

- Hours before she disappeared, Mrs. Weinberg had provided her attorney with a detailed packet of new evidence.

- According to the *Philadelphia Inquirer* of Jan. 19, Mrs. Weinberg did not reveal her address in affidavits submitted in court "for fear she would be killed." The same article quotes Robert K. Greene, author of Mel Weinberg's biography, *The Sting Man*, as telling Mrs. Weinberg "that book was very dangerous and 'they would kill for that.'"

- Upon relaying information from Mrs. Weinberg, alleging criminal acts on her husband's and others' parts to the Justice Department, columnist Jack Anderson urged the Justice Department not to funnel such information to the FBI. Not only did Justice give all Anderson's material to the Bureau, but Weinberg himself was fully briefed within 48 hours.

- Several weeks before Mrs. Weinberg's interview on national television, the FBI dispatched eight agents to supposedly "guard" Mrs. Weinberg in her home. She refused to cooperate with them and instead called local police to protect her from the FBI agents.

- Simultaneous with Mrs. Weinberg's abduction, a pattern of intensive harassment was activated against Sen. Harrison Williams and his wife Jeanette. The day after Williams's operation following a fall which severely aggravated a hernia condition, individuals representing themselves as reporters for the New York *Daily News* illegally entered Williams's hospital room at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York City. The initial *Daily News* incident was followed hours later by 25 other ostensible "reporters" attempting to invade Williams's recuperation room. These incidents were followed by a series of phone calls from individuals posing as Williams's attorney, another supposed reporter from the *Daily News*, and a phone call from an individual falsely identifying himself as a reporter from UPI. Williams's security has been tightened.

- The aggressive defense Senator Williams has been waging, in the context of stunning Italian revelations on the control of international terrorism and dirty money, charges against scores of Sicilian heroin-running families, and the spectacular rescue of U.S. General Dozier, threatens to unravel the entire web in which tainted Justice Department networks are operating. In Greene's book Weinberg admits transferring fraudulent certificates of deposit to