

4 March 1984

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NYKANEN: They have almost become fixtures in airports all across the country. They are mostly white, well-educated and earnest. They sell magazines that promote nuclear power. And they display signs critical of Walter Mondale and others. These people are part of a political cult run by Lyndon LaRouche. LYNDON LAROCHE (Presidential Candidate): Democrats, let those of us who remember, take back the leadership of the Democratic Party from this gang that's taken it over.

NYKANEN: LaRouche is a presidential candidate. He also ran in 1976 and 1980. He says he's a conservative Democrat. But party leaders say he has his own beliefs. He says, for example, that the Queen of England is a dope dealer.

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NYKANEN: LaRouche and his followers have formed a tightly-knit organization, the inner workings of which are not well-known to outsiders. Tonight, we'll talk to some former members. They call themselves defectors. And we'll look at LaRouche's involvements in local and national elections; with the Teamsters Union and the Reagan administration. We'll examine charges that he is an anti-Semite. We'll also see how LaRouche and his followers have suppressed some unfavorable news stories and tried to intimidate reporters. LaRouche's public involvement in politics began in the late 1960s here at Columbia University. He was the leader of a splinter group in the left-wing SDS, Students for a Democratic Society. And at that time, he called himself Lynn Marcus.

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NYKANEN: In 1971, LaRouche and his followers began to establish offices abroad. Defectors say there are about 600 followers outside the United States. This is LaRouche's European headquarters in Weisbaden, Germany. Staffers here are in daily contact with other LaRouche offices in Belgium, France, Italy, Denmark, Sweden, Latin America, the Far East, and the United States. LaRouche claims all of his offices form a worldwide network that gathers secret information from foreign governments. First Camera has learned that in the United States, LaRouche and some of his closest associates have met on numerous occasions with officials of the State Department, Drug Enforcement Administration and CIA. We have also learned that LaRouche has easy access to high-ranking members of the Reagan administration. Producer Pat *Lynch talked to Dr. Norman Baylor. He is a special assistant to President Reagan on the National Security Council.

BAYLOR: About a year after I joined the National Security Council, I was contacted by the LaRouche people. I agreed to meet with them, and I met with them several times thereafter. This I found useful, quite simply because they have, in my view, one of the best private intelligence services in the world so that to me it was useful to talk to them. They also are very strongly in favor of certain programs that the administration is very much in favor of, also.

LYNCH: But does he have any influence on President Reagan and his policies, or in his policy makers? BAYLOR: Well, I think that some people other than myself used him before, and continue to use his organization as a source of information, yes.

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NYKANEN: Recently LaRouche's organization sued NBC News for \$60 million. He claims to have been libeled. UNIDENTIFIED INTERVIEWER #1 (Excerpt from CNN 'Crossfires': Isn't it true, Mr. LaRouche, that you said that the National Broadcasting Company was interviewing you, or trying to interview you, or you were doing a show for them, that they were KGB agents? LAROUCHE: Well, there is a national security angle in the NBC organization. INTERVIEWER #1: The KGB? LAROUCHE: Absolutely. UNIDENTIFIED INTERVIEWER #2: Is it just because First Camera is apparently doing an investigative story on you? Is that not true? LAROUCHE: Yeah. A lot of people are. INTERVIEWER #2: All right. Is that... LAROUCHE: No, they're not doing an investigation... INTERVIEWER #2: Is that why you're hassling them? LAROUCHE: No, no, no. The point is they're working with the drug law, (inaudible) admitted it.

NYKANEN: LaRouche and his followers have long used hate campaigns against their political opponents, Dr. Henry Kissinger, the Anti-Defamation League, Diplomat *Averill Harriman, and the Quakers. Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan. Why shouldn't they just be ignored? MOYNIHAN: Because they're there, and they are after us, and they do recruit, and they do misrepresent things, and they do drop little bits of poison into the political bloodstream. Any lie that is vicious enough, somebody will believe it. Any slander that is cruel enough, somebody will have to enjoy it and be tempted to take it in. You have to fight them.

UNIDENTIFIED DEFECTOR #2: Lyndon LaRouche has the political experience and the political boldness to create a Facist dictatorship in this country if he were backed by the right people.

