

8/26/79

Anti-Drug Group Is Dominated by Extremist Party

*Coalition duped
many into giving
endorsements*

By DOUG HALL
Free Press Staff Writer

The people from the Michigan Anti-Drug Coalition began showing up at government offices, churches and civic organizations last December to press their cause.

They were young and well dressed, and they argued articulately about the dangers of drugs. The future of the nation, they said, rested on whether the nation's children could be saved from drugs.

Sometimes they referred darkly to international conspiracies. Generally, though, they confined their comments to the adverse effects of drugs and the need for tougher drug laws when they solicited support for the group.

Many doubters were reassured when the coalition began listing the dozens of prominent people they claimed were supporting the organization — people such as Detroit City Council President Erma Henderson, Detroit Councilman Nicholas Hood, Detroit Police Chief William Hart and a number of ministers.

The coalition announced in a March "progress report" that the organization had "received a letter from Mayor Coleman

Young congratulating our work and assigning two city department heads to work with us."

IT BECAME apparent only later that some of these endorsements were never authorized and that the Michigan Anti-Drug Coalition was dominated and controlled by a small but well-financed extremist political group, the U.S. Labor Party, which has a history of violence and hate propaganda.

Some who authorized the use of their names were shocked when they learned the extent of the Labor Party's involvement, and they demanded the group discontinue using their names. In at least one case, the coalition ignored the demand.

To many endorsers, the most disturbing aspect of the coalition was the Labor Party literature, used prominently at coalition drug forums.

The party literature attacks respected Jewish organizations and individuals. The party blames drug traffic on an elaborate international Zionist and British conspiracy — a conspiracy federal drug enforcement officials call "absolutely unfounded."

The Labor Party has selected one of Detroit's most prominent citizens, national business and Jewish leader Max M. Fisher, as a

key target, labeling him a "kingpin" in the narcotics trade.

2

TYPICAL of the attacks is a headline in the July 27 issue of the Labor Party newspaper, *New Solidarity*: "The Case Against Max Fisher, Part III. Destroy the Zionist Drug Runners!"

"I don't know what you do with a group like this," Fisher said. "They have engaged in some very scurrilous, libelous attacks on me, but you hate to give them recognition by suing them. It's a very vicious, anti-Semitic organization."

In the Labor Party propaganda, the Kennedy family is a front for organized crime in the government; the Three Mile Island nuclear accident was a conspiracy involving former Energy Secretary James R. Schlesinger and the Zionist lobby; the urban coalition New Detroit aids criminal activity, and wealthy Jews were the leading financiers of German Nazi leader Adolf Hitler.

The party wrote in *New Solidarity* Feb. 13 of Detroit Councilman Kenneth V. Cockrel: "Cockrel's known to control much of Detroit's terrorist capability and is also connected with the same Zionist networks around Fisher."

"I am aware that their newspaper has attacked a number of black leaders," said Cockrel, who dismisses the party's attack as part of its "absurd perspective" and antagonism toward successful liberal leaders.

THE ANTI-DEFAMATION League of B'nai B'rith has been in contact with a number of people who endorsed the Anti-Drug Coalition to alert them to the Labor Party involvement and to what it considers virulent anti-Semitic propaganda. In turn, the Labor Party filed a \$26 million lawsuit against the Anti-Defamation League April 10 in New York. In fact, party propaganda accuses the league of being an integral part of the drug conspiracy.

Despite the efforts of the league and other Jewish leaders, the Michigan Anti-Drug Coalition and similar organizations across the nation have managed to establish contact with respected groups and individuals.

The Labor Party expanded the Anti-Drug Coalition program to 27 other cities after the Michigan Anti-Drug Coalition was established Dec. 18 in Detroit. A national Anti-Drug Coalition convention is planned Sept. 29 at Cobo Hall, and the group has placed a \$250 deposit on the facility.

