

## 'Operation ABSCAM' May Still Be Operational

The same apparatus of corrupt permanent bureaucrats which, in the Department of Justice's (DOJ) Criminal Division back during the Jimmy Carter Administration (1977-81), launched a series of frame-up "sting operations" against a targetted group of U.S. Representatives and one U.S. Senator, is still operating today. Almost all of the Congressional targets were Democrats, with close ties to the labor movement. The program, "Operation ABSCAM," involved the deployment of FBI special agents, posing as Arab sheikhs, seeking favors from elected officials, in return for cash bribes. The FBI allied with a group of hardened career criminals, who provided the Bureau sting agents with "expertise," in return for a license to commit crime, and receive large piles of taxpayers' money for their "services."

There are now indications that the FBI and DOJ may be once again running an ABSCAM-type filthy operation against targetted Congressional Democrats.

- On May 4, 2001, a Federal grand jury in Cleveland handed down a ten-count, 130-page indictment against Rep. Jim Traficant (D-Ohio), charging him with bribery,

tax evasion, racketeering, conspiracy, and obstruction of justice. The DOJ has been gunning for Traficant for years, particularly after he beat the government's Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) prosecution against him, arguing the case *pro se*, and then parlaying it into a political career that included nine terms in the House of Representatives. Last year, Traficant appeared on ABC News' "Nightline" broadcast, and accused top officials of the local FBI office of having ties to organized crime and colluding with mobsters in several murders. In the same interview, Traficant mocked J. Edgar Hoover for wearing a dress.

- Federal officials have been conducting a year-long grand jury probe of Sen. Robert Torricelli (D-N.J.), on a similar array of flimsy charges of campaign finance corruption. Like Traficant, Torricelli has also refused to roll over in the face of the DOJ and FBI operations. In early June, Torricelli wrote to Attorney General John Ashcroft, demanding the appointment of an independent counsel to conduct the investigation. Torricelli charged that, with the Democratic Party holding a one-vote majority in the Senate, which would be erased were Torricelli to be forced to resign, Ashcroft and the Bush Justice Department would be irreparably politically tainted, and unable to conduct a fair probe. Ashcroft has not yet responded to Torricelli's letter.—*Jeffrey Steinberg*

you go into a Federal courtroom and a prosecutor says, 'I have all of the rights'? . . . We are doing nothing here that is against the boundaries of respect for our Federal system.

"Let me say, as a member, again, of the Committee on the Judiciary, yes, I think our job might have been better if we had had hearings. In fact, I do not think we are finished. I think we must proceed and investigate even more whether there are abuses across the country. But today we are where we are. We have an opportunity not to attack, but to make better. This underlying amendment . . . will protect you the citizen against the kinds of abuses which we face every day. . . ."

### Rep. Peter King (R-N.Y.)

"I rise today in strong opposition to the Hutchinson amendment and in strong support of the Citizens Protection Act of my good friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. McDade].

"I think it is time to put a human face on the abuses that are carried out by prosecutors in this country, prosecutors who consistently violate the rights of innocent human beings, innocent citizens and their families, friends, and relatives. . . . I would like to refer to a predecessor that I had here in the

Congress, Angelo Roncallo. . . . And what went on in his case has happened in so many other cases over the years.

"He was a man who was brought in by the United States Attorney and told he had to deliver a political leader. When he refused to do that, he was called before the grand jury. His family was harassed. He was indicted. His friends were indicted. Everything was leaked to the newspapers. This man's career was destroyed. He was defeated here in the United States Congress.

"Finally his case went to trial. The jury was out 30 minutes and he was acquitted. It came out during that case that all throughout, from day one, the prosecutors had evidence that would have completely exonerated this defendant. They knew it from day one. Throughout the trial, they had U.S. Marshals stand around the U.S. Attorney's office because they had convinced the judge that this Congressman, Angelo Roncallo, was somehow going to have them killed during the trial. . . .

"When the trial was over the judge said it was a disgrace. He referred it to the Justice Department to have it investigated. What was done? Nothing. That is what always happens. Nothing.

"I think it is important for all of us in this Chamber, those of us who are self-righteous, those of us who say it could