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DOBYNS: On Feb. 24, Mr. LaRouche filed a suit against the Secretary of the Treasury, Donald Regan, who is the cabinet officer in charge of the Secret Service. The suit asks that Secretary Regan be ordered to assign Secret Service protection to candidate LaRouche, who claims that he is a, quote, 'major presidential candidate,' and his ability to campaign is being hampered without federal protection. Two days earlier, on Feb. 22, after his news conference, President Reagan was asked by reporter *Laura Chasen of the Executive Intelligence Review, to provide Mr. LaRouche with Secret Service protection. Of course, if Mr. LaRouche wins his \$60 million suit against First Camera, he can hire all the bodyguards he wants.

EXCERPTED

MEDIASCAN TRANSCRIPT
NBC FIRST CAMERA
4 March 1984
Sunday

DOBYNS: I'm Lloyd Dobyns. ~~[One of the stories tonight has to do with problems caused by modern advances. There is no doubt plastics have made all of our lives easier, except, perhaps, for firefighters. When some plastics burn, they produce poisonous gas. Steve Delaney has that story later.]~~ Our first report has to do with a candidate for the presidency and his followers. There is no shortage of candidates, heaven knows. The Federal Election Commission says there are 168 candidates in this election year, including at least one robot and maybe a coyote. Mark Nykanen has a story about one of the 81 candidates for the Democratic nomination, a man named Lyndon LaRouche. Since his name didn't come up in the results of the New Hampshire primary, you may not know him. But you may be aware of at least one of his causes, and you may have run into some of his followers. There are only 450 or so in the United States; but they're active.

NYKANEN: They have almost become fixtures in airports all across the country. They are mostly white, well-educated and earnest. They sell magazines that promote nuclear power. And they display signs critical of Walter Mondale and others. These people are part of a political cult run by Lyndon LaRouche.

LYNDON LAROCHE (Presidential Candidate): Democrats, let those of us who remember, take back the leadership of the Democratic Party from this gang that's taken it over.

NYKANEN: LaRouche is a presidential candidate. He also ran in 1976 and 1980. He says he's a conservative Democrat. But party leaders say he has his own beliefs. He says, for example, that the Queen of England is a dope dealer.

LAROCHE: Of course she's pushing drugs. That is, in the sense of responsibility, the head of a gang that is pushing drugs. She knows it's happening. And she isn't stopping it.

NYKANEN: And LaRouche has said repeatedly that nuclear war is upon us.

LAROCHE: We are in dire consequences right now. We're headed to a thermonuclear confrontation within the current 12 months, that is, a 12-month span. We might blow up before then.

NYKANEN: And he claims powerful people have targeted him for assassination.

LAROCHE: I'm on the same general list which includes a number of people, of targets. President Reagan is on the list. Same list with Pope Paul II, John Paul II. Same list with Helmut Schmidt, the West German, and a number of other people.

NYKANEN: LaRouche's critics include Irwin Sowell, the fact finding director of B'nai B'rith anti-defamation league. IRWIN SOWELL: He is a small-time Hitler, if I can put it that way, in that he regurgitates many of the things that Hitler did. But he does it in a somewhat ambivalent way, in a somewhat camouflaged way.

NYKANEN: And Dennis King, who has written numerous articles about LaRouche.

KING: LaRouche says that he would create a new race of golden souls to rule

over humanity. Now this is Adolph Hitler's program, pure and simple, only transplanted in the 1980s, and to the United States rather than to Germany.

NYKANEN: LaRouche and his followers have formed a tightly-knit organization, the inner workings of which are not well-known to outsiders. Tonight, we'll talk to some former members. They call themselves defectors. And we'll look at LaRouche's involvements in local and national elections; with the Teamsters Union and the Reagan administration. We'll examine charges that he is an anti-Semite. We'll also see how LaRouche and his followers have suppressed some unfavorable news stories and tried to intimidate reporters. LaRouche's public involvement in politics began in the late 1960s here at Columbia University. He was the leader of a splinter group in the left-wing SDS, Students for a Democratic Society. And at that time, he called himself Lynn Marcus. That's how he was known to John Reese, the publisher of a politically conservative magazine. REESE: Well, I first met Lyndon LaRouche in New York in the late 1960s, '66, '67, when he was clearly a Marxist and teaching at a loft evening class organization called the Free University of New York.

