

## Eye on Democrats by Cincinnatus

### Manatt's boys arrested for mob ties

Did you hear that Chuck "Banker" Manatt's Democratic Party is changing its party leader designation from "National Committee" to "capo"?

The Democratic National Committee chairman's own business and personal associations with the organized crime apparatus are well known—his close relationship to Sidney Korshak, the attorney for Al Capone's enterprises in Chicago; to former California Gov. Pat Brown, the pal of Bernie Cornfeld, who ran Investors Overseas Services for fugitive financier and Billygate figure Robert Vesco. Manatt's California law firm, in addition to its "business" relationships with the high-ranking Soviet KGB assets, also represents certain of the "respectable" channels for suspect activities, such as *Playboy* magazine, Gulf & Western, and numerous other sports and "entertainment" operations.

Yet, even by Manatt's standards, the second week in August was red-letter. A 58-page federal grand jury indictment charged DNC member William "Boone" Darden of Palm Beach, Florida, and 10 associates of the Brooklyn-based Gambino mafia family with racketeering.

Rivera Beach Police Chief Darden is charged with conspiring to set up, and accepting bribes to protect a "bottle club" the Gambino family intended to establish as a front for illegal gam-

bling and extortion operations—part of a move by the Gambino mob into the Palm Beach area. Darden was magistrated in federal court on Aug. 9.

In 1976, Darden ran a massive "Get Out the Vote" operation which contributed to Jimmy Carter's victory in the Florida primary, and was rewarded with an appointment to represent President Carter on a 1978 trip to Algeria, reportedly in the company of Zbigniew Brzezinski. At the time of this writing, President Carter's office is still "researching" this trip.

This two-and-a-half-year investigation, "Operation Home Run," was launched when local participant Joseph Ianuzzi turned informer after he was nearly beaten to death for failing to make an interest payment to the Gambinos, according to the indictment. The *New York Times*, which egged on the entire Abscam investigation of innocent victims such as Sen. Harrison Williams (D-N.J.), now howls that the Darden case may represent "a pattern of intimidation" against blacks.

### Massachusetts and Kentucky: the scandals multiply

During the same week, an arrest warrant also went out for a close associate of Manatt's crowd in Massachusetts, supposedly reputable Boston businessman John O'Connell. O'Connell had recently elicited the enthusiastic support of Democratic officeholders in the state, including Sen. Paul Tsongas, not to mention the *Boston Globe*, when he applied for a government UDAG loan. Now, it appears that O'Connell's plans will not materialize: he was arrested in Jacksonville, Florida, for conspiring to defraud the government, while his shiny new boat was seized bringing 30 tons of marijuana into a Maine port.

Yet another Manatt cohort, former Gov. John Y. Brown of Kentucky, has been reported by the *New York Times* to be the subject of a Miami federal grand jury investigation. It seems that in 1981-82, then-Governor Brown withdrew about \$1.3 million from the All American Bank of Miami, which failed to report the large cash transactions to the Internal Revenue Service as required by law for sums in excess of \$10,000. Though the federal Drug Enforcement Administration has refused to confirm the story, it has been reported that the DEA had put the All American Bank of Miami under surveillance in order to catch large drug pushers by watching large cash deposits and withdrawals.

There are also ongoing investigations of Brown intimate and business partner Jimmy Lambert of Kentucky, who bought the former governor's home. One prosecutor says the inquiry "could blow the lid off Lexington."

Gov. Brown, 49, organized the Memorial Day Democratic national telethon, termed by Manatt a smashing success that would net the Democratic Party \$18 million, paying for the TV and production costs of \$6 million. As of Aug. 18 (time enough to get those envelopes off), only \$2-\$3 million has come in; the DNC maintains that \$5 million in monthly pledges will trickle in through December.

Though the state Democratic Parties shelled out tens of thousands of dollars for the telethon advance costs, the first cent has yet to be remitted from the Manatt "success." Small wonder, with the calls running up to 10-1 against it around the country. Manatt's debacle will be lucky to break even, and the promised 250,000 donor names to be used for future direct mail fundraising by the states total only 100,000 maximum. Manatt, ever the petty tyrant, has refused to give these names to any state parties who showed the good sense to pass on the telethon.