

**WHAT DANGEROUS OPPONENT GOT**

**Mazor 1: (Anonymously Funded) PUBLICITY HOUND  
Smears Group He Admits He Did Not Even Know**

**A Conspiracy Behind  
Peoples Temple Expose?**



*Indian leader Dennis Banks says he was asked to denounce Rev. Jim Jones.*

by Art Silverman

**I**s the current two-month barrage of sensational charges levelled against San Francisco's Peoples Temple "an organized, orchestrated, premeditated government campaign to destroy a politically-progressive organization," as Temple attorney Charles Garry accuses?

Or is it "a spontaneous, courageous action by a group of former Temple members, who never came forward before because they were scared to death (of reprisals)," the explanation offered by Rosalie Muller Wright, senior editor of New West magazine, which first published and has since supported the accusations?

There still aren't any definitive answers to those questions -- or to the specific allegations of fraud, deceit, real estate swindles and physical brutality raised in numerous media accounts since publication of the first of two New West articles in mid-July (see Barb, July 22).

But a number of unusual circumstances and coincidences can't help but raise the suspicion that there's more going on than first meets the eye. For example:

••A Barb investigation has revealed that one individual working behind the scenes to discredit Peoples Temple is a San Francisco private investigator, who somehow managed to obtain a state investigator's license after being released

from prison in 1976.

Joseph A. Mazor, the detective, has a lengthy criminal record including at least eight arrests in three states for various bogus check and fraud charges, six convictions, several jail and prison terms, and has been returned to confinement three times for violating probation and parole by committing new crimes.

A confidential, 16-page California Adult Authority report on Mazor, written in 1970, was recently obtained by the Barb. "(He) is a smooth 'con-man' with an insatiable desire to get ahead," concludes the report. "He is bright, well-educated, and so well-versed in the law that he had five attorneys in the Pomona area convinced that he had a law degree.

"It is felt that the subject is a menace to the community."

Mazor has admitted to the Barb that he was first employed to investigate the Peoples Temple in November 1976, eight months before publication of the first New West article. But he refuses to say who retained him.

"I'm not going to tell you that," said Mazor, though he did reveal that his employer was an outsider, and not a past or present member of Peoples Temple. Mazor said he is currently employed by "several" former Temple members, including Elmer and Deanna Mertle, the original source for the New West ar-

ticles.

••Mazor apparently is not only investigating Peoples Temple, but also actively seeking publicity to discredit the organization.

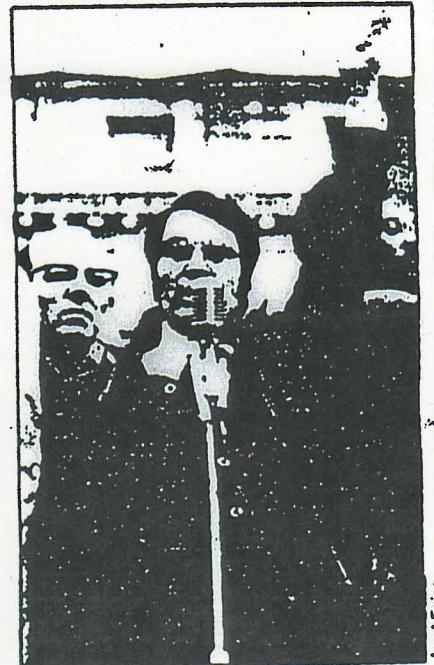
To that end, the Barb has learned, Mazor hired one of the largest public relations firms in San Francisco and then asked them to coordinate a publicity campaign against the Temple and its minister, Reverend Jim Jones.

Bob Kenney, an account executive at Lowry, Russom and Leeper, confirmed for the Barb that he has been working for Mazor "on this (Peoples Temple) project, showing him how to handle the media." He referred further inquiries to Mazor himself, whose only comment on Kenney's role was, "I don't think that's any of your business."

Mazor did note that he originally hired the public relations firm to help him attract business from insurance companies, "and then the Peoples Temple matter just came up, and so naturally I turned to them for help."

But a source close to Lowry, Russom and Leeper told the Barb that Mazor came to the company "saying that he wanted to become San Francisco's next Hal Lipset (a famous investigator)," and that the Peoples Temple controversy "presented an excellent opportunity" to garner publicity.

According to this source, Kenney's work for Mazor included sending out letters to selected journalists, offering them --



*Temple leader Rev. Jim Jones*