

Heavy-handed tactics may backfire

However, considering the high premium placed on keeping the DOJ's permanent bureaucracy unscathed and unchecked, opponents of McDade-Murtha are not willing to leave the drive to kill this bill solely in the hands of lawyers.

The Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA), which represents 14,000 investigators and police officials in such Federal agencies as the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; Customs; the Drug Enforcement Administration; and the criminal investigative sections of all branches of the U.S. military, is actively lobbying against the bill, and paying personal visits to members of Congress.

Mark Spaulding, the FLEOA legislative director, who is himself a Pentagon investigator, told *EIR* that "our unit brought about the prosecution of Congressman McDade for bribery and corruption." Spaulding tried to dismiss the legislation as nothing more than McDade's animus toward the DOJ for what Spaulding defended as a legitimate, though failed, effort to jail the Representative. (McDade was indicted in 1992, after being subjected to a four-year investigation. His ordeal lasted until August 1996, when a jury finally found him innocent of all charges.)

The FBI Agents Association has also thrown its heavy artillery against H.R. 3396. In a June 22 interview, FBIAA

president John S. Sennett, who expressed anger at the legislation, said his group has been assured that "the bill is going nowhere; it will not pass." Agent Sennett said that the assurance that "McDade-Murtha will die in committee" came from the FBIAA's General Counsel, Ed Bethune. Sennett confidently described Bethune as being "very well connected in the Republican Party." Sennett's claim is not unwarranted.

In fact, the record shows that Bethune has been the private attorney and adviser to Gingrich, and helped draft the strategy for Gingrich's own (unsuccessful) defense against charges of ethics violations. Gingrich was ultimately found guilty of the charges, and still owes hefty fines.

Clearly, this array of forces is intended to intimidate the bill's supporters. And, given their record of reckless abuse, they are, indeed, an intimidating group. But, the success of their tactics is heavily dependent on their ability to operate "in the shadows." Some Washington observers believe that, simply by virtue of the fact that they have been forced out in the open, their heavy-handed tactics to kill this legislation will backfire. Meanwhile, the drive to gain 218 co-sponsors for H.R. 3396 continues to build, in what is shaping up as the most important domestic policy battle to take place on Capitol Hill in decades.

Kenneth Starr to bring indictments in Virginia?

Independent counsel Kenneth Starr is making preparations to bring indictments against associates of President Clinton in the "rocket docket" of the notorious Eastern District of Virginia, according to various reports. Starr has recently leased almost 6,000 square feet of office space close to the Federal courthouse in Alexandria, and, as reported by former U.S. Attorney Henry Hudson, Starr is hiring former Federal prosecutors who used to work for Hudson in Virginia.

During a CNN report on how Starr could move his entire case across the river from Washington, D.C. to northern Virginia, Hudson boasted: "The U.S. District Court in Alexandria probably has the fastest-moving docket in America. It's been dubbed the 'rocket docket.'" More important, the Eastern District of Virginia is known for its almost 100% denial of all defense motions, and pro-government juries which are composed heavily of Federal employees.

Hudson should know. When Justice Department prosecutors fell on their faces in the first trial of Lyndon LaRouche and his associates in Boston in 1987-88, they

moved the LaRouche case to Hudson's office in Alexandria, where prosecutors were guaranteed a rigged court and jury. Hudson and his office were later found to have committed a "constructive fraud on the court," when they illegally shut down publishing companies operated by associates of LaRouche, in order to set the stage for the "fraud" trial of LaRouche — yet, the unjust convictions of LaRouche and his associates were allowed to stand by the Alexandria court and the equally corrupted Fourth Circuit Federal appeals court in Richmond, Virginia.

Despite a number of recent setbacks, Starr is desperately pushing ahead with both indictments of associates of the President, and a report to the House of Representatives which could be used to launch impeachment proceedings. On June 25, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected Starr's efforts to obtain confidential notes of a conversation between the late White House aide Vincent Foster and Foster's attorney. And, the firestorm around Starr's leaks to the news media is continuing, in the wake of Steve Brill's "Pressgate" article in the inaugural issue of *Brill's Content* magazine.

Starr is under intense scrutiny for his admissions that he gave confidential "background" briefings to selected reporters concerning his investigation of the President; at the same time, an investigation of allegations of witness-tampering and payoffs to Starr's key witness in Little Rock, David Hale, is also ongoing. — *Edward Spannaus*