A Statement of Aims

Without Prejudice, a publication of the AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF JEWISH AFFAIRS, aims to enlighten and inform public opinion on problems associated with prejudice, to combat bigotry and to protect human rights.

The journal is devoted to the study of the causes, manifestations and effects of prejudice and discrimination generally, with specific focus on Australia's ethnic, religious and national life and with particular reference to anti-Semitism.

The publication is committed to promoting and fostering tolerance and understanding between the people of Australia and beyond, and to advancing the notion of multicultural Australian society in which social, religious and cultural diversity are integral to our national life.
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Lyndon LaRouche Down Under

DAVID GREASON

Fringe politics in Australia have long been an easy game to monitor. On the left there are, say, eight or nine main groupings - mostly Trotskyist, ex-Trotskyist or neo-Trotskyist - with a sprinkling of Maoists, Euro-Communists and Anarcho-Syndicalists to leaven the lump. Then there are the various broader movements: feminists, greenies, gays, migrant workers, students.

On the right there are the Nazis, the War Criminal Branch of the Liberal Party, the Australian League of Rights, and the occasional DLP love child who refuses to join a union and ends up getting 4000 office workers to march to Parliament House.

The two groups rarely meet up - you would not expect them to do so, and it is hard to see any common ground. This makes things much easier - for the people in the groups, for the ill-informed reporters who have to cover the rare march or rally, even for the Special Branch.

Imagine, though, a political organisation that started on the far left and lurched to the far right in just twenty years, keeping quite a few of its original members and picking up some very odd characters along the way. Imagine, too, that in its travels, this group developed an ideology so bizarre that it gave you a headache just to look at the typeface on its literature, never mind read it. Imagine that this group became - against all odds - incredibly wealthy, and used this wealth to set up a private intelligence network that would be the envy of a few small countries.

There is such a political organisation in existence in the United States. It is called the National Caucus of Labor Committees. It is anti-Semitic, anti-gay, anti-socialist ... and believes Queen Elizabeth II is the head of an international drug-pushing ring.

And it is now setting up operations in Australia.

Confidential internal documents from the US organisation show that in the past two years alone, it has

- forged links with at least two Australian members of parliament;
- established a strong network of supporters, mainly in Queensland and NSW;
- attempted to peddle its policies among the far-left, the far-right, and the Arab community;
- brought out leading activists from the US to address gatherings around the nation;
- flown Australians to the US for training to set up a full-time office in Melbourne;
- used Australian contacts to attack domestic opponents like George Bush;
- tapped into Australia's growing gun lobby; and
- set up intelligence networks to spy on perceived enemies - including Melbourne Jewish community figure Isi Leibler and businessman Sir Peter Abeles.

On March 12 and 13 next year, Melbourne is to host an international conference on "The Development and Reconstruction of Sovereign Nations: Post-International Monetary Fund". A provisional program suggests that the conference's aim is quite
ambitious: speakers will look at the collapse of the Bretton Woods agreement, the need for nuclear power in Australia, the frontiers of technology in agriculture, political developments in Asia, development projects, and even a "philosophical basis for a new Renaissance".

At first glance the conference is impressive indeed. Only two speakers are identified at this stage, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, president of the European-based Schiller Institute, and "the US Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche", described as "an internationally recognised statesman and economist".

The conference follows more than three years of intensive activity by LaRouche's local supporters. The group has set up substantial funding networks, attracting more than $130,000 from Australians, with individual donations of $20,000 and $15,000, as well as numerous contributions and literature purchases of $1,000 or more.

And the single most important aspect about the arrival of the LaRouche organisation in Australia is that it is theoretically the most dangerous development in Australian extremist politics in years, yet it is a development of which few are even aware.

The general drift to conservatism in the Australian electorate over the past 20 years has increasingly marginalised the left. As for the racist right, while ASIO reports over the past few years have shown that the main source of politically inspired violence comes from that quarter, it is doubtful whether groups like National Action (NA) and the Perth-based Australian Nationalist Movement (ANM) could ever duplicate the broad appeal enjoyed by the far left in the 1960s and 1970s. (The fact that many NA and ANM members are either in prison or dead [at the hands of erstwhile comrades in most cases] would also suggest difficulties in attracting mass appeal for the far-right. At least the far left settles its internal disputes through "democratic centralism" - a tedious process, perhaps, but far preferable to being gunned down in the party HQ.)

The Australian League of Rights is generally seen to be the major threat on the far right (or as conservative commentator Gerard Henderson more aptly puts it, the Lunar Right) and with good cause: the League and its organisational predecessors have been spreading its twin gospels of Social Credit and anti-Semitism since the early 1930s. At a time of rural economic crisis, when farmers are increasingly marginalised, groups like the League are well placed to tap into legitimate resentments concerning banks, government policies and neglect.

The League is by no means violent: its "danger" comes from its ability to subvert and undermine democratic processes and values in the name of conservatism. The arrival of the LaRouchites has muddied the waters even further, not least because the group's ideology and target audience is difficult to categorise, swinging from left to right and back again. Its modus operandi is even more perplexing.

In the US, at least, the movement is bigger, richer, more influential, more active, and boasts a far more sophisticated intelligence-gathering arm than any Australian extremist group, left or right. Indeed, its spying operations are so sophisticated that numerous observers of the group - including US intelligence analysts - have suggested that the organisation's political operations are merely a front for its intelligence-gathering activities. To whom the group is passing information is another matter entirely.

The group's leader, Lyndon LaRouche, himself has admitted that his group passed information to the Soviet Union, and considerable concern was felt in the US intelligence community in the early 1980s when LaRouche's followers sought sensitive military intelligence on the Stealth bomber program. On the other hand, LaRouche boasts in his autobiography, The Power of Reason, of infiltrating left-wing groups to neutralise them politically and pass information to the FBI, as well as bragging of his supposed links with "rogue" elements in the CIA and the National Security Agency (home of Oliver North).
The group's political beliefs are cause enough for concern. The LaRouchites take the conventional conspiracy theories much favoured by the far-right and go ten steps further. Their claims, for example, that the Queen heads an international drug-trafficking ring; that Dr Henry Kissinger is a KGB agent; and that AIDS is a Soviet plot could fit into almost any far-right system.