NYKANEN: LaRouche broke from the SDS and recruited other members to join him in a new, even more militant, left-wing group, the National Caucus of Labor Committees. In 1973, LaRouche ordered his followers to physically attack dozens of political opponents. Many were hospitalized. This defector lives in fear because she knew LaRouche during the mid 1970s. She says that LaRouche's cult completely controls a member's life. UNIDENTIFIED DEFECTOR: If you join the Labor Committee, you're separated from your own friends, you're separated from your family. You're doing Labor Committee activities, six days a week, 12 hours a day. Where you'll shop, what you eat, what you read, what you think about will be determined by the fact that you're a member of the National Caucus of Labor Committees. His members are told, those that are married, that to have a child would, you know, would really interfere with their political activity and have disastrous effects upon humanity. I personally accompanied at least seven women to get abortions. If you were pregnant and you were in the Labor Committee, you had done something wrong.

NYKANEN: In the late 1970s, LaRouche became an extreme right-winger. Most of his cult fell into line. He then sought support from conservative Republicans. But he didn't win over all of them. Gen. Daniel Graham is a former director of the Defense Intelligence Agency. GEN. GRAHAM: Well, I think he's a phony. I think the man is picking up issues, people of my conservative stripe, tend to support and then making a mockery out of them. UNIDENTIFIED CAMPAIGN WORKER: Vote LaRouche! Lyndon LaRouche!

NYKANEN: Although a self-proclaimed conservative, LaRouche entered the 1980 Democratic presidential primary in New Hampshire. The tactics of his campaign angered people there. CAMPAIGN WORKER: America needs a redblooded American in the White House. We don't need a whole generation destroyed on drugs. UNIDENTIFIED MAN: I don't need to be purified! You hear that? I'm pure! Pure enough!

CAMPAIGN WORKER: You don't have to lecture me, Mister!

NYKANEN: Chris Spiro says he was also offended by the LaRouche campaign. Spiro is the New Hampshire House Democratic leader. SPIRO: As the campaign in 1980 started, I started getting phone calls from his supporters all over the place

pressuring me to support Lyndon LaRouche. I got calls from all over the place, in the middle of the night, waking my family up, waking me up and telling me that I'd better support Lyndon LaRouche.

NYKANEN: When Spiro did not support him, LaRouche's campaign literature labeled him a drug dealer with links to organized crime. John Prestige said LaRouche tried to intimidate him. In 1980 he was a reporter for The Manchester Union Leader in New Hampshire. PRESTIGE: He came into the paper with about 12 people, body guards, his wife and what not. I believe they were carrying some guns and we had to make them leave their guns downstairs. During that interview, he told me there were certain things that I could not say, in my stories. And of course that piqued my curiosity. And, he told me that he would make it very painful for me if I wrote certain things. And I asked him, well, what do you mean by painful? And he kind of chuckled with the rest of the people there and said we have ways of making it painful beyond lawsuits. We had three cats. And on successive days following the articles, the cats were found on my doorstep, dead.

