

The Institute For Policy Studies: "Whistleblowers" With Concealed Finances

By Lester Kinsolving
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WASHINGTON — The average American has never heard of the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) — but one of its many projects hit the national headlines recently as what is known as "The Whistleblowers."

Officially, this project is called "The Government Accountability Project." It is identified in an IPS brochure as:

"A public interest group formed to help restore confidence in the federal system by making public officials responsible for their misdeeds. Funded by private foundations and working with outside groups as well as federal employees, GAP, formerly the 'Project on Official Illegality,' helps individual employees to promote accountability throughout the government."

(It also promotes The Institute for Policy Studies, which can use such leaks as stock in dealing with — and being rewarded by — Washington's daily press.)

As for any such public accountability by IPS itself, when I arrived at the IPS national headquarters at 1901 Q Street, I was initially received by Jill Merman. Ms. Merman explained that she would be unable to provide me with a copy of an annual IPS financial statement because "IPS hasn't produced a financial statement for the past three years."

This information was almost immediately contradicted however, during an interview with Saul Landau, Director of IPS' Transnational Institute, a subsidiary with headquarters in Amsterdam. Landau said that while an annual report is indeed drawn up, "It is for the IRS, not for the public."

Landau also declined to reveal salaries being paid to the directors and resident "fellows" of IPS, who, he said, were about 50 in number.

Landau also refused to reveal the sources or amount of IPS funding, other than replying that "a million dollars would not be far off."

When asked if IPS had received money from Philip Stern, the heir to the Sears fortune, Landau replied that a small donation had been received from the Stern Fund and additional funding from Samuel Rubin Foundation.

In addition to the Accountability Project (*government* accountability that is) Landau revealed that IPS has at this time three other projects in the U.S. and two overseas.

One of these is an IPS subsidiary in London called "Counter-Information Services," to provide "information about the activities of multinational corporations, which is closely guarded behind boardroom doors or buried in secret files and misleading financial statements."