What puts the LaRouchites in a class of their own is the way LaRouche has constructed the far-right equivalent of a unified theory of existence - "reaching back to the stars" as one LaRouche expert puts it. Not only politics, history and economics are covered by the LaRouche theory. Music, science, literature, painting and psychology also come under an all-embracing world view that would put most far-right groups to shame.

There is equal concern over the organisation's treatment of even the mildest critics with harassment, smear campaigns, litigation and a guaranteed place in the already crowded LaRouche pantheon of evil. But the suggestion that LaRouche's political followers are being used to gather information to pass to other powers - from the CIA and FBI to Iraq and the former Soviet Union - makes a thorough investigation of this group, and its plans for Australia, imperative.

WHO ARE THE LAROUCHITES?

The LaRouche organisation has been described variously as extreme right, extreme left, and akin to a religious cult. Part of the confusion is due to the group's deliberate policy of masking its real intentions.

What is known is that Lyndon Hermyle LaRouche Jnr. began his political career in the 1940s as a member of the Trotskyist US Socialist Workers' Party, going on to found a current within the leftist Students for a Democratic Society in the 1960s, under the name Lyn Marcus.

LaRouche has given varying reasons for his involvement with the SWP. In The Power of Reason, he claimed he initially joined on the request of friends in the Jewish socialist group Hashomer Hatzair, only to leave and then rejoin at the request of the FBI, which sought his assistance in monitoring "subversives". On other occasions, however, he has claimed that his membership in the Trotskyist party was always legitimate.

In April, 1973, LaRouche and his organisation launched "Operation Mop-Up", a series of violent attacks on Communist Party and Socialist Workers' Party members, in an attempt to become the leading party on the US left. When this failed, his politics - and those of his followers - shifted to the extreme right.

LaRouche's traditional enemies, such as Dr Henry Kissinger, the Rockefellers and the Rothschilds, are distrusted by both extreme left and extreme right, so LaRouche was not obliged to change his fundamental beliefs as he ditched the left and embraced well-known US anti-Semites, from Willis Carto of the Liberty Lobby to Roy Frankhauser of the Ku Klux Klan.

Oddly enough, the movement's leadership includes a number of Jewish members who joined the organisation during its "leftist" phase and were too committed to the group to leave once LaRouche began courting anti-Semites. CIA veteran General John Singlaub told the New York Times in 1979 that LaRouche's followers, "if they're not Marxists in disguise", were "the worst group of anti-Semitic Jews I've encountered".

LaRouche emerged as a would-be supporter of Ronald Reagan in the 1980s, using conservative rhetoric to cloak his paranoid conspiracy theories. This attention was most unwelcome, and the conservative Heritage Foundation described LaRouche's followers as "one of the strangest groups in American history".

In his new position on the far-right, LaRouche's anti-woman, anti-gay rhetoric - which had even been present in his days on the left - took on a new virulence: he wrote that
history would not judge harshly those persons who beat gay men to death with baseball bats to stop the spread of AIDS.

The group has gone by a number of names, including the SDS Labor Committees, the US Labor Party, the National Democratic Policy Committee, and the name by which it is best known today - the National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC). It publishes a number of magazines and newspapers. The two major publications are Executive Intelligence Review (EIR), a weekly magazine, and the New Federalist, a weekly newspaper.

Candidates under the banner of the National Democratic Policy Committee contested thousands of elections throughout the 1980s, some winning 20 per cent or more of the vote. In 1986, LaRouchites won the Democratic Party nominations for Lieutenant-Governor and Secretary of State in Illinois. LaRouche himself has run for President on numerous occasions and sought the Democratic Party nomination for this year's presidential election. He was unlikely to win it, not least because he was in jail.

To finance its activities throughout the 1980s, the NCLC raised more than US$200 million through loans and donations, mainly by milking elderly supporters and contacts.

A US court was told that the policy of the NCLC "was not to repay loans in accordance with the promises made to lenders ... between January, 1984 and September, 1986, the organisation never established a system for making, and never made, routine payments of promised principal and interest on loans in general".

LaRouche was sentenced in January, 1989 to 15 years in prison after a Federal court found him and six co-defendants guilty of a mail fraud conspiracy relating to fundraising. LaRouche was also convicted of tax evasion. On appeal, the Supreme Court let the convictions stand without comment.

WHAT THE LAROUCHITES BELIEVE

LaRouche watcher and author of Lyndon LaRouche and the New American Fascism, Dennis King, has described the group as the most successful extremist movement in recent American history. LaRouche's master-plan, wrote King, was to "build a populist mass movement of farmers, small businessmen, and blue collar workers whose anger over drugs, unemployment and high-interest rates was to be channelled against the 'Zionists'". On the surface, the NCLC's policies are similar to many other far-right groups, with calls for farmer subsidies, massive tariff protection for industry, growth at all costs, and a fascination with technology. Such policies are backed by the far-right's usual vociferous anti-communism, a belief that world history is a product of conspiracies by powerful secretive groups, and opposition to "liberal decadence". But LaRouche takes things further. He claims that he and his followers represent a 3000-year-old faction of "Neo-Platonic humanists" locked in mortal struggle with an equally ancient "oligarchy". The oligarchy, based in London, is centred on the Royal Family and the British Secret Service, using groups like the "Zionist Lobby", the Mafia, the IMF, even the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and the KGB as its willing tools.

The NCLC's publications have described the British as a "pack of animals", and "a different alien species" who are "the avowed enemies of the entire human species". Queen Elizabeth comes in for special criticism. "Of course she's pushing drugs," LaRouche once said.

