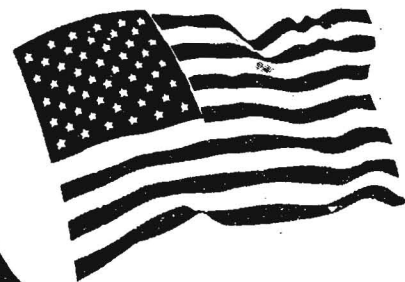


# OUR TOWN



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## Sutton Place mystery

### *Is LaRouche a good neighbor?*

By TOM POPPER

Lyndon LaRouche, the mysterious politician who's been called an extremist anti-Semite by the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith, has apparently set up office and possibly residence in a three-story brownstone on Sutton Place.

A tenant of 35 Sutton Place, who wished to remain anonymous, reported "strange goings-on at the building next door," to Our Town two weeks ago. She described elaborate security measures at 33 Sutton Place and complained that neighborhood speculation about the building was running rampant, "because none of the security people will answer any questions."

One neighborhood rumor said the building's tenant was "a politician named LaRouche." LaRouche's exact whereabouts have been unknown for some time now. Dennis King, who along with Our Town, is praised in a recent ADL report on LaRouche for "the most thorough and continuous job of investigative journalism on the subject (of LaRouche)," said the leader of the National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC) "has been living in mid-town Manhattan hotels since he moved out of a penthouse on W. 55th St. a year ago."

33 Sutton Place has been recently inhabited by either National Caucus of Labor Committees leader, Lyndon LaRouche, or one of his affiliated organizations. Heavy security crews usually man the building, and movie cameras painted black survey the area from the building's roof.

Photos by AL LAPRESTO

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The building at 33 Sutton Place, which is between 58th and 59th Sts., is staffed with armed security personnel around the clock. The staff refused to say who lives in the house or why so much security is necessary. But one staff member, calling himself "Big John," said that a man named Herb Strong, who could only be reached by phone, was in charge.

The phone number that Big John gave for Strong is listed to Campaigner Publications, which according to the ADL is one of LaRouche's front organizations.

One of LaRouche's high ranking assistants is Herb Kindey. According to King, Kindey has several aliases, all with the first name Herb. Several calls to the number Big John released, an unpublished number belonging to Campaigner Publications, resulted in one employee saying, "there is a guy named Herb here." Messages were taken quickly for Kindey and with slight hesitation for Strong.

The man called Strong only returned one phone call and that was before it was known that he was with Campaigner Publications. He refused to say who was living at Sutton Place or to answer any other questions. "What I'm interested in is why I'm being bothered with this," said Strong, "Isn't there such a thing as privacy in this country?" Strong also asked if the police or FBI knew anything about the activity on Sutton Place.

The heavy security at No. 33 fits in with what the ADL calls "the paranoid nature of the LaRouche operations . . . reflected in frequent allegations that LaRouche enemies are plotting to assassinate him."

The building has surveillance cameras on the roof, and hanging above the basement doorway. A ten-foot high fence with very small, jagged spikes blocks entry to the building's back door.

In addition, there is always a car parked in front of the building, with a security man sitting on the passenger side. The guards are not in uniform, but several were observed carrying guns and all had walkie talkies, which they use to communicate with the people inside the house.

Occasionally people were seen exiting the house and walking around the neighborhood, including one man taking photographs and one filming the area. The man with the film camera said, "We're making a documentary about the neighborhood." Both men took several pictures of this reporter, covertly at first, then openly.

Anyone approaching the building was looked over by the security men. Those allowed entry used only the basement door. According to the doorman of a neighboring building, one of the security men flashed a police badge when asked his function. He claimed to be from the 22nd Precinct.

According to Detective Ed Fayhe of Police Headquarters Public Information, the 22nd Pct. was changed to the the Central Park Pct. six years ago. Impersonating a police officer is a criminal offense which Fayhe said the 19th Pct. could look into.

Most of the security men said that the building is only a private residence. But a doorman who works in the neighborhood said that meetings are held in No. 33 around midnight on certain nights. He said he'd seen "a lot of limos" pulling up, and "men in nice business suits" entering the building. Also, a delivery van was observed bringing a load of stacking chairs to the building.

The owner of the building, Chester Soling of Soling Industries, said he had been told that the tenant was a diplomat. He also said that he wasn't informed about the security measures that were being employed there. Soling said he couldn't release the name of the tenant, but he added that he was "going to meet with them this week" to discuss the tight security.

According to the ADL, LaRouche, "who concealed his anti-Semitic and extremist ideology in campaigning for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1980, continues to mastermind a(n) . . . anti-Semitic political cult."

The ADL also said that LaRouche uses several organizations, the NCLC being the largest, as fronts to continue his movement. It was one of LaRouche's activists who recently filed assault charges against Henry Kissinger's wife, Nancy, for an incident in Newark Airport.

It remains unclear whether LaRouche is using the building on Sutton Place as a residence or just an office. Big John said that the building was being used by "a film and publishing company. It is a private residence and an office."

When called at Campaigner Publications' public phone number, LaRouche aide Kindey was not available. A woman who said she was Kindey's secretary would not say if LaRouche was living on Sutton Place. "Why do you want to know that?" she asked. "It's none of your business."