MICHIGAN'S coalition has lobbied the halls of the state Legislature to oppose the decriminalization of marijuana, although lawmakers on both sides of the issue dismissed the group as ineffectual.

Sen. John Kelly, D-Detroit, a Judiciary Committee member who voted for the bill, said the group threatened to defeat anybody who didn't agree with them. "They were way, way over their heads," he said. "They were really pretty ineffectual."

The group held a drug education program for 1½ days in mid-February at Western High School in Detroit. The group obtained the free use of a United Auto Workers banquet hall in Flint, a favor UAW officials said was granted because they didn't know of the coalition's Labor Party connection.

The UAW and the Labor Party are bitter enemies. The UAW has complained for years of Labor Party harassment and slander of union officials. A week and a half ago, the two settled a five-year-old lawsuit and counter-suit by agreeing not to make derogatory statements about each other.

Nationally, the Labor Party's anti-drug coalition has solicited endorsements from a wide range of groups, from the Jersey City, N.J., City Council, where a councilman accuses the group of falsely claiming the council's support, to the Georgia state Legislature, where a state senator endorses the group's efforts despite the Labor Party involvement.

SEVERAL community leaders in Detroit said one factor influencing them to authorize use of their names initially was the close identification of the Michigan Anti-Drug Coalition with the World Community of al-Islam in the West, once known as the Black Muslims, which has developed a good reputation for combating drug use in recent years.

The vice-chairman of the Michigan Anti-Drug Coalition is Salahuddin Muhammad, a member of the World Community. Muhammad is the only non-Labor Party member in a position of authority in the Michigan Anti-Drug Coalition.

But Wallace Deen Muhammad, spiritual leader of the World Community, denounced U.S. Labor Party founder and presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche last month in Chicago for representing "the same civil forces we're battling" after the Illinois Anti-Drug Coalition circulated a flyer with pictures of LaRouche and Salahuddin Muhammad next to each other.

"I think you will see a change in our response," said Hasan Sharif, press secretary to Wallace Deen Muhammad. "There is a strong feeling on the part of some leaders in the community that the Labor Party created the anti-drug coalitions as vehicles to move into strong grassroots community organizations. The big problem with the coalitions is that the Labor Party has used them to dupe innocent people."

Labor Party officials responded to questions raised by a Free Press investigation of the coalition's activities by charging that the newspaper is part of a conspiracy involving the Anti-Defamation League, the FBI and the New York Times to "wreck" the National Anti-Drug Coalition convention.

THE PARTY claims it is opposed to Zionism, or the belief in a Jewish homeland, and not to Judaism, adherence to the Jewish faith.

They accused the Free Press of working in conjunction with Michigan Anti-Defamation League Director Richard Lobenthal and Russ Bellant, who monitors Labor Party activities on behalf of the leftist organization Public Eye, located in Washington, D.C. The Labor Party claims they are both drug operatives.

Lobenthal said the Labor Party is "a significant anti-Semitic organization" which has "duped innocent people" into lending credibility to the group through the Anti-Drug Coalition. Bellant, who has researched the party for several years, describes it as a

"fascist group" with a "very paranoid character."

The Labor Party delivered 33 court documents from its suit against the Anti-Defamation League to the Free Press offices. Most of the documents were affidavits from Labor Party members who had made calls to league officials, pretending to be Jews upset by Labor Party literature. The league officials made a number of angry statements about the Labor Party, according to the affidavits.

IN AN INTERVIEW at the newspaper offices, coalition chairman and Labor Party member Juan Torres and party investigator Stephen Romm denied that the party is anti-Semitic and claimed that the party is only one member of a broad-based anti-drug coalition.

They claimed that their endorsements are legitimate but that some endorsers have been intimidated and threatened by the Anti-Defamation League into withdrawing. Romm also accused the Free Press of threatening and intimidating endorsers.