LaRouche's anti-British stance is matched only by his anti-Semitism. In 1978, he wrote that "Israel is ruled from London as a zombie nation", and said that Zionism was "the state of selective psychosis through which London manipulates most of the international Jewry". He also claimed that the Nazis "only" killed "about a million and a half" Jews during the Second World War, and detected "a hard kernel of truth" in the notorious and discredited anti-Semitic forgery, The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion.
LaRouche's lawyers have sued critics who described him, variously, as a "fascistic anti-Jewish bigot", a "lunatic cult leader", "neo-Nazi", "racist", "sexist", "homophobic" a "crook", a "demagogue" and a "small-time Hitler". LaRouche has lost every case.

ANOTHER IMPORTED PEST

Although they are based in Leesburg, Virginia, the LaRouchites have political operations in other parts of the world, especially Europe and South America. Australia was not on the LaRouche agenda until very recently.

Ironically, considering LaRouche's fanatical opposition to all things British, the main group pushing the LaRouchite line in Australia is the Citizens' Electoral Council movement (CEC), originally set up by the staunchly pro-British League of Rights in the late 1980s to campaign around traditional League themes like Citizen Initiated Referendums, fluoridation and immigration. That has now changed, with the CEC paper The New Citizen devoting most of its pages these days to LaRouchite themes, such as attacks on George Bush, the Club of Rome and satanic cults. They have also issued a glossy and clearly expensive policy document: Sovereign Australia: An Economic Development Program To Save Our Nation, which was largely written by Executive Intelligence Review staff in the US.

Sovereign Australia echoed US LaRouchite themes in its proposals for revitalising the Australian economy: "We must quickly place ourselves once again at the vanguard of high-technology developments in a number of strategic fields, while upgrading the energy intensity of both our agricultural and industrial sectors. In particular, we must move to the most efficient, cheapest form of energy - nuclear power; we must create an advanced machine tool sector from scratch; we must invest in energy-intensive industries, including laser-based industries such as laser machine tools; and we must gravitate toward capital- and energy-intensive industries, in order to overcome the disadvantages of our higher cost of internal and external transportation."

The LaRouchites first made substantial contact with Australian activists in February-March, 1989 when Allen Douglas, a US LaRouche organiser based in New Zealand, toured NSW under the auspices of the "Food for Peace" group, a LaRouchite front. Mr Douglas's itinerary was advertised in the first edition of the CEC's paper, then called The Citizen.

John Koehler, a Queensland farmer who is that state's key CEC activist and LaRouche supporter, toured with Mr Douglas, having already attended a Food for Peace conference in Chicago. Mr Koehler organised the 1988 by-election campaign which saw Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen's safe National Party seat of Barambah fall to a CEC candidate, Trevor Perrett. Mr Perrett later quit the CEC movement and returned to the Nationals, claiming the movement had been hijacked by extremists.

Mr Koehler soon picked up the LaRouche line. In an interview with this writer for the Sydney Sun-Herald, he ran the gamut of LaRouche's favored conspiracy theories: from allegations that Dr Kissinger ('a Soviet agent since 1946') had been responsible for the death of Italian Prime Minister Aldo Moro, to claims that LaRouche's imprisonment was a 'frame-up'. ('He just absolutely frightened the liberal establishment - they're just a pack of finks who work for the British banker'.)

As for LaRouche's other bete noire, the Queen, Mr Koehler dismissed suggestions that country people would be put off by LaRouche's attacks on the Royal Family. "The Queen, we figure, is no great asset," he said. "Farmers may have once been 'God, Queen and Country', but no more. She owns ICI, and they're no friends of the farmer."

Mr Koehler also toured the US in the first two weeks of December, 1990 on behalf of Food for Peace, before addressing an anti-Gulf War "teach-in" organised by the Schiller Institute (another LaRouche front) in Chicago on December, 15-16. He has also been
quoted in *Executive Intelligence Review* as a commentator on Australian politics. Asked his opinion on future policy direction under a Liberal-National Government, he told *EIR* journalist Lydia Cherry: "The Liberal Party is a bunch of masons. They get their orders straight from Britain."

In the past three years, CEC activists - mostly farmers - who are sympathetic to the NCLC have wrested control of CEC branches in Queensland, NSW and Victoria from League supporters. The LaRouchites hope to use this network to build a movement in Australia. Farmer activists in Queensland, NSW, Victoria and Western Australia have all cited LaRouche material.

*Rural Action*, the newsletter of the Bendigo, Victoria-based Rural Action Group, quoted the *New Federalist* when attacking the Industries Assistance Commission, and hosted a visit by US LaRouchite activists Pat and Carol Ruckert to Bendigo in October last year. Max Johnson, the leader of the West Australian Rural Action Movement (which last year threatened to start runs on banks and destroy US tracking stations and this year intervened in a farm repossession*), visited the US last December on a LaRouchite "fact-finding tour". Interviewed in the *New Federalist*, Mr Johnson said he would return to Australia to "speak to farmers right across the West, just to enlighten them and hand them the facts. And once they become aware of that, then I can assure you there will be a huge Lyndon LaRouche movement in the whole of Western Australia and hopefully the rest of Australia".

In an interview with ABC Radio National reporter Kirsten Garrett, Mr Johnson outlined how RAM had privately negotiated a $9.5 million urea fertilizer deal with an unnamed Middle Eastern country, which, he said, did not "like being bullied and pushed around by the Western-type ideas".

Some observers have suggested the unnamed country was Jordan, where US LaRouchites are known to have high-level political contacts.

The CEC movement's main problems, however, come from Eric Butler and the League of Rights. LaRouche's dismissal of the Social Credit theories of Major C.H. Douglas (NCLC literature repeatedly describes Lyndon LaRouche as the world's "greatest living economist", as does *Sovereign Australia*), his anti-British sentiment and the natural antagonism felt by Mr Butler when someone steps on this turf have led to bitter rivalry between Mr Butler and his former colleagues in the CEC movement.

