Sen. Harrison Williams of New Jersey, a liberal Democrat, was in danger of being expelled for his participation in the ABSCAM scandals (he later resigned), LaRouche produced a half-hour film in which the senator explained his side of the affair.

LaRouche described the controversy as a "frame-up" of Williams and ABSCAM as a "treasonous" action by the FBI, charging some members of Congress with promoting or condoning policies "more hideous than those perpetuated by Albert Speer and others under Adolph Hitler." And he accused the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think-tank, with being behind the plot, calling it a "sham opponent of the Trilateral Commission."

All of which added to the mystery of the energetic chameleon who holds together a network capable of violence and many other kinds of mischief.

* * *

One of the early ambitions of Lyndon LaRouche in his checkered left/right career was to take over the AFL-CIO and the American labor movement, among other institutions, as a step toward seizing power in the United States.

Like most of his ambitions, such as being elected President of the United States, the aim was wildly boastful; but in failing to achieve his goals LaRouche has manipulated, deceived, infiltrated and caused endless mischief. Including within the labor movement.

The mischief apparently started in the late Sixties, when he split with some radical student activists and organized the National Caucus of Labor Committees and made himself some kind of self-ordained labor figure.

From a position far to the left of the recognized labor movement, LaRouche also operated several front groups with vague labor connotations in their names and then started the U.S. Labor Party. During both phases, which blended and overlapped, he has alternately courted and attacked various labor unions.

In the early Seventies, his organizations conducted a bitter propaganda campaign against national union leaders, frequently charging them with being part of LaRouche's imagined conspiracy of world figures, such as the late Nelson Rockefeller, with law-enforcement agencies to enslave the world.

ROAMING GROUPS have harassed many local unions, and the organization's newspaper, New Solidarity, has been sold at plant gates to stir up dissension. For example, USLP tried unsuccessfully some years ago to get a United Auto Workers group in Detroit to pass a resolution describing three international union presidents and Lane Kirkland as "labor traitors."

The UAW's Leonard Woodcock was a particular target of the agitators, although it was difficult, as usual, to tell just why he was being picked on.

Probably the best clinical example of how LaRouche's dedicated troops have tried to cause trade union dissension occurred in York, Pa., where all the tricks were used to discredit veteran labor leaders.

OPERATING with a handful of agents who set up headquarters in York, augmented by trouble-makers brought in occasionally from nearby cities, a concerted smear campaign was run against the district representative of the Machinists, who was also president of the Central Labor Council; the vice president of the council, and the international representative of the United Furniture Workers. All had deep roots in the community.

After being denied admission to a meeting on unemployment, the agents sued the union officials (charges were thrown out) and put out a leaflet implying crudely that they were homosexuals.

The trade unionists and their families also received threatening, sometimes obscene, phone calls, and other leaflets listed their phone numbers, urging people to "call these creeps and let them know how you feel about their gestapo tactics."

TYPICALLY, there was no specifically stated position—just stirring up trouble. One leaflet was captioned STOP FASCISM IN YORK, VOTE U.S. LABOR PARTY.

At the same time—the other side of the coin—LaRouche has been directing a cozying up to unions around the country, if not an outright attempt to infiltrate them. This operation has been more subtle, more sophisticated, but adds to his reputation for being schizophrenic, irrational, opportunistic or diabolic.

Some of the confusion he creates comes from occasional publications on subjects apparently dear to the worker's heart. For example, during his 1980 run for the Presidency (as a Democrat), LaRouche issued an attractive 30-page pamphlet titled "How to End Inflation and Unemployment," although a fair reading of it would leave a very confused impression, if any.

ABOUT THE same time—and during national debate on the subject—he put out a policy statement titled "Do Not Repeal The 'Davis-Bacon' Law," a polemic praising Alexander Hamilton and attacking the British but not mentioning organized labor's opposition to repeal of the law.

By the late Seventies, the U.S. Labor Party had dropped its attack on trade unions and adopted a tactic of snuggling up to liberal organizations and almost any other it could get a kind word from, perhaps because its leader was running for President—without, of course, any backing from the traditional elements of the Democratic Party.

For instance, LaRouche conducted a heavy courtship with the National Farmers Organization, a Midwest group more concerned with commodity price stabilization than with ideology, but was quickly rejected.

More significantly, LaRouche went after the Teamsters, preying particularly on the existence of a dissident "reform" group within the union which they could attack. In the Midwest, at least, they scored with some leaders and helped distribute disruptive material, but when it could have appeared that the Teamsters were endorsing LaRouche for President, the national office stepped in.

The late Frank Fitzsimmons, president of the union, wrote LaRouche campaign committees that "nothing could be further from the truth." He added that the union's executive board at its January 1978 meeting "unanimously adopted a resolution disclaiming any association by the Teamsters with the U.S. Labor Party, noting that the U.S. Labor Party is not in harmony with the aims and goals of the U.S. labor movement" and that "any suggestions to the contrary are false and misleading."

And the letter was displayed in the July 1979 issue of the union's official magazine.

