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Kissinger's Ordeal by LaRouche

he decade-long feud between Henry Kissinger and Lyndon LaRouche was an exasperating experience for the ex-secretary of state, according to internal FBI investigative files.

After years as one of the targets of LaRouche's verbal slings and arrows, Kissinger took unerring aim with an arrow of his own. He wrote FBI Director William H. Webster in 1982 asking for an investigation of his tormentor.

"I want to make clear," Kissinger wrote, "that I do not ask the FBI to interfere in any manner with LaRouche's First Amendment rights even when they are exercised in a scurrilous and obscene manner. The LaRouche campaign against me, however, seems to go far beyond free speech."

Over the years, LaRouche's followers had written and shouted accusations of personal and political misbehavior against Kissinger, sometimes confronting him in public. The charges ranged from drug smuggling to homosexuality. One incident resulted in the trial—and acquittal—of Kissinger's wife, Nancy, on an assault charge following an airport confrontation with a LaRouche supporter.

A LaRouche spokesman who reviewed the FBI documents told my associate Tony Capaccio that their quarrel with Kissinger was about policy issues. "We want Kissinger's political career to be over," he said.

The LaRouche spokesman maintained that the campaign never became illegal harassment, and said of Kissinger's request for an FBI investigation, "He got downright paranoid."

Kissinger refused to comment, but sources close

to him said he was subjected to "intense verbal and physical harassment" during the period when he asked for the FBI investigation. It has subsided considerably since, the sources said.

Kissinger first wrote to Webster in August 1982—a "Dear Bill" letter of thanks for forwarding a LaRouche flyer that assailed Kissinger.

The following month, Webster wrote to Kissinger's attorney: "I certainly can understand Dr. Kissinger's concern over the persistence which these individuals have displayed in their campaign against him."

As the campaign continued, Kissinger wrote again to Webster in November 1982, asking for an investigation. Within a month, he was informed that the Justice Department could find no actions alleged by Kissinger that violated civil rights laws.

He was told, however, that the actions he described might indicate violations of laws against interstate harassment by telephone.

The FBI files show that Webster wrote a memo to another bureau official about another angle. "The question was raised whether the U.S. Labor Party [a LaRouche organization] might be funded by hostile intelligence agencies," he wrote. "Can you give me an update . . . on this matter?"

The FBI investigation did uncover a letter by a LaRouche committee to a Texas organization to which Kissinger was scheduled to speak. The letter contained, in the words of an FBI memo, "violations [having to do] with mailing a threat to injure the reputation and-or accuse a person of a crime."

The FBI finally gave up in late 1983. It found no prosecutable offenses and closed its investigation.

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