Mr Butler's *New Times* informed readers in February last year that LaRouche had been found guilty of credit card fraud, adding that "responsible American and Canadian conservatives have long been concerned about the activities of the LaRouche organisation, observing that it is a classic example of circulating misinformation in a highly attractive form".

This was not the first broadside from Mr Butler. In reply to a criticism made in the 19 October, 1990 issue of the League's *On Target* newsletter, John Koehler accused Mr Butler of spreading slanders "passed on to you by a member of the Freemasonic Lodge, a known seditious, corrupt, occult secret society".

"They have corrupted the Church, the media, government at all levels, business and education to name a few, yet you feel comfortable with the League being infiltrated by them?" Mr Koehler wrote in a private letter to Mr Butler. "Is it any wonder that many of your people are asking where you stand? The title of the [Masonic] 32nd degree is 'Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret'. Eric, would the secret be that the Crown is involved in Satanism, or perhaps that the Crown is the real master of 'The Trust', better known as international socialism?"

Attacks on Mr Butler have also featured in US LaRouche publications. The *Executive Intelligence Review* of 14 February, 1992 states: "Although he hides it from all but his
closest associates, Butler is a member of the British-Israelite cult, which argues that the Anglo-Saxons, not the Jews, are God's chosen people, and that the bloodline of David and of Jesus Christ is embodied today in the British Royal Family.17 Adding insult to idiocy, the 28 February issue of EIR accuses the League of the two most serious crimes in the LaRouchite canon: "malthusianism and gnosticism."18

Mr Butler's response, if any, to these very specific allegations is unrecorded. The response of some League followers to the LaRouchites generally, however, is clearer.

When Seattle-based LaRouchite activist Pat Ruckert toured Australia in October last year to talk on the "New World Order" of President George Bush, largely under the auspices of the Citizens' Electoral Councils, he soon encountered opposition.19

Some of his audiences - mainly known League activists - took vocal offence at the anti-British line. In Bendigo, some even hooted at Mr Ruckert's claims that Prince Phillip advocated genocide and that Prince Charles was a Satanist. In turn, Mr Ruckert rebuked audience members who floated the League of Rights' anti-Semitic conspiracy theories. While the LaRouche group is also anti-Semitic, it has of late taken pains to distance itself from cruder manifestations of racism.

One area of strong contention with the League is over racial matters: the US organisation has a number of African-American members and has recently been making successful overtures to Louis Farrakhan's Nation of Islam movement. This has not gone down well with some Australian would-be supporters who have guessed correctly that LaRouche has no sympathy for the local far-right's much-beloved White Australia Policy.20

US LaRouchites are also known to have rebuked their Australian counterparts for running racist material in The New Citizen - including an advertisement for the neo-Nazi National Action group and advertisements for anti-Semitic books and videos.21

It should be noted that the Americans are less than impressed with the calibre of some of the CEC movement's followers. Given the NCLC's obsession with finding paedophiles among the ranks of its opponents, there has been tension over the presence of an individual in the Queensland CEC movement who has more than once faced charges of indecent assault on young males.

The LaRouchites have also come under fire from the League's Queensland director Chas Pinwill. "We differ with LaRouche over Social Credit," Mr Pinwill said. "They see LaRouche as the greatest economist this century. I'd suspect his contribution is very limited. I'm checking it out, but I just can't see what they're seeing. From what I've seen, he's not said anything that Adam Smith didn't say."

As for the group itself, Mr Pinwill minimised its influence in Queensland. "They've taken a few defections," he said. "I don't believe the LaRouche inroads now amount to much. Leaving aside the personalities of the groups, the different approaches of the Anglos and the Americans have had an influence. Some find the LaRouchites' Yankee hucksterism a bit hard to take. They have their approach and that approach does not go down well."23

Some local LaRouchites have attempted to disown their American colleagues' anti-British obsessions. Maurice Hetherington, a high-ranking LaRouche activist and councillor for Banana Shire in Queensland, told ABC Radio National's Background Briefing that while he certainly did not associate with the League, he had a difference of opinion with the US LaRouche organisation over the Royal Family. "I've never been interested in reading that side of it," he said, adding, "I'll fight and die to protect the Australian flag and the Constitution because that's the greatest thing we inherited from the British system ..."24

Of course, there is nothing a conspiracy theorist likes more than a good conspiracy theory, and it would be out of character for the League to dismiss the LaRouchites'
attacks simply as sour grapes. After the Background Briefing broadcast, a correspondent in On Target wrote: "Everyone who has taken the trouble to study the LaRouche movement knows the LaRouche charges that the British Royal Family is at, or near, the centre of some giant international conspiracy including drugs. Much of what is written is so patently absurd that we must pose the question: What is the purpose of all this? And why the campaign to attempt to link the League of Rights with LaRouche, in the same way that attempts have been made to link the League with National Socialists and other exponents of hatred and violence? The reality is that the League is consistently smeared because it has developed a movement firmly rooted in the heritage upon which traditional Australia was built. Its long record is one of objectiveness and balance. Alien movements like that of LaRouche have nothing to offer Australia at this critical time."

The CEC end of the operations was largely based on old League of Rights' networks, mainly through the farming community. But when Pat Ruckert arrived, he already had lists of his own, based mainly on encounters with Australian travellers in the US who confronted by LaRouche campaigners at airports.

Company presidents, mining executives, and scientists abounded on one such list - a computer printout of EIR and New Federalist subscribers. (The figures are US dollar figures.)

A Glebe, Sydney, scientist had given $20,000 to the movement: he also had the words "intelligence operative?" noted against his name. A Hunters Hill, Sydney, businessman had "given lots of $5-7000" and had "paid for Aborigines to go to Phil" - believed to be a reference to a LaRouche seminar in Philadelphia or, possibly, the Philippines.

