

VOL 1

Cover Up of the murder of William Rhodes Davis

One of the more enduring mysteries of WW II, the murder of oilman William Rhodes Davis, became a little less opaque with the recent release of FBI documents connecting the American Civil Liberties Union to the case. Some may argue that it cannot get any more convoluted. Davis's death has been shrouded in mystery for seventy years now, but the cast of characters who killed him explains why.

British secret agent, Intrepid, admitted killing Davis some 35 years after the fact, but how on earth is the premier civil liberties organization in the United States connected to this case? The ACLU is a 501c3 organization, a public charity, whose stated goal is preserving civil liberties. Intrepid, otherwise known as Sir William Stephenson, was the model for James Bond, secret Agent 007, and Commander Ian Fleming worked for him in the United States. With Stephenson's confession, it is entirely probable that author Fleming was involved in the murder. Fleming worked directly for Intrepid.

William Rhodes Davis was, by many accounts, the largest single contributor to FDR's reelection campaign in 1940, and was the author of a peace plan to avoid war with Germany. Vice President Henry Wallace thought enough of the peace plan that he mentioned it in his diary, and Davis actually met in the White House with FDR to discuss it. Davis had some pretty powerful enemies, however. Davis was working with the Socialist government of Mexico, that had recently expropriated Rockefeller oil wells, and Davis moved in to market Mexican oil in the lead up to WW II. The United States was still a neutral country. The Rockefellers had organized an illegal boycott of Mexican oil in the US market, warning its competitors that it better not do business with Mexico. Acting out of their own interests, fearing their oil interests could also be expropriated next, the Rockefeller competitors willingly went along.

Oil man Davis would consummate pacts to deliver oil to Germany and Japan, thus infuriating the British. The British intelligence service was renting six floors in Rockefeller Center. Davis' oil brokerage firm was also located in Rockefeller Center; perhaps a fatal mistake on his part. Davis's murder would occur in his office in Houston, Texas, and he would leave this earth James Bond style, being poisoned during lunch. In Intrepid's retelling of the story, he does not appear particularly choked up about the loss of Davis.

The reason given by most authors for the murder of Davis was to prevent him from shipping Mexican oil to Germany and Japan. The United States was a neutral country when Davis was murdered on August 1st, 1941. Pearl Harbor was just around the corner, and the reason given for Japan's attack was FDR's decision to cut off all US oil to Japan just one month before Davis's murder. Japan had a very cordial relationship with Washington, and none of the Japanese diplomats, nor members of congress saw the cutoff of oil coming. Japan was not threatening US interests, but was certainly threatening Great Britain's colonial interests in Asia. Most members of congress were opposed to England's colonial interests, either for economic or humanitarian reasons, so FDR could not go to them asking for support for such a policy. So FDR acted unilaterally; and behind closed doors. With Great Britain prostrate in Europe, Churchill needed FDR to protect its colonies in Asia. At a secret meeting off the coast of Nova Scotia, FDR's aides were not allowed to take notes, while Churchill and FDR met and concluded a deal called the Atlantic Charter. The words of the Atlantic Charter were so brief and vague that it renders the document meaningless. Virtually all historians agree that the document's name isn't even accurate. It was all about the Pacific, not the Atlantic.

To compound Davis's danger was the expropriation of Rockefeller's oil wells. J. Edgar Hoover and British intelligence had a particularly frosty relationship, and the murder of U.S. citizens without trial by a foreign power would not go over well with congress. At this point, Great Britain had shown no interest in fighting Hitler, even though they had promised Poland, Czechoslovakia, and France that they would come to their defense. As a consequence, most people believed what Ambassador Joseph Kennedy had told Congress; Great Britain is unwilling to fight. The ink stained wretch crowd, the newspaper writers, had labeled the war "The Phoney War". They gave no credit to Hitler or Great Britain for fighting at all. They were not impressed by blitzkrieg; Driving tanks across Europe unopposed was not very exciting to reporters. They wanted to see actual fighting, and there wasn't any to report. Henry Robinson Luce of *TIME* would coin the phrase "WW II", which seemed to be aimed at the American market. This was not the coalition of the willing. Great Britain was not hoping that Brazil and Venezuela would be entering anytime soon. Nor was Luce. The 300 pound gorilla in Washington was the target.