"If I took the list of endorsers," Romm said during an interview, "if I did what you (the reporter) did on the phone, which is call people up, use slander and threats, you can threaten people. What you proved is that, through slander and threats, leading newspapers can threaten people and then print it in their own press.

"That's nothing new. You're part of that . . . operation. That's how it works. We're not stupid."

THE ACTIVITIES of the Labor Party and the Michigan Anti-Drug Coalition have left some community leaders in the Detroit area whose names were used resentful and angry.

"They (the coalition) didn't say anything about the Labor Party," said the Rev. William T. Cunningham, director of Focus:HOPE, who was in contact with the coalition about the first part of the year.

"About five weeks later, I saw a piece of their literature with a comment that the drug market was financed by an international conspiracy of Jewish bankers. It had a heavily anti-Semitic flavor. I talked to one of their people and told him it was racist and demanded my name be removed. I should have looked further."

"As soon as I found out it was a front for anti-Jewish propaganda, I demanded they stop using my name," said the Rev. James Holley, pastor of Little Rock Baptist Church. "I thought initially it was a coalition to fight drugs in the community. I feel like I was misled totally. They didn't say anything about the Labor Party."

"I think it is a very shoddy practice that should be stopped," said Detroit City Council President Henderson, who says she never authorized her name to be used. "It is terrible that they have used public officials and others in that way."

"They (the coalition) came in saying they were against drugs, and then they went totally anti-Semitic," said Rollin Tobin, Southfield's director of public safety. "It's really a painful thing. I don't know what's wrong with those people. They came in saying they were against drugs. Well, how can anybody disagree with that?"

"I feel I was misled," said Detroit Councilman Hood. "I thought it was a purely anti-drug group. When I found out about the anti-Semitism, I asked that my name be withdrawn."

A SPOKESMAN for Chief Hart said he never authorized the group to use his name, and Mayor Young's press secretary, Jim Graham, said the coalition "misrepresented what the mayor did. We purely and simply offered technical advice."

When first questioned about the matter, Graham checked the records in the mayor's office and said the mayor had not sent a letter to the coalition. But Detroit Deputy Health Director George Gaines, in a later interview, disclosed a letter from Young to the coalition that said in part:

"I certainly believe that we have a common goal and are prepared to work with you toward that goal to save our youth."

Gaines said he learned of the Labor Party involvement before the Feb. 22 letter from Young to the coalition and on that basis advised Young not to affiliate formally with the group and to decline its offer to become an honorary vice-president of the coalition.

"We decided it would be best just to provide technical assistance through the police and health departments, provide them information," Gaines said. "I thought maybe that would help them get off that paranoid, London-based-Jewish-conspiracy thing."

THE FREE PRESS was in contact with 32 persons whose names were used as endorsements for the group at some point since its formation, and five said their names were used without authorization. Eleven said they authorized use of their names but withdrew after learning about the Labor Party involvement.

Eight said they authorized use of their names and are aware of the Labor Party's involvement. The remaining eight said they authorized endorsements for the Anti-Drug Coalition but were unaware of the Labor Party connection.

"We are not endorsing their political beliefs, only their opposition to drugs," said Arthur Overton, president of the Michigan African Methodist Episcopal Laymen's Association, which still endorses the coalition. He said the national lay group recently endorsed the coalition at a meeting in Philadelphia.

Roy Woods, vice-president of the National Black Network in New York, said he was aware of the Labor Party involvement when he endorsed the group, but he said he is "more than happy" to endorse any group fighting drugs. He said the views of the party are "not so much anti-Semitism as anti-Zionism."

While some people whose names were used denounced the Michigan Anti-Drug Coalition months ago, the organization continues to solicit and use the names of prominent people.

A FLYER circulated in Detroit last month announcing the convention of the National Anti-Drug Coalition listed 123 "signers" from across the country, including four members of the Michigan House of Representatives.

The four lawmakers confirmed they authorized use of their names on the basis of the Michigan Anti-Drug Coalition's opposition to efforts to decriminalize use of marijuana.