One contact had spent $7885 on subscriptions to the LaRouche scientific publications Fusion and 21st Century Science and Technology. A Brisbane-based director of one of Australia's leading mining companies parted with $1305. Another list showed the LaRouchites were in contact with the president of a major multinational corporation in Sydney, who was described as a "good fellow, pre-technology". Yet another list was prepared by Mr Ruckert during his tour, summarising people as he met them. A Marlborough, Queensland, farmer was worth "millions" but had only given $1000. Mr Ruckert noted - probably glumly - that the family members were "7th Day Adventists".

A surgeon at a leading Melbourne hospital was described as a "long time supporter" who has "given $1000's". A Sydney gun shop owner was a "stupid and nasty operator"; alongside his name Mr Ruckert had added "invite him to meeting". A number of other gun lobby activists were listed.

One of Australia's leading gun lobby activists - the head of the Australians Right to Bear Arms Association, Peter Sawyer - has also backed LaRouche. Mr Sawyer, who, in 1990 polled 17 per cent in a Queensland by-election, is better known for his claim that the Deakin telecommunications' centre in Canberra is the operational HQ for a vast conspiracy and calls on like-minded activists to bury their guns. He embraced LaRouche's cause in October, 1989, when he claimed in his Inside News that LaRouche had been framed by the US establishment, which was attempting to cover up a Swedish spy scandal.

After this writer (in the Sun-Herald) detailed LaRouche's background, he was accused by Mr Sawyer of being a "mad, rabid dog". Mr Sawyer said he would "leave it to those who follow as to whether Greason should stand trial for his treason, or be humanely disposed of like any other sick and incurable animal."

Traitors figure large in Mr Sawyer's nightmares. The November, 1991 issue of Inside...
News had a few things to say about the US President: "Is Mr Bush honourable? Is he really the type of man to have control of our children's futures? Is he a saint? Or is he a HOMOSEXUAL CHILD ABUSER [Mr Sawyer's emphasis] and part of a powerful child exploitation and pornography ring that controls America and perhaps the Western World?" Thereupon followed a twenty-page report detailing allegations of a paedophile ring operating in Nebraska in the 1980s. An alleged participant in this alleged ring was said to have known the then Vice-President Bush through his association with the Nebraska Republican Party. There Mr Bush's "involvement" began and ended, but Mr Sawyer's skills as an "investigative journalist" told him a cover-up was in progress.

Once Mr Sawyer had performed that necessary function, however, the New Federalist and Executive Intelligence Review were able to repeat the slander, claiming "Australia's most widely read newsletter ... provided for the first time documentary evidence" of the fantastic allegations.

Mr Sawyer even added his own twist to the tale. "Canberra is, quite possibly, the occult capital of the Southern Hemisphere, if not the world," he wrote in Inside News. "The city, and in particular the new Parliament House, have in fact been specifically built as a focal point for certain psychic or spiritual forces. It is known that December and early January constitute one of the most important times of the year for certain occult ceremonies. Could it conceivably be that George Bush HAS to be in Canberra at that time to perform, or take part in, some such ceremony?"

Again, he based these bizarre allegations on an Executive Intelligence Review "Special Report" entitled: "Satanism: Crime Wave of the '90s".

For the visit of President Bush to Australia in January this year, Mr Sawyer had special posters made up. They read in part: "George Bush - We Know The Morality Of Your New World Order." Some were seen during the farmers' rally in Canberra - as was a giant banner, which read: "LaRouche for President - Bush for Jail." Mr Sawyer's posters also surfaced at an anti-Bush rally in Melbourne.

The LaRouchites' obsession with local members of the Jewish community has seen them work closely with two members of parliament in Australia: Australian Capital Territory MHA Dennis Stevenson and Northern Territory MLA Denis Collins.

Mr Stevenson, who was this year re-elected to the ACT Assembly on the Abolish Self-Government ticket, has been widely criticised for his links with the far-right. Last year he attended the League of Rights' annual seminar in Melbourne, and is regularly publicised in The New Citizen.

The ACT MP has addressed or chaired numerous farmer and CEC meetings, including one in the Victorian country town of Katunga in January this year, which was addressed by Victorian activist Danny Johnson (whose March "blockade" of Canberra received substantial advance publicity in The New Citizen) and former Australian Democrat Senator Paul McLean.

Mr Stevenson's name also appears in the opening pages of the LaRouche-CEC document Sovereign Australia, where he is thanked for his input into the document. Twelve other individuals are also thanked - eight are leading LaRouche activists, including LaRouche's wife, Helga Zepp-LaRouche.

This comment was noted on Pat Ruckert's contact list: "Dennis Stevenson. Parliamentarian - Canberra - State. Name in Program in back [a reference to Sovereign Australia]. Scientology background. Stood up under slander."
Besides helping the LaRouchites with their local propaganda efforts, Mr Stevenson, and
informant Stuart Paul Gill (also known as Paul Dummett), who is now at the centre of the
"Operation Iceberg" affair. Mr Stevenson has since apologised for some of his allega-
tions.32

Senior Victorian police fear, however, that confidential reports from the Internal Security
Unit and the Bureau of Criminal Intelligence may have ended up in LaRouchite hands.
LaRouche documents seen by senior police contain a number of allegations about
Australian Jewish community figures. Police believe these documents are based on
Internal Security Unit and Bureau of Criminal Intelligence material. Some of the
allegations are attributed to "PC", believed by police to be a code for Paul Gill. Mr. Gill
is said to have gained access to police files when working on Operation Iceberg in the
mid-to-late 1980's.

In a speech to the Northern Territory Parliament in August, 1991, Mr Collins, an
independent, quoted from an Executive Intelligence Review report on the B'nai B'rith
Anti-Defamation League, and suggested that Mr Leibler's association with the former
Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke, had allowed pornography to flourish. His allegations
did not go unanswered, however, and on 1 October, the Opposition Leader, Mr Ede,
nailed the source as the "virulently anti-Semitic" LaRouche group.33

Internal LaRouche documents showed that the attacks on Mr Leibler were much wel-
comed, and helped to spread their anti-Semitic slander that members of the World
Jewish Congress and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith are secretly tools of the
drug lobby.34

The Australian Institute of Jewish Affairs also came in for some paranoid scrutiny in this
article. "Seven out of ten members of the AIJA board are worth at least several dozen
million dollars each," LaRouche activist Lydia Cherry wrote. "Some of these individuals
have fared quite well under the Hawke government, even during the recent years when
the Australian economy is crashing at an unprecedented rate."

