# Department of Transportation spends tax money to finance PROD 'dissidents'

PROD, Inc., the Justice Department-controlled anti-Teamster dissident grouplet, has received taxpayers' money to conduct attacks against the International Brotherhood of Teamsters from within.

Angry Teamsters report that they have received a mailing in an official Department of Transportation envelope, with postage paid by the DOT's National Traffic Safety Administration. Inside: a notice announcing a DOT-sponsored truck safety meeting—and a two-page, four-sided edition of the *PROD Dispatch*, dated August 1979 and, to top it off, registration forms for the Sept. 1-2 PROD National Conference!

Spokesmen for the DOT confirmed yesterday that they had handed PROD 5,000 official DOT envelopes allegedly to mail out announcements of the truck safety meeting. They further confirmed that 5,000 envelopes were stuffed and mailed with PROD organizing literature. The postage was paid by the United States government.

#### A Federal offense

Printed on the front of all official government envelopes is a notice that private use of the government franking privileges carries with it a \$300 fine per envelope. PROD, having mailed 5,000 pieces and stuffed each with its "private" mail, is liable for a \$1.5 million fine.

Spokesmen for the DOT, including from its legal office, admit that what PROD did constitutes illegal, private use of government franking privileges. But these same officials state that they plan no legal action against PROD and that there will be no fine. Instead, the government plans a second 5,000-piece mailing—at taxpayers' expense—to officially disassociate itself from the PROD conference and its mailing.

This government funding for PROD activities and the attempts to then cover it up are evidence supporting charges made by the *EIR* and Teamster officials that the U.S. government is conducting a witchhunt against the Teamster union and its leadership, using PROD

and its sister "dissident grouplet," the Teamsters for a Democratic Union, as its instruments.

#### Kennedy's timetable

Sources in the intelligence community report that orders have come down from City of London-New York financial circles to the Justice Department to "finish off" the Teamsters union within the next six to nine months. The object is to neutralize the 2.3 million member union, which stands as an obstacle to austerity in the United States.

One component of this attack is the proposed trucking deregulation legislation sponsored by Senator Edward Kennedy—and with major support from the DOT. That legislation would at once destroy the highly integrated and efficient truck transportation system built, in large part, due to the efforts of the Teamsters Union, and destroy the IBT by making a national master freight contract impossible.

A study commissioned by U.S. Labor Party Chairman and 1980 presidential candidate Lyndon H. La-Rouche, Jr., has placed the cost to the U.S. economy in lost production at more than \$500 billion over a five-year period and a highway death toll almost equal to that of the Vietnam war. Kennedy plans a major move on trucking deregulation next spring, timed to coincide with a direct offensive against the IBT.

#### 'Get Hoffa: rerun

The witchhunt against the Teamsters is coordinated through the networks in government commonly referred to as the Kennedy-Justice machine. In the Justice Department, they have a base of operations in sections of the FBI, the Organized Crime Strike Force, and the newly formed Office of Special Investigations. These networks, which date back to the 1950 McClellan Committee staff and Robert Kennedy's "Get Hoffa" unit in Justice, function as the "enforcement arm" of the international dope cartel, Dope, Inc. They use

professional assassins, murderers, intimidators, liars, and slanderers.

The latest campaign against the Teamsters will use all of these, just as they were in the 25-year crusade against murdered Teamster leader Jimmy Hoffa. The recent jailing of New Jersey Teamster leader Tony Provenzano is part of this offensive.

Sources report that the Kennedy Justice machine plans to secure indictments against Teamster leaders, including Teamster president Frank Fitzsimmons. This would set the stage for assassinations of Teamster officials.

Such operations are to be code named "mob warfare." Alleged evidence for the indictments is to be secured through entrapment and intimidation of "lower level" Teamster leaders, who are then offered "deals" if they sign DOJ-offered confessions implicating "higher ups." Nicknamed the "Roy Cohn" method, the scramble to turn in the other guy is what eventually made the McCarthy crackdown on labor successful.

The Kennedy Justice-Dope, Inc. machine plans to use the "unsolved" Hoffa assassination as a weapon to implicate Teamster leaders through phony confessions, obtained through intimidation and "deals."

This legal-DOJ offensive is to be accompanied by press smears against the Teamster leadership, leaked from DOJ operatives to their conduits in the media, such as that group of journalistic whores known as the Fund for Investigative Journalism. It is slated to feed into a proposed congressional witchhunt against the Teamsters conducted by the Senate Permanent Investigations subcommittee in spring 1980.

Since its founding in 1971 by Ralph Nader and Joe Rauh, Jr., PROD has played two roles in this anti-Teamster operation. First and foremost, PROD is run as a low-level informers network, with ties to the Organized Crime Strike Force. PROD, which is effectively run by a handful of Kennedy-Justice-linked organizers and lawyers, attempts to attract disgruntled Teamster members and turn them into "informers."

In addition, PROD conducts smear campaigns against Teamster leaders—leaders targeted by the Kennedy-Justice machine for "elimination."

The information for such charges comes from leaks by PROD's controllers in the Organized Crime Strike Force and elsewhere. PROD's smears most often represent material which cannot be substantiated in any form and which would be laughed at if issued by the Justice Department. But PROD's charges are used by Kennedy Justice officials for fishing expeditions against Teamster leaders.

#### **PRODgate**

But the PROD operation is in trouble. The joint efforts of the U.S. Labor Party and Teamster officials have discredited it in the eyes of most Teamsters.

This fact may explain why the DOT has conduited money to PROD, giving its organizing an effective government stamp of approval.

The Justice Department, controlled at the top by Kennedy machine operatives, is now in a real bind. Their Public Integrity Section should prosecute the relevant government officials for allowing the misuse of government money and to force legal remedy against both them and PROD. If they do that, the publicity and the \$1.5 million fine would all but finish off PROD. If they don't—that's the stuff of which Watergates are made.

—L. Wolfe

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