NYKANEN: LaRouche campaigned hard in New Hampshire. But high-ranking defectors say he feared he would not get many votes. They say that was the reason he paid more than \$90,000 for advice from political consultants in Michigan, said to be linked to organized crime. The defectors also say LaRouche paid thousands of dollars to this man, George Kader. They said Kader was supposed to help LaRouche get votes in New Hampshire. According to congressional testimony, Kader was an associate of New England organized crime. Kader denies this. Kader would not talk to us on camera. Privately, he said LaRouche and his gun-toting followers asked him for help in the primary. Kader said two of his men worked for LaRouche for one month, were not paid what they had been promised, and quit the campaign. Kader said he, personally, never received any money from LaRouche. Defectors say LaRouche can afford to spend a lot of money because each week about \$180,000 flows into his organization, much of it from the sale of magazines at airports. Executive Intelligence Review, for example, costs \$400 for a year's subscription. LaRouche also received more than a half million dollars in federal taxpayer funds in 1980 because he qualified as a presidential candidate. Now, the Federal Election Commission, FEC, says the LaRouche campaign did not follow his spending rules and has told his campaign to pay back almost \$50,000. The FEC also told his campaign to pay a \$15,000 penalty for violating its rules in 1980. So far, the LaRouche campaign has not complied with the FEC request for the money. In 1980, the campaign also ran into trouble in Baltimore, when Deborah Freeman illegally transferred money into LaRouche's presidential war chest. Freeman paid a \$2500 fine for illegal campaign financing. UNIDENTIFIED DEFECTOR: Money from the profit-making organizations went into political campaigns. And was not correctly reported. Money from the tax exempt organization was given to the political campaign, unbeknownst to the people who made the contributions through tax exempt organizations. UNIDENTIFIED DEFECTOR 2: Any serious investigation by the Internal Revenue Service would lead to criminal indictment and closing down of the LaRouche organization.

NYKANEN: LaRouche's followers also have claimed election victories that are not theirs. They said for example, that Jim Bowman of Santa Clara, Calif., was their winner in a recent school board election. JIM BOWMAN: Makes me angry. Just about all I can say is not so, it's a lie. I paid for my own campaign

funds. I put my own ads in the paper, I had my own cards printed. I have the receipts here now.

NYKANEN: Bowman says he never was a follower of LaRouche. He only bought a subscription to a LaRouche newspaper at an airport.

ANNOUNCER: Part two of our report on Lyndon LaRouche continues in a moment.

DOBYNS: Mark Nykanen's report continues. It is about Lyndon LaRouche, a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination.

UNIDENTIFIED KLANSMAN: And fortunately, there are many more Americans that feel the same as we do. UNIDENTIFIED BLACK MAN: You are sick. You know that. You are sick.

NYKANEN: Former members say LaRouche and his followers have also cultivated extreme right-wing groups, such as the Ku Klux Klan and the Posse Comitatus, a militant anti-Semitic organization. Erwin Sowell, of the ADL, says LaRouche's ties to anti-Semites is not surprising. SOWELL: He and his organization have made charges against the Jews, prominent Jewish organizations, Jewish personaliteis, that indicates he thinks the Jews are responsible for every evil that besets the world.

NYKANEN: LaRouche would not answer questions for this report. But two years ago, I asked him about these charges. LAROUCHE: Anyone who says I'm an anti-Semite is either repeating gossip and therefore a liar in that sense, or if they know the least thing about me. There's a lot lying. So I don't bother dealing with that.

NYKANEN: LaRouche's organization sued the ADL for saying it was anti-Semitic and lost. SOWELL: He charged us, when we described him as anti-Semitic, with libeling him. That's the issue that the court decide upon and held that in view of the vast amount of evidence that we amassed and produced in court, there could be no question that our comment that he was anti-Semitic was a fair comment.

NYKANEN: LaRouche's most successful alliance is with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Defectors say the Teamsters union has funneled money into LaRouche's cult. UNIDENTIFIED DEFECTOR #2: They got payments from teamster leaderships to harass and propagandize in an unscrupulous way against Teamster dissidents in the union. They were friends, for instance, with Jackie Presser, who's the president of Teamsters now, was on Reagan's transition team. They printed pamphlets slandering Teamster dissidents, and the Teamsters union paid for these things to be reprinted, and thousands and thousands of copies were distributed through the union.

NYKANEN: These members of LaRouche's cult were among those who were trained in guerrilla warfare at this school in *Powder Springs, Ga. *Mitchell Robell III ran the school until his death in 1983. UNIDENTIFIED DEFECTOR: I firmly believe that Lyndon LaRouche's control over his membership is such that he could incite people to violence. They are armed, and they are dangerous. UNIDENTIFIED DEFECTOR #2: These people are not psychologically the most stable in the world, and they could be directed to do something at LaRouche's bidding without any consideration on their own part of whether it was right or not.

UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Including killing someone? UNIDENTIFIED DEFECTOR #2:
Yeah. They would do whatever he told them.