The LaRouche group's campaigning around the Gulf War issue has caused considerable
controversy in the United States, with LaRouchites accused of trying to infiltrate leftist
anti-war organisations. In the US, left groups are well aware of the LaRouche group's
politics and history, and in Richmond, Virginia, local anti-war organisers simply kept
shouting at the LaRouchites to "shut up" when they began their bizarre spels. Eventu-
ally, the LaRouchites stopped coming to meetings.35

It would appear that the LaRouchites have managed to attract some support from some
local leftists. A group called the South Movement, which is affiliated with the Students'
Representative Council at Melbourne's LaTrobe University, issued a news release on 16
December, 1991 on the successful bid by Tourang Ltd. for John Fairfax Ltd. The release,
which linked the bid to "Australian 'Zionist Lobby' figures", was published in the New
Federalist of 23 December.

The South Movement is led by two former Maoists who also run the Committee to Save
the Children in Iraq. In the United States and Europe, this committee is a LaRouche front
group, led by Helga Zepp-LaRouche.36 The group in Melbourne is not formally
controlled by LaRouchites but uses LaRouche literature. (A group operating under a
similar name in Sydney is not believed to be associated with the LaRouche outfit.)

The CSCI is also associated with the Australian People's Conference, the Melbourne-
based pro-Libyan group led by former far-right activist Robert Pash. Mr Pash, an APC
colleague, and the two South Movement activists were signatories to a US Committee to
Save the Children in Iraq appeal, published by the LaRouchites and released early 1992.
The Australian People's Conference's magazine, The New Dawn, has reprinted LaRouche
material and Mr Pash was quoted in the New Federalist as supporting LaRouche's claims
of innocence.37
An April, 1991 "Special Report" by the Australian Green Institute (yet another Pash outfit), entitled Human Rights Violations in the USA, claimed that LaRouche was "George Bush's political prisoner". The material for the report was prepared by LaRouchites, and in introducing the material, Mr Pash wrote: "We are especially grateful to these writers, researchers and political activists who, in a world of hypocrisy and double dealing, really do believe in the eternal values of liberty, justice and equality for all."

The New Federalist noted: "The report includes extensive documentation to make the case that the judicial railroad of the imprisoned Lyndon LaRouche can only be understood in the context of the police state which the United States has become."

For a while, Mr Pash was an enthusiastic promoter of LaRouche's case. The October, 1991 booklist for his "South Books" operation offered Railroad, the LaRouchites' book on their leader's jailing. "In 1989 controversial economist Lyndon LaRouche was sent to jail for 15 years. HIS conviction and imprisonment provoked protests and outrage around the world. In this book you'll see why. Highly recommended." The book was listed under the category "Zionism."

Given that the LaRouchites have in the past accused Libya's Colonel Gaddafi of masterminding a plot to kill Helga Zepp-LaRouche, their association with Mr Pash (who is also director of Melbourne's Libyan-Arab Cultural Centre) is a curious one.

Mr Pash's broader activities in Arab community circles no doubt explains the LaRouchites' willingness to do deals. The Committee To Save the Children in Iraq has advertised in the Arab newspaper An Nahar, and some Melbourne Arab groups have distributed LaRouche material.

Mr Pash has since distanced himself from the LaRouche movement, declaring his opposition to all forms of racism and discrimination. The LaRouchites have also distanced themselves from Mr Pash, partly because of his former membership of the US far-right outfit Aryan Nations. Typically, it was not the neo-Nazi ideology of Aryan Nations that upset the LaRouchites, but its belief in British-Israelitism or the Identity Movement, as it is known in the US. Since then, however, he has again published LaRouche material in the New Dawn.

On 17 January, 1992, a "Save the Children in Iraq" rally was held outside the US Consulate in Melbourne. One speaker, Don Veitch, praised the LaRouche group in the US (for which he was verbally attacked by left activist Paul White) and called on demonstrators to picket the British Consulate instead.

Mr Veitch, a former adviser to Victorian Liberal Senator Jim Short, organised an "Independents' Conference" in Melbourne last November to bring together independent election candidates around specific issues, such as "drugs, child abuse, crime, debt"). From this meeting the Victorian Community Alliance was formed. He also attended a LaRouche conference on politics and education in the United States in December, returning on 15 January this year.

When the ABC Radio National program Background Briefing was researching its story on the rural right, journalist Kirsten Garrett received a letter from Mr Veitch warning of possible legal action if the ABC " slandered" LaRouche. "Having witnessed the victory of this statesman and political prisoner in the North Dakota Democratic Party primary, the Establishment (banks, grain cartels) are out to stop any international developments which will threaten their interests," Mr Veitch wrote. "ABC personnel are doing their part."

Mr Veitch signed his letter as "Information Officer, Citizens Electoral Council", and forwarded copies to the Rural Action Movement, CECs in WA, NSW, Queensland and Victoria, the Australian Journalists' Association, the Press Council and the ABC's general
management. Included was the warning: "The CEC will hold each journalist personally and individually responsible for any untruths, distortions or defamation."

The recent State Election saw the Victorian Community Alliance and Mr Veitch at the centre of controversy after the group, which backed nearly 30 independent candidates, was publicly linked to the far-right. According to The Age of 8 September, 1992, the alliance moved to dissociate itself from "extremist groups" after its chairman admitted that a number of candidates sympathised with the League of Rights, that a LaRouchite meeting had been held in the home of another candidate, and that the alliance had once shared a post office box with Don Veitch.