If the FBI refused to participate in murder of defenseless citizens, what about the ACLU? Are there any civil liberties issues at all? The murder of the anti-war Davis happened at a time that the ACLU National Board did a complete about face from strongly anti-war to being virulently pro-war. The ACLU had participated in all the anti war protests when Stalin was Hitler's partner joining in on the rape of tiny Finland. The ACLU did not want the United States to interfere. When Stalin appeared completely inept in subduing Finland, Hitler knew he could invade Russia, and did so immediately.

The ACLU turned on its former pacifist friends with a vengeance, wanting the United States to go to the rescue of Stalin. There never seemed to be any soul searching about this sudden about face, nor any indication that they were way off base over their mission as a non-profit devoted to 'civil liberties'. What do FBI files indicate?

FBI files indicate that Morris Ernst began investigating the facts in the Davis case seven months after the murder of Davis. Ernst is clearly looking for dirt in the Davis case. Why was he trying to smear a dead man? Ernst's statements to the FBI New York City office show him connecting well known labor leader John L. Lewis to the Mexican government in the expropriation of Rockefeller oil wells.

Young Nelson Rockefeller, lacking any diplomatic experience, had just been appointed Asst. Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs. Most newspaper writers referred to him as "the oil czar". Since virtually all the world's oil came from Central and South America, young Nelson was in a very powerful position, and it was well known that he spoke for FDR on all oil matters. FBI files indicate that Ernst had previously furnished documents linking Lewis to the expropriation. What is not explained in the FBI files is why Ernst is providing documents. It was well known that Lewis was organizing the Mexican oil workers, and that he would not support Toledano unless he received concessions for the workers.

Ernst clearly is only seeking documents on Lewis. Why is Ernst trying to smear the most prominent labor leader in the United States? With the murder of Davis seven months earlier, and the murder committed by British Intelligence, the heat was on to solve the crime. Thus, Davis had to be smeared as a Nazi. He had angered both the Rockefellers and British Intelligence at the exact same time, and seemed to be another businessman about to make a fortune from WW II. Since the US was neutral, he was free to make money any way he could. J.P. Morgan had made a fortune financing Mussolini, so perhaps Davis thought it was business as usual. With British agent Intrepid's admission that he had ordered to the murder of Davis in his 1976 book, *Intrepid* much of the mystery surrounding his death has been removed. Intrepid, Sir William Stephenson, had his office in Rockefeller Center, and was doing a big favor for the Rockefellers, so there were no tears in the Rockefeller family.

ACLU Counsel Ernst indicated to FBI officials that he is working for FDR, so the attempt to smear John Lewis is coming from the president. Lewis's daughter was on the board of America First, the most prominent anti-war group in the United States. Ernst himself had worked as an ally of America First when Stalin was Hitler's ally. FBI records indicate that Ernst himself had registered the Keep America Out of War Committee. Ernst is now gathering dirt on his former ally, John L. Lewis. Ernst was also an ally of Lewis in the labor movement, representing the Newspaper Guild in New York, as well as the Dramatists Guild.

Who is Morris Ernst working for? Is he really working for FDR? Is this just name dropping on the part of the ACLU to intimidate the FBI officials so they will cooperate in this smear campaign? It is likely that FDR supported this activity, but who is paying Ernst's bill? When Ernst worked on the smear campaign of Senator Walsh just one month later, in May, 1942, the very liberal Walsh, who had written the first minimum wage law in US history, Senator Bennett Champ Clark of Missouri would charge that the smear campaign of Senator Walsh was conducted by the ACLU and FDR. The story was covered in Washington newspapers at the time, and also entered in the Congressional Record. The very same FBI files that mention Ernst is out to smear Davis, the dead oil man, mention the smear of anti-war Senator David Walsh (D-MA). The ACLU was very busy in the 'Summer of 42', and none of the work is connected to civil liberties.