NYKANEN: In August 1977 former Georgia police officer Larry Cooper was paid to guard LaRouche in Weisbaden, Germany. He says at that time LaRouche told his top staff that he wanted to assassinate President Carter and members of his administration. Cooper says he left Germany immediately and told *Mitchell Robell III. This man was present when Robell was informed of the plot. He does not want his identity known. UNIDENTIFIED MAN: He proposed to assassinate, as I recall, it was Zbigniew Brzezinski, *Joseph Lauden, who's the secretary of General NATO, Paul Warnke, of the arms control disarmament agency, President Carter and David Rockefeller. The method was to be the installation of small radiocontrolled time bombs which could be detonated over the telephone lines from foreign countries 12,000 miles away. Gen. Mitchell Robell generated a kind of propoganda story...cover story to completely suppress the affair.

NYKANEN: In 1971, LaRouche and his followers began to establish offices abroad. Defectors say there are about 600 followers outside the United States. This is LaRouche's European headquarters in Weisbaden, Germany. Staffers here are in daily contact with other LaRouche offices in Belgium, France, Italy, Denmark, Sweden, Latin America, the Far East, and the United States. LaRouche claims all of his offices form a worldwide network that gathers secret information from foreign governments. First Camera has learned that in the United States, LaRouche and some of his closest associates have met on numerous occasions with officials of the State Department, Drug Enforcement Administration and CIA. We have also learned that LaRouche has easy access to high-ranking members of the Reagan administration. Producer Pat *Lynch talked to Dr. Norman Baylor. He is a special assistant to President Reagan on the National Security Council.

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LYNCH: But does he have any influence on President Reagan and his policies, or in his policy makers? BAYLOR: Well, I think that some people other than myself used him before, and continue to use his organization as a source of information, yes.

NYKANEN: Despite all of his high-level contacts, LaRouche is still not well known. Defectors say that's because he uses lawsuits as weapons against the press. The technique has had some success. *CHUCK BAGER: They threatened our paper, and the paper decided not to print an article.

NYKANEN: Chuck Bager worked for a weekly in Boston. BAGER: I was very ashamed of that on behalf of our paper because I wanted to do it. *ED KIACK: We were hit with a couple of lawsuits that came to almost \$100 million.

NYKANEN: Ed Kiack is the publisher of Our Town, a New York weekly. He says the cost of fighting LaRouche's lawsuits almost forced him to close down his newspaper. KIACK: It was a horrible experience. It was something we could have done without. We're just a small paper in a big town.

NYKANEN: Recently LaRouche's organization sued NBC News for \$60 million. He claims to have been libeled. UNIDENTIFIED INTERVIEWER #1 (Excerpt from CNN 'Crossfires': Isn't it true, Mr. LaRouche, that you said that the National Broadcasting Company was interviewing you, or trying to interview you, or you were doing a show for them, that they were KGB agents? LAROCHE: Well, there is a national security angle in the NBC organization. INTERVIEWER #1: The KGB? LAROCHE: Absolutely. UNIDENTIFIED INTERVIEWER #2: Is it just because First Camera is apparently doing an investigative story on you? Is that not true? LAROCHE: Yeah. A lot of people are. INTERVIEWER #2: All right. Is that... LAROCHE: No, they're not doing an investigation... INTERVIEWER #2: Is that why you're hassling them? LAROCHE: No, no, no. The point is they're working with the drug law, (inaudible) admitted it.

NYKANEN: LaRouche and his followers have long used hate campaigns against their political opponents, Dr. Henry Kissinger, the Anti-Defamation League, Diplomat *Averill Harriman, and the Quakers. Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan. Why shouldn't they just be ignored? MOYNIHAN: Because they're there, and they are after us, and they do recruit, and they do misrepresent things, and they do drop little bits of poison into the political bloodstream. Any lie that is vicious enough, somebody will believe it. Any slander that is cruel enough, somebody will have to enjoy it and be tempted to take it in. You have to fight them. UNIDENTIFIED DEFECTOR #2: Lyndon LaRouche has the political experience and the political boldness to create a Facist dictatorship in this country if he were backed by the right people.

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Betty Turner and Linda Rodgers, Transcribers