information about the NCLC shouldn't hamper reporters in their attempts to describe Klezner. Times reporters Maurice Carroll and Frank Lyon, who have treated the NCLC candidate with excessive respect, should check their own paper's clip files. There they will find stories about the group's ties with arms merchants and mercenaries, incitement to police violence, its anti-Semitism, and its harassment campaign against the Times itself, all within the last few years. Despite its adherents' newly proclaimed allegiance to the Democratic Party, the NCLC's many recent allies are to be found on the nation's reactionary fringe.

Klezner himself has again become notorious in recent years because of his past actions. In 1971, the New York Times wrote that Klezner was "a white supremacist who advocates the extermination of Jews". Despite this, Klezner's candidacy has been endorsed by leading Democratic politicians, including Mayor David Dinkins.

The NCLC, which is based in Chicago, has a history of ties with fascist organizations and has been accused of promoting anti-Semitism. Klezner has been linked to the group in the past, and his campaign has received funding from the group.

The primary election in New York City is scheduled for September 9th, and the NCLC candidate is expected to have a significant impact on the outcome. The future of the Democratic Party in New York is uncertain, and the election will likely be watched closely by national observers.
As the old man in the Democratic mayoral primary, Mel Kleinetsky is behaving oddly indeed. Having started his campaign with accusations that the mayor is in league with international dope pushers, he has recently shifted to attacking Frank Barboras.

What are the voters to make of this? Thanks to the cleverness of press and TV reporters, most New Yorkers so far have no idea that Kleinetsky represents the latest iteration of Lynden B. LaRouche, maximum leader of a fascistic political cult formerly known as the U.S. Labor Party and before that as the National Caucus of Labor Committees (INLC). Cult initiates have always referred to this cult as the "LaRouche's or the "Labor Committees," but its newest front organization is called the National Democratic Policy Committee—a typically misleading title.

Lack of information about the INLC shouldn't stop anyone from trying to present the INLC's attempts to describe Kleinetsky. Times reporter Maurice Carliner and Frank Lyon, who have treated the NCLC candidate with excessive respect, should check their own paper's clip files. There they will find stories about the group's ties with arms merchants and mercenaries, its history of political violence, its anti-Semitism, and its harassment campaign against the Times itself, all within the last few years. Despite its adherents' newly proclaimed allegiance to the Democratic Party, the NCLC's most recent allies are to be found on the nation's reactionary fringe.

LaRouche himself has again become notorious in recent years because cult doctrine now includes a version of the "no Holocaust" theory. Masquerading as a critic of Zionism, he claims that far fewer than six million Jews—maybe none at all—perished in the Nazi camps.

Incorporation of this anti-Semitic element into the NCLC's conspiratorial worldview was first exposed by Dennis King in the weekly Our Town, and this has led LaRouche into campaigns against the prosecution of Nazi war criminals. Both here and in West Germany, INLC investigation provided a libel suit against our sister publication that environmentalists are part of a Zionist plot. Soft pedaling the anti-Semitism for this campaign, he cynically accuses Koch of helping "international bankers" promote heroin.

Barboras failed to remove Kleinetsky from the ballot, and then asked him not to agree that they exclude him from their debates. But the mayor refused, thus giving the NCLC's seedy ideological visibility and a kind of victory.

Mad Melvin: The Cult Candidate

At a time when the cult has been losing many disillusioned and burned-out members, it is a sign that LaRouche hopes to instill himself among the disgraced Democrats. If Kleinetsky is the best candidate the would-be dictator can produce, he won't be taking over any time soon.

Kleinetsky, 36, has distributed a campaign biography stressing that he is not a "LaRouche" or "the Labor Committees." But its newest front organization is called the National Democratic Policy Committee—a typically misleading title.

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**Mad Melvin: The Cult Candidate**

As the odd man in the Democratic mayoral primary, Mel Klenetsky is behaving oddly indeed. Having started his campaign with accusations that the mayor is in league with international dope pushers, he has recently shifted to red baiting Frank Barbara.

What are the voters to make of this? Thanks to the carelessness of press and TV reporters, most New Yorkers so far have no idea that Klenetsky represents the latest obsession of Lyndon H. LaRouche, maximum leader of a fascist political cult, formerly known as the U.S. Labor Party and before that as the National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC). Cult initiates have always referred to it as "NCLC" or "the Labor Committees," but its newest front organization is called the National Democratic Policy Committee—a typically misleading title.

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Incorporation of this anti-Semitic element into the NCLC's conspiratorial world view was first exposed by Dennis King in the weekly Our Town, and has led LaRouche into campaigns against the prosecution of Nazi war criminals both here and in West Germany. King's investigation provoked a libel suit which LaRouche recently dropped — a move King regards as tantamount to an admission of anti-Semitism.

Klenetsky's mayoral bid, which comes at a time when the cult has been losing many disillusioned and burned-out members, is a sign that LaRouche hopes to insinuate himself among the disarrayed Democrats. If Klenetsky is the best candidate the would-be dictator can produce, he won't be taking over any time soon.

Klenetsky, 36, has distributed a campaign biography stressing that he was born in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, where his parents still live. Quite a lot was omitted from the bio, but under questioning from Barbara's lawyers in their court effort to remove him from the ballot, Klenetsky and his comrades revealed several things about life in a political cult.

From their sworn testimony it appears that many LaRouche followers keep their addresses secret to avoid detection by supposed conspirators who are out to get them. They move around the country, from city to city, at LaRouche's command — just as Mel Klenetsky himself moved here from Chicago last summer.

For some six years before that he had been a Midwest coordinator of the U.S. Labor Party, as well as its candidate for governor of Illinois in 1974. LaRouche ran for president in 1976 and 1980, and in both cases endorsed the Republicans — Ford and Reagan — on election eve.

Candidate Mel was unable to recall, under oath, his first New York address after returning from Chicago; he didn't know that an "Ann Bowen" is listed on the same mailbox as he and his wife in Washington Heights. Apparently a number of other cult members also reside in the same building, and during the course of his testimony Klenetsky managed to produce an apartment lease as proof of residency.

But if his home changes frequently, his political paranoia remains constant. In 1978, gubernatorial candidate Klenetsky told the Chicago Sun-Times that environmentalists are part of a Zionist plot. Soft-pedaling the anti-Semitism in this campaign, he coyly accuses Koch of helping "international bankers" promote heroin.

Barbaro failed to remove Klenetsky from the ballot, and then asked Koch to agree that they exclude him from their debates. But the mayor refused, thus giving the NCLC's scabrous ideology visibility and a kind of victory.

—J.C.