

Father's Plot to Kidnap a Du Pont Alleged

Pa. Businessman Sought to Deprogram Pro-LaRouche Son, FBI Says

By Robert F. Huse
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Washington Post Staff Writers

In half a dozen secret meetings, the alleged kidnapers planned the scheme: lure a woman to lure the Du Pont heir into a Philadelphia hotel room, spike his drink, then carry him off to his father's yacht and deprogram him from the influence of political maverick Lyndon H. LaRouche Jr.

The father, prominent Philadelphia businessman E. Newbold Smith, was behind it all, federal prosecutors said yesterday as they charged him in federal court in Alexandria with conspiracy to kidnap his son, Lewis du Pont Smith.

Lewis Smith, 36, had lent the LaRouche group \$212,000 in 1985

and recently bought a \$500,000 mansion outside Philadelphia that he intended to give to LaRouche supporters, according to an informant who posed as a kidnapper.

Smith, 66, was contacted at his lush suburban estate and will surrender to authorities today, according to the FBI.

Smith did not return phone calls to his home yesterday.

Also charged and arrested in the alleged plot, hatched through a series of meetings held in four states, were Galen Kelly, who describes himself as a deprogrammer, and Robert Point, 38, a lawyer from South Amboy, N.J., who is also known as "Baker Bob."

Kelly and Point were part of a group that specialized in seizing and

deprogramming clients' sons or daughters who had become immersed in cult-like devotion to groups or individuals.

According to the affidavit, the group failed in two unrelated kidnap attempts, once nabbing a woman who had borrowed the real target's car.

Donald L. Moore Jr., 45, a former Loudoun County deputy sheriff, also was taken into custody and charged in the kidnaping conspiracy. Moore, who lives in Lovettsville, about 50 miles northwest of Washington, was fired after sheriff's officials said he was found going through office phone messages. He made a name for himself locally for helping federal agents research

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Ex. III-10-D

Du Pont Family Member Charged in Kidnap Plot

SMITH, From A1

their successful 1988 case against LaRouche.

A failed presidential candidate, LaRouche is serving a 15-year prison sentence for conspiracy, mail fraud and tax convictions because his fund-raising organization preyed on elderly women and others who were willing to lend tens of thousands of dollars on the promise that the money would be repaid.

The kidnaping investigation was born of a longstanding feud between Lewis Smith and his father.

Newbold Smith had his son declared incompetent to handle his own financial affairs six years ago, arguing at the time that the family felt compelled to gain control over him because they "felt we had a very sick son on our hands, getting sicker. It was a motive for rescue."

As of 1988, Smith's assets were estimated at \$2.1 million and he received about \$200,000 a year in

"It's abduction for hire. They pay, we abduct."

—former Loudoun deputy Doug Poppa

interest from trusts set up by his mother's father, Henry B. du Pont II, according to court papers. Smith graduated from the University of Michigan in 1960 with a general studies degree, then taught school and coached sports for a while, according to court papers.

After failing at investment ventures in wheat, silver and Canadian stocks, Smith found a cause he could believe in when he met LaRouche supporters in a Philadelphia airport in 1983.

Before long, he moved to Loudoun to work for a LaRouche newspaper and lent the group more than \$200,000 with little guarantee that it would be repaid. He later said in a court proceeding that he was not concerned whether the debt was ever repaid.

It was at that time that Smith's family asked a Chester County, Pa., judge to have him declared incompetent and asked that the judge appoint a guardian.

Though Smith was given limited access to his money after the guardian was appointed, he decided to help the LaRouche group by buying a house in suburban Philadelphia and then giving it to the organization, according to former Loudoun sheriff's deputy Doug Poppa, 37, a veteran drug investigator and a government informant in the case.

Frustrated with his failure to control his son, Newbold Smith turned to the alleged kidnapers, Poppa said. In July, Poppa and Moore began to stake out Lewis Smith at work and at his Upper Darby, Pa., home, trying to establish Smith's daily routine so that the group could plan where and when to grab him, Poppa said.

Planning meetings subsequently took place in Newbold Smith's home and Point's law offices in New Jersey as the group tried to refine their plan, hoping to pull off the kidnaping before the end of the year. Poppa said in an interview that Newbold Smith left the country while one meeting took place at his home so that he would appear to be unconnected to the group.

"It's abduction for hire. They pay, we abduct," Poppa said.

At one point, Moore told Poppa that he and Kelly considered abducting Smith's wife as well. In a secretly recorded conversation with Poppa, Moore "speculated that if the wife were taken she could be 'turned' also," according to the FBI affidavit.

Violating a court order forbidding him to marry in Virginia, Lewis Smith flew to Rome in late 1986 with LaRouche supporter Andrea Diano. They were married, with LaRouche acting as the best man.

Six years ago, when Smith's relatives were having him ruled incompetent, Smith said in an interview, "They are used to having their way, regardless of laws. I feel sorry for my family as I would for any misguided and disturbed souls."

NEWSMAKERS

4 arrested in du Pont 'cult' case

By Carol J. Castaneda
USA TODAY

In a bizarre family dispute that involves money, politics and an alleged cult, the FBI arrested four men in a plot to kidnap and deprogram an heir to the du Pont chemical fortune.

The target: Lewis du Pont Smith, 36, of Philadelphia, the FBI said. Smith is a follower and financial supporter of imprisoned political extremist Lyndon LaRouche Jr.

Thursday, Smith's father, Edgar Newbold Smith, 66, of Radnor, Pa., surrendered on charges of trying to kidnap his son — a charge which could mean life in prison if he's convicted.

The episode is not the first in which father and son have clashed over LaRouche.

In 1985, Lewis Smith's family got a Chester County, Pa., judge to declare him mentally incompetent to handle his \$10 million inheritance. The son had loaned LaRouche \$212,000.

His father believed his son was under the influence of a "cult," says FBI spokesman Frank Scalfdi.

In a statement released by the Executive Intelligence Review, a group founded by LaRouche, Lewis Smith said of the arrests: "I am appalled but not surprised. ... I was aware of similar considerations in the past. Perhaps now, the full truth will come to light."

One aspect of the plan called for using "a female to lure Lewis du Pont Smith to a hotel room where he will be given a drink containing a sedative which will render Smith unconscious," according to an FBI affidavit.

The plan was to put Lewis Smith and his wife, Andrea Diano Smith, on a yacht 60 miles off the Eastern shore with Garyn Kelly of Esopus, N.Y.,



By Chris Gardner/AP

LEWIS du PONT SMITH: Father says he's under the influence of LaRouche cult

a private detective and self-proclaimed expert in deprogramming members of religious cults.

Kelly, Donald Moore Jr., of Lovettsville, Va., and Robert Point of South Amboy, N.J., also were arrested and charged with conspiracy to kidnap. Moore and Point are members of the Cult Awareness Network.

Smith's role with the LaRouche group deepened when he recently bought a \$500,000 mansion he planned to give to LaRouche supporters. *The Washington Post* reported. Smith's assets were estimated at \$2.1 million in 1988.

LaRouche is serving a 15-year federal prison term for conspiracy and fraud in connection with fund-raising activities of his group.