FBI files of April 18th, 1942, link ACLU Counsel Ernst with FDR, by Ernst's own admission, with the smearing of John L. Lewis. Both Walsh and Lewis were big supporters of the anti-war movement. FBI files thus support the public charges of FDR's involvement. Hoover had strongly opposed the presence of British Intelligence in the US, with six stories of British agents housed at the Rockefeller Center. It was no secret in Congress that their only purpose was to spy on US citizens, and the public figures who were anti-war, especially those opposed to Lend-Lease aid would be their main targets. Many moderate voices were anti-war because they charged that FDR's policies were to protect the British Empire, not go after Hitler. The American taxpayer would pay for two of the most ruthless empires of the 20th Century, whose economic interests and political beliefs were polar opposites of ours.

FBI files further indicate that that Morris Ernst's 'dirt' was coming from Victor Riesel, a *New York Post* reporter. The *New York Post* had been accused by many members of congress as being an outpost of the British Empire, and it was the Post's owner, Dorothy Schiff, in her own memoirs, *Men, Money, and Magic* who admitted that she thought her own husband, Editor Ted Thackrey was a British spy. He had previously worked for a British newspaper, and they would divorce shortly after the war. His time in America was winding down. Dorothy Schiff's daughter said ".....there was something mysterious about him."

Others accused the Post of being a front for Stalin. Since both Stalin and Churchill both wanted the American taxpayer to pay for WW II under Lend-Lease, those charges make a lot of common sense. Churchill would thunder against communism, but many of the most dangerous spies for Stalin were high officials of the British Empire. They were working together closely to pick America's pockets. Neither were about to cede economic supremacy to the United States.

It is an irony of FBI records that the Ernst's smear campaign against John L. Lewis in April of 1942, and the smearing of Senator David Walsh as a gay Nazi(D-MA) in May of 1942 are on the very same page. ACLU Counsel Ernst is seeing Nazis everywhere, in our labor leaders, in the US Senate, but cannot find a communist anywhere. And the ultimate irony was the Nazis that Ernst always finds are liberals. The common thread is that these liberals are always opposed to the colonial interests of Great Britain. Was ACLU a paid lobbyist for the British Empire and Stalin? The Brits were known to go 'Dutch Treat' on many items. Lend-Lease turned out to be a buffet.

The FBI files indicate that the derogatory information on Senator Walsh came from the very person Dorothy Schiff believed was a British spy, Editor Ted Thackrey. The *New York Post* indicates that it has more information that it can provide for the Attorney General if it "were given assurance of its use." The only interpretation can be that the Attorney General would publicly release the information even if they seriously questioned the facts in the case as long as it is used to smear Senator Walsh. Other FBI records already indicate the case is a fantasy story created by the Post, with not a single FBI agent believing any of it. Any statement by the Attorney General would add credence to the manufactured propaganda of the Post.

The Attorney General, Francis Biddle, in a few short years, would become Chairman of the Board at the American Civil Liberties Union. His friends at the Post were making these charges. It would be O. John Rogge, working for Biddle who would run the Sedition Trial of 1944, branding even liberals as Nazis. A federal judge would throw out all charges after 3,000 pages of testimony, and when Harry Truman assumed the presidency, he immediately fired Biddle and Rogge. John Rogge, in a few short years, would be working for the ACLU, and would go on to represent numerous foreign interests including the Yugoslavian Generals; stone cold communist killers. Whatever their political beliefs, President Bill Clinton would have to deal with this crowd. proving that not much had changed in a half century. This was not 'Mr. Rogers Neighborhood'.

Is there a connection between the ACLU and the Rockefellers? ACLU General Counsel Ernst charged excessive fees for all his work. Corliss Lamont, the son of the senior partner at J.P. Morgan, was on the ACLU National Board. The Rockefellers were the landlord for British Intelligence, leasing the six floors of Rockefeller Center to their British friends. The Rockefellers were unlikely to stand idle while Davis made millions from former Rockefeller oil wells. They engineered the appointment of young Nelson Rockefeller as "Oil Czar", and ACLU General Counsel Morris Ernst implicates FDR. While there is no indication the ACLU was involved in Davis's murder, they orchestrated the smear campaign after Davis's death, and according to Morris Ernst, it is at the request of FDR.