Generally, the LaRouchites' attempts to court the Australian left have met with little success. Besides the attack on LaRouche also in Paul White's Workers Revolution, the US Socialist Workers' Party paper, The Militant, also revealed the LaRouchite presence at the farmer rallies during the Bush visit.

"Supporters of US rightist Lyndon LaRouche were able to take advantage of the deepening crisis on the land to circulate their demagogic appeals to farmers at the Canberra rally. Their newspaper, New Citizen, attacked the NFF (National Farmers' Federation) and its evil 'cult' of free trade, arguing a protectionist line," the paper noted. 43

Another group that has attracted the LaRouchites' attention is the scientific community - and this is a major cause of concern.

In the US, the NCLC and associated front groups like the Fusion Energy Foundation collected millions of dollars from scientists who sympathised with the NCLC's pro-nuclear stance and its aggressive support of President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative, or "Star Wars" as it was better known.

Few, if any, also supported - or even knew of - the LaRouchites' other theories. Nor did they know that, despite its ostensibly conservative image, the LaRouche movement was suspected of passing sensitive military information to the former Soviet Union and Iraq.

The NCLC's intelligence-gathering operations in the defence field, and its courting of scientists in sensitive areas, as confirmed by a leading Australian nuclear physicist who donated US$2230 to the group, has alarmed US Government figures.

Dr Leslie Kemeny, senior lecturer in nuclear engineering at UNSW, first came across the organisation in Houston some years ago. "I travel frequently in connection with IAEA or ANSTO [International Atomic Energy Agency, Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation] matters, and I was on my way to the University of Houston when I came across them [the LaRouchites] at the airport," he said.

"The trouble is that they get people interested through technology matters then try to get them involved in their political activities."

"They'd been trying to get a group of Australians to the States to train," Dr Kemeny said. "There's been several attempts at this. They recognise that Australia is fairly insignificant in some ways, but there's been a number of attempts to interest politicians and leading lights, and they seem to target certain scientists."

"I certainly have distanced myself from anything they're doing. I found them almost brainwashing - it isn't too strong a word."

Dennis King, in Lyndon LaRouche and The New American Fascism, noted that the Fusion Energy Foundation was established in 1974 as a cover for the NCLC's intelligence staff science and technology division. The NCLC's intelligence operations allowed the group to operate one of America's most sophisticated private intelligence networks throughout the 1980s.
It is still uncertain what the LaRouchites did with much of the intelligence they gathered. In the early 1980s they started publishing tips on how to make H-bombs and death rays. "Predictably, they strove to develop ties with governments desirous of becoming the next nuclear power: India, Iraq, South Africa, Argentina, Taiwan and Libya," King wrote.

Besides those countries, defectors said clients included French and Italian intelligence agencies, Iran (under the Shah), and Saudi Arabia. They also worked with Panama's General Noriega.

The group has long had close links with Iraq's Ba'ath Socialist Party, and leading members have visited that country since the Gulf War ended.

**SPOILERS OR SPOOKS?**

Gathering and swapping intelligence is a major role - probably the major role - of the LaRouche organisation. In Australia, it has attempted to investigate Australian media baron Kerry Packer (although the bulk of its "research" appears to be a rehash of allegations made at the time of the Costigan Commission), transport magnate Sir Peter Abeles, and Melbourne Jewish community figure Isi Leibler.

One *EIR* article on Kerry Packer claimed that the magazine had a contact in *The Age*. While this is unlikely, the LaRouchites have a reputation of misrepresenting themselves when gathering intelligence. In 1981, *US News and World Report* filed a US$1.5m suit against *EIR* and *New Solidarity* (the predecessor to the *New Federalist*), for impersonating its staff members to obtain interviews.

It is certainly true that LaRouchites have made some contact with Australian journalists. One internal LaRouche document, for example, details a conversation with *Four Corners*'s executive producer Marian Wilkinson about businessman Sir Peter Abeles. According to Ms Wilkinson, the caller introduced himself as a reporter from an American newspaper. Half-way through the conversation, she said, she became suspicious of his repeated attempts to steer the conversation towards alleged drug activities.

The LaRouchites' conspiratorial world view sees particular individuals - such as Henry Kissinger, David Rockefeller, Edgar Bronfman (a Canadian businessman and Jewish community figure) - as all-powerful, and, indeed, positively evil. It would appear that the LaRouchites see Sir Peter Abeles and Isi Leibler as filling similar roles in Australia. An "*EIR* Audio Report" - a tape-recording sent to subscribers - dated 23 April, 1991, makes various allegations against Sir Peter and Mr Leibler's brother, tax lawyer Mark Leibler.

The intelligence-gathering forays will probably not end there. The NCLC has numerous links with odd characters on the fringes of the US intelligence community - some of whom, like former CIA operative Victor Marchetti, they alternately court and denounce, depending on their mood at the time.

Part of their conspiratorial world-view rests on a belief that sections of the US intelligence community, led by former CIA chief George Bush and Colonel Oliver North, have decided to destroy the LaRouche movement. Their fascination with some of the more unorthodox involvements of the US intelligence community has led them in Australia to the CIA-linked drug laundering Nugan Hand Bank, whose activities they link to their domestic enemies.

It is times like these that the LaRouchites should learn to shut up. Whatever links if any Nugan Hand had with LaRouche's enemies, they could not be as substantial as the links between Nugan Hand and the late Mitch WerBell, arms smuggler, narcotics trafficker, probable CIA contract agent, and Lyndon LaRouche's personal security adviser in the late 1970s.
WerBell, who was interviewed by the Commonwealth of Australia/NSW Joint Task Force on Drug Trafficking over his links with Nugan Hand, was paid by the bank to consult on a "refugee-aid project", in reality a plan to stage a coup d'état in Haiti.48

And that is just one aspect of the group's manoeuvrings. As one US intelligence analyst said, referring to the LaRouchites' Australian adventure, the NCLC is much more than another political grouping. "I don't want to sound patronising, but these farmers are out of their depth with LaRouche. Just look at some of the people he's moved with: Mitch WerBell [drug runner and former LaRouche security adviser], who was up to his neck with Nugan Hand operations; Noriega; Latin American death squads. This isn't the John Birch Society we're dealing with here - this is a f...ing black bag operation."

