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Spook-Hunting in the Boston Police Dept.

By Vin McLellan

A proverb of uncertain origin promises that if you go far enough to the political Left you merge with the Right, and the road back is simply another loop on the grand circle. That proposition is booked for a rare validation hearing at 10 a.m. Tuesday in Boston City Council Chambers when Councilor "Dapper" O'Neill opens a hearing on CIA infiltration of the Boston Police, a probe into the backgrounds of key figures in the new reform police administration.

Booked for the premiere are two of the oddest bedfellows ever to trill the same song. From the Right, there will be the ultra-conservative Boston Police Patrolmen's Association (BPPA) who dally with the John Birch Society vision of the "liberals" engineering a Commie takeover. And from the Left, there will be the National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC), a proto-Marxist group which is trying to save the world (including Boston) from a Rockefeller-CIA *putsch* so that they can rule it properly after their revolution within "three to five years."

O'Neill, who has been the BPPA's leading spokesman in city government, entered the order for the hearing three weeks ago as another sally in the guerrilla war he and the BPPA have been waging against Police Commissioner Robert diGrazia's attempt to drag the department kicking and screaming into the 19th century and clean out some of the blatant corruption.

In fairness, the BPPA's resistance may well be to the manner of reform as much as to effect, but the fact is the patrolmen's group has been on the defensive since the new Commissioner was brought in from Missouri in Nov. 1972. And none of the diGrazia tactics has irked the BPPA more than the general shake-up of the department hierarchy and the importation of civilian officials from outside the department to oversee operations.

When Mayor White began seeking a new police commissioner, he imported Deputy Mayor Robert Kiley from the Ford-Foundation-funded Police Foundation to direct the search. Kiley was a Mr. Clean as far as Rockefeller CIA behind Kiley dirty money, but with a

business. As a president of the National Student Association in the 60s, Kiley had accepted CIA money and allowed the NSA to be used as a front. After his tenure, he joined the CIA, and managed the NSA infiltration project. After that was brought out in a 1967 press expose, he disappeared for a while, then re-emerged as special assistant to CIA director Richard Helms. He moved from that post to the Police Foundation and then to Boston City Hall.

As in most new unions, the BPPA was as outspoken in its politics as in its contract squabbles. And Boston's unique situation of having the majority of the patrol officers nearing retirement (the oldest police roster in the nation) combined with the profession's law-n-order conservatism to produce an unusually reactionary voice in the BPPA. Politics then blended with simple fear of the reformers to make White-Kiley-diGrazia and their agents in the department the mortal enemies of the BPPA.

The key civilian staff assistants to diGrazia, the reform department hierarchy, are Garry Hayes (operations), Mark Furstenburg (planning and research), Philip Marx (administration) and Robert Wasserman (recruit training and in-service education). Marx came with diGrazia from the suburban St. Louis County police department, but the others are all veterans of Kiley's Police Foundation.

With the patrolmen and superior officers having to bow and obey the Kiley-diGrazia civilians, with the 911-box corruption drive, with the wholesale demotions and forced resignations of many middle and top echelon officers, "It's just not the same old department," moans the councilor. "The morale is gone."

Enter the National Caucus of Labor Committees—although how is a matter of some dispute right now. The NCLC is a fringe radical group that has emerged only in the last year, devoted to a "Marxist messiah" (see *Phoenix*, Jan. 29) and with one of the truly all-inclusive conspiracy theories. Not only is the CIA behind Kiley and the Boston Police, they also

SLA Hearst kidnappers, all facets of American government, all international organizations, the "notorious Boston Globe," the British government, "Boston CIA radical rag, The Real Paper."

Boston Labor Committee spokesman Joe McDonough said the NCLC convinced Councilor O'Neill to hold the hearing about a month and a half ago when they met him while they were preaching their doctrines as a Dorchester anti-busing meeting. "He heard us talking about Kiley and the CIA connections through the LEAA (Law Enforcement Assistance Administration—the federal police funding program) and he came up and asked us what we knew about Kiley, diGrazia and all the rest of them."

Councilor O'Neill remembers it differently. He said he had already filed an order for the investigation when he was approached by the NCLC. "They said, 'We see you're going to hold hearings.' I said, 'What's it got to do with you?' And they said they know more about Kiley, Wasserman and the rest of them than anyone else; background. And they'd like to be heard." O'Neill said he told them any citizen could testify before a public hearing if they had something to contribute.

NCLC Bulletin No. 11: "At the request of Boston City Councilor Albert 'Dapper' O'Neill, representatives of (NCLC) will be the first scheduled witnesses...in (hearing that are) the immediate focal point of the most decisive battle in the history of North American Politics."

NCLC *New Solidarity* newspaper: "The Labor Party will give first and repeated testimony in these crucially important hearings... (NCLC) has the goods on the LEAA's ongoing takeover of Boston City Government and the CIA — and everyone else in Boston — knows it..."

"In every city, aggressive organizing and exposure campaigns by the (NCLC) will recreate the mass public awareness...which made the Boston hearings possible. All sections of Boston's working class are aware and angry about 'the CIA boys' around Kiley and

Ahemm. Yes. Well, the NCLC habitually sees its role writ large. Councilor O'Neill said he realized his "beliefs in government in the country are far from theirs" and made it clear to them that he was "not going to listen to them rant and rave about their goddamn political feelings."

"They will not bring signs in and they will not talk about fascism and Hitler and that stuff," O'Neill said he plans to go down the list, one two, three, ask what they know about who and send them away. (There seems to be a minor conflict of will shaping up between the Councilor and his star witness.)

It was months before the NCLC drew attention even from the rad-lib community that the Boston Police Patrolmen's Association was republishing John Birch Society literature in their monthly newspaper *New Centurion* charging that high-ranking Nixon administration "liberals" and "the radical leadership of the great tax-exempt foundations" were engaged in a "well-coordinated conspiracy working to convert the United States into a dictatorship."

"If they (the CIA) can effectively control all major police departments, they will have a national police department," argued BPPA Chairman Chester Brodrick last week. "It will be the same thing, right? And one thing this country can not stand, neither the public nor the policemen, is a national police force."

"If they put CIA men in as police chiefs controlling all the major metropolitan police forces...they've got enough right there. This is something serious. I don't want to wake up and find some morning that we're all in the same group."

Brodrick pointed to the brickbats in Congress last year after N.Y. Congressman Edward Koch pressed for an investigation of a N.Y. *Times* report that the CIA had trained N.Y. police in intelligence analysis techniques. Both the House Government Operations Committee and the Special Subcommittee on Intelligence, traditional defen-