One of the movement's cruder techniques, calling labor papers in the name of legitimate reporters, has been refined into the technique of establishing a special labor editor for at least one of LaRouche's slick magazines, Executive Intelligence Review. Using that title, the apparatus requests background and biographical material from unions on a friendly basis.

YET THE Jan. 12 issue of EIR magazine this year contained an item about AFL-CIO Sec.-Treas. Thomas R. Donahue which was headlined: "AFL-CIO joins DNC in fascist organizing drive."

Previous overtures to the AFL-CIO headquarters on behalf of LaRouche's latest organizational gimmick, the National Democratic Policy Committee, were totally rebuffed, and word was sent out to affiliates to "ignore all solicitations from this group and advise your local unions so that they will not be manipulated by these misrepresentations."

Then union officials, particularly editors, were barraged with requests for cooperation from a new publication called American Labor Beacon. Quick checks disclosed that its editor and publisher, Larry Sherman and Allan Friedman, had been very big in the LaRouche movement.

ALTHOUGH BOTH responded to inquiries by declaring that they were no longer connected with LaRouche—and were even critical of him—AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland issued an advisory to affiliates "not to join or to contribute to such groups," and the International Labor Press Association advised that "cooperation with this publication or the purchase of subscriptions should be discouraged."

As one editor put it, "finding what LaRouche really stands for is as hard as finding a union bug on his publications."

'Labor Beacon' Woos Unions with Cryptic Line

Detroit—Another product of the Lyndon LaRouche operation that has tried to foist itself upon the labor movement is the American Labor Beacon, published ten times a year by a group called Beacon News Service.

LaRouche was involved in starting the Beacon at the end of 1980. Although the Detroit-based Beacon members profess to have split from LaRouche a year later, their monthly sheet is not much different than it was under LaRouche.

THE PUBLISHER, Allan Friedman, was a long-time Midwest leader of LaRouche's now-defunct U.S. Labor Party. The editor, Larry Sherman, was a USLP candidate in Massachusetts throughout the 1970s.

While Sherman and Friedman were members, the U.S. Labor Party associated itself with the most reactionary groups in the country, such as the John Birch Society, the Ku Klux Klan and the Liberty Lobby. These alliances were initiated from 1974 to 1977, while the purported split by Sherman and Friedman did not occur until October 1981.

The November-December 1981 issue of the Beacon sought to give the impression that Sherman and Friedman had never been affiliated with LaRouche. In response to a printed letter, they said they had been "investigating the LaRouche organization for a period of time." What they did not say was that they had occupied leadership roles in his organization for close to a decade.

THERE ARE other examples of the Beacon's two-faced nature. Although it attacks the FBI's use of informants, Sherman himself once served as an informant for the FBI in New England.

The first issue of the Beacon professed to be "by, for and of the laboring man in America." But when they were openly with LaRouche, the Detroit people also had a company called Renaissance Printing which, according to the Detroit Typographical Union, went non-union in July 1981, just before Sherman and Friedman supposedly split away. There is still a Renaissance Printing company in Detroit, still in the same building with the Beacon, and still non-union. Further, it cleans its own offices and refuses to let the building's cleaning crews, members of the Service Employees, into its quarters. Meanwhile, Sherman and Friedman have had the Beacon printed at various local firms—at least four to date—in order to gain display of the union label.

The Beacon seeks to spread its "message" to local unions, particularly in the building trades, with high-pressure telephone sales pitches for subscriptions. Among its offerings are "exposés" of anti-union construction companies, such as Brown & Root. The thin report on that firm retails at $200 for 50 copies and contains little more than newspaper clips.

Also, while the Beacon claims to be serving the labor movement, it backed the Reagan Administration as a whole and its business-oriented supply side economics. It gave early and strong support to the policies of Labor Sec. Raymond Donovan.

Two other organizations appear to be outgrowths of Beacon activities.

The first is a so-called Committee Against Brilab and Abscam, which was announced when the Beacon first began publishing.

AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland warned at the time that the committee was "organized by individuals whose long-term interests are incompatible with those of trade unions." He advised federation affiliates to steer clear.

THE SECOND group that seems to be affiliated with the Beacon is Intellico. A union official familiar with its material characterized it as an "intelligence group." Larry Sherman's name is on the cover of a document written by Intellico that is believed to be filled with misinformation about other unionists.

When the Intellico operation was first discovered by a Charleston, W.Va., newspaper, the Beacon staff acknowledged that they "accept calls" for Intellico, but later denied it.

Whether Intellico, the Beacon, or other fronts, the formula is similar to LaRouche's. The publications try to link dissidents to Wall Street financiers; suggest that alleged organized crime figures are being persecuted by the Justice Dept., and reprint some legitimate information clipped from commercial newspapers. In fact, the International Labor Press Association found that the Beacon "News Service" consisted almost entirely of clippings from commercial newspapers.

The ILPA executive council described the Beacon as "little more than an extended—and not very coherent—editorial . . . full of unsubstantiated claims and stories of questionable validity designed to paint the labor movement and some people in it as martyrs and victims."