Similar suspicions are shared by LaRouche expert Dennis King, and British espionage and intelligence specialist Richard Deacon who, in his book on disinformation, The Truth Twisters, asks: "How does the Executive Intelligence Review manage to present an extreme right-wing attitude on the one hand and at the same time lend itself to wild stories and disinformation that can only promote the kind of propaganda in which the KGB would delight?"

It is a question on more than a few minds in Australia today. Suffice to say, however, whether the group is a front for the CIA, the KGB, rogue elements in the National Security Council, or just a plaything for Lyndon Hermyle LaRouche Jr., there is no doubt that it has a disruptive capacity never before seen in this country.

Notes

1 "(D)espite its avowedly anti-Soviet stance, the cult also appears to have maintained contacts with the USSR, including Soviet intelligence agencies. LaRouche himself, in LaRouche Challenges Spike Hoax, a National Democratic Policy Committee bulletin, acknowledged having maintained contacts with the KGB and other Soviet intelligence agencies. LaRouche wrote that his outfit served as a "spooks "letter-box drop", the proverbial hole in the third oak tree from the corner". He explained that for some years he and his associates were in contact with the KGB and other Soviet intelligence agencies, and received information from them... There have been other contacts with the Soviets. A top LaRouche aide, Paul Goldstein, has met with a Soviet "journalist" engaged in a disinformation campaign designed to blame the attempted assassination of the Pope on the CIA, rather than Bulgaria and its Soviet masters. The "journalist", Iona Andronov, wrote an article which appeared in the Soviet Literaturnaya Gazeta... Andronov wrote that he spoke with Goldstein at the cult's offices in Wiesbaden, West Germany. The Soviet quoted Goldstein as identifying a certain individual as a CIA agent who ran a Turkish fascist group involved in the assassination attempt, allegedly on behalf of the CIA. Andronov said Goldstein told him the attempted 'assassination was prepared with the knowledge of the CIA'."


5 "Right woos left over Gulf War Issue". Chip Berlet, Political Research Associates, Cambridge, Massachusetts, US. 18.1.1999
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6 See: The New Citizen, Vol.2, No.10 Nov/Dec, 1991-Jan, 1992. An article on satanic cults in NSW and Victoria quotes NSW CEC co-ordinator Dave Garrett as saying: "The Socialist International, which is a front for the One World bankers, uses these cult members to create a public climate where they can disarm law-abiding citizens." An article on free trade by Queensland CEC leader John Koehler blames Australia's economic woes on "the failure of forces in England, Europe and the young American republic to overcome the usury practicing cults which were principally centred on the old Venetian and Genoese families ... They were agents of the ancient Babylonian Persian occult priesthood, in the tradition of the Greek, Aristotle".


9 Sun-Herald (Sydney), 31 December, 1989. "Bid to free the man who bilked millions".


12 Rural Action, 1 August, 1991.


17 Butler is not a British-Israelite. His mentor, Social Credit founder C.H. Douglas, believed that British-Israelitism was part of the "international conspiracy". Given, however, that LaRouche's followers have also accused leading League figures of involvement in a homosexual pornography ring, much of what they have to say on these matters should be taken with a grain of salt. (See Searchlight, June, 1992, "Far Right fall out").

18 "Behind the Australian League of Rights: malthusianism and gnosticism", by Allen Douglas.

19 Leaflet: The New World Order - What it means and how it will affect you, your life, your business and your family. Issued by the Colac & District Citizens Electoral Council.

20 An unsourced quote allegedly from LaRouche circulated to media outlets late last year after The Age (Melbourne) carried a story on 7 August, 1991, which some CEC activists believed linked their group with the white supremacist group W.A.R. (White Aryan Resistance). The quote, attributed to LaRouche, and headed "Racialism", read: "Whoever chooses to describe himself or herself as of a different race than some other persons, is inherently, axiomatically a racist, and a - possibly dangerous - fool. Thus, to speak of 'racial equality', is to draw
certain biological distinctions among classes of persons, analogous to the dis-

tinctions rightly made among breeds ('races') of dogs, cars, horses, pigs, cows
and cockroaches. Once such liberal nonsense is established as official opinion,
along come the liberal racists, such as the notorious liberal perverts Jensen and
Shockley, to remind us why, the assertion of 'racial equality' is to concede defeat
of the struggle for individual personal equality to the 'genetical racist'.
A strong, detailed attack on the LaRouchites appeared in the Autumn 1992 issue (No. 16) of Mr White’s magazine, *Workers Revolution*. “Warning: Ultra-Right at Work”, outlined the LaRouchites’ history, propensity to exploit anti-Zionist tendencies in left and Arab nationalist circles.

Leaflet issued by Don Veitch: *You are invited to ... The Inaugural Independents Conference.*


Dennis King, *op cit*.


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**David Greason is a former journalist with The Age (Melbourne), the Sydney Morning Herald, and the South China Morning Post (Hong Kong). He has written on the LaRouche group for the Sun-Herald (Sydney), and Australia-Israel Review. At present he is writing two books for McPhee Gribble - an autobiographical work about his teenage years on the Australian and British far-right (to be published mid-1993), and a history of the Australian League of Rights.**
ERRATA

Paragraph 1, Page 12, “Lyndon LaRouche Down Under” should read as follows:

Besides helping the LaRouchites with their local propaganda efforts, Mr Stevenson and Denis Collins have used their parliamentary privilege to attack the Melbourne-based vice-president of the World Jewish Congress, Mr Isi Leibler, attacks that received glowing reviews in *Executive Intelligence Review*.

The allegations came from police informer Stuart Paul Gill (also known as Paul Dummett), who is now at the centre of the “Operation Iceberg” affair. Mr Stevenson has since apologised for some of his allegations.