"That had quite a bit of concern to me at first," Rep. Alan Cropsey, R-DeWitt, said when asked about the Labor Party involvement. "Also, the Black Muslims are involved. It does appear the Labor Party has a lot of influence over the organization. But as long as we stick to the drug issue, I can go along."

Asked if he was aware of the Labor Party conspiracy theories about drug traffic, Cropsey said, "I'm not a member of the Labor Party, and I'm not really up on the conspiracy end of it. There could be an element of truth. I'm not one to reject something like this out of hand."

The International Zionist conspiracy portion?

"I can't quite see that at all," he said.

Rep. Juanita Watkins, D-Detroit, said she had no knowledge of Labor Party involvement until she received a flyer listing the party as a supporter of the Anti-Drug Coalition. She said that concerned her but that she still was unaware of the extent of the party's involvement. She said she would take steps to insure that she was not associated with the party.

Rep. Joyce Symons, D-Allen Park, could not be reached, but a spokesman confirmed she authorized use of her name on the basis of the marijuana issue.

The other state representative, John Maynard, D-St. Clair Shores, said he was not familiar with Labor Party politics or the Zionist drug conspiracy theories, but he said he has no plans to withdraw his name from the endorsement list.

"It's just too doggone bad there couldn't be some other group taking the lead in this area," Maynard said. "If they win the fight, more power to them."

ALSO LISTED as a signer on the recently circulated Anti-Drug Coalition flyer was Raymond Lozano, director of LaSed, a Southwest Detroit agency for Latin Americans, despite a letter Lozano wrote to the coalition Feb. 26 demanding that his name no longer be used.

"As soon as I found out the underlying motives, I immediately demanded my name not be used," Lozano said. "It's unbelievable the way they move around. It's unfortunate the Muslims got involved, because they have never been anti-Semitic, and they've never had any connection with the Labor Party."

Coalition Chairman Torres, asked about Lozano said, "We know exactly what the situation is. We're not going to tell you what the specific things are in each individual case. We're more interested in why you are writing this story."

THE EVIDENCE is substantial to support charges by the Anti-Defamation League and others that the anti-drug coalitions across the nation are merely fronts for Labor Party political activities and have provided the party access to individuals and groups previously beyond its realm of operation. For example:

- The telephone numbers for drug coalition offices match those of Labor Party offices in 25 of the 28 cities where coalitions are located. The exceptions are Detroit, Rochester, N.Y., and Cleveland. The numbers listed in coalition literature for offices in Cleveland and Rochester are not working numbers.

- In Detroit, the Michigan Anti-Drug Coalition initially had the same telephone number as the Labor Party headquarters but obtained a new phone line earlier this year. The coalition here continues to operate out of the Labor Party on the sixth floor of the Book Building in downtown Detroit.

- The Michigan Anti Drug Coalition operatives are virtually all Labor Party members. Except for Salahuddin Muhammad, all those on the coalition executive board as listed on a Feb. 7 "progress report" are Labor Party officials.

They are Kenneth Dalto, state chairman for the Labor Party and a member of the party's National Executive Committee; Max Dean, a Flint attorney, former Labor Party candidate for Congress and treasurer of the Flint branch of the NAACP, and Anti-Drug Coalition Chairman Torres

5

State records list Dalto, Torres and Muhammad as the incorporators of the coalition as a non-profit corporation.

Peter Signorelli, the Labor Party candidate for the U.S. Senate in Michigan in 1976, and Flint Labor Party member Tim Richardson have actively recruited endorsements.

• The most prominent piece of literature used at Anti-Drug Coalition forums and meetings is "Dope, Inc. Britain's Opium War Against the U.S.," a 406-page Labor Party book that details its allegations of an international drug conspiracy involving the "British-created Zionist organizations," the British bankers, the British monarchy and the Chinese communist government.

Romm acknowledged some Anti-Drug Coalition literature is printed at Renaissance Printing Co., 2011 Park, Detroit. Max Dean said the operation is run by Labor Party member David Hilty. One Michigan Anti-Drug Coalition flyer advertising a Jan. 31 forum at Wayne State was titled "Dope Inc., The World's Biggest Business. Britain's Opium War Against the United States."

Clearly following the Labor Party line, the flyer said the forum would explain who is involved in drug trafficking and "guide you to the family trees of the Canada-based Zionist financiers to their contact points in the world of organized crime and heroin distribution."

• The Labor Party has demonstrated previously that ideology is secondary to expanding its political base. It has created other front groups such as the Fusion Energy Foundation, a pro-nuclear group, to try to penetrate other political spheres.

Romm, who identified himself as a member of the Party's Midwest Executive Committee, adamantly denied the anti-drug coalitions are fronts for the Labor Party and said there is no reason to inform people the Labor Party is part of the coalition when soliciting endorsements.

"We don't necessarily read the whole list (of coalition members)," Romm said. "People aren't joining a family. They know it's a coalition."

Torres said the coalition representatives don't tell prospective endorsers that Baptists are members of the coalition either.

ASKED ABOUT the coalitions and Labor Party officials operating out of the same offices, Romm said, "The Labor Party has office facilities. The coalition is underfunded, relative to what it needs in the type of work it's doing. If the Democratic Party gave them space, they'd take it. The problem with the Democratic Party, the Republican Party, is that no one is fighting drugs except this anti-drug coalition. Where are these other leaders?"

The involvement of large number of Labor Party members in the anti-drug coalitions is because of the party's concern about the issue, Romm said.

"The Labor Party is in the coalition," Romm said. "There are many other people and groups in the coalition. The Labor Party does a lot of work for the coalition because the Labor Party is against drugs."

"If people don't want to be in the coalition, for whatever reason, they shouldn't be in it. This coalition is a non-partisan coalition that seeks to unite all individuals and forces opposed to drugs. This coalition is under attack by pro-drug forces. The Labor Party is a bogus issue."

TORRES and Romm repeatedly avoided answering questions about specific individuals and said they were more interested in finding out about a "conspiracy" involving the Free Press than in answering questions.

Council President Henderson's comments were read to them. Romm responded: "Maybe you called her up and said, 'Max Fisher told me to call you and set this story up. Give me a good quote.'"

In elaborating on the conspiracy the Labor Party claims the Free Press has entered, Romm said:

"We know that the New York Times is working in conjunction with illegal Counter-Intelligence operations in the Justice Department. They were planning on conducting a slander operation against the Labor Party. And as Paul Montgomery (a Times assistant sports editor) told one individual, a New York Times article is often better than a Justice Department investigation."

"Now that that effort is uncovered, the same slander job is being farmed out to several regional newspapers."

Torres and Romm said that the Labor Party is opposed to Zionism, not Judaism, and that the affidavits supplied to the Free Press demonstrate that the Anti-Defamation League knows the party is not anti-Semitic.

IN A TELEPHONE interview, Flint Labor Party official Dean cited a United Nations resolution equating Zionism with racism.

But Dean was not as concerned about descriptions of the anti-drug coalitions as fronts for the Labor Party.

"I think it (anti-drug coalition effort) would be a failure if it remains narrow in scope," he said. "The Labor Party has never tried to obscure or hide its role as the leading force in the country fighting drugs. I wish there was some anti-drug group that was a front for the Republican Party or the Democratic Party. Unfortunately, the Democratic Party is a front for drug pushers."

Some community leaders plan to continue supporting the Michigan Anti-Drug Coalition despite the Labor Party involvement.

"We would align ourselves with any other group that had this (fighting drugs) as one of their goals," said the Rev. Joseph Brockington of the Vernon Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, an early endorser of the coalition. "Their other goals, well, that's their baby. This is one area that I could work with the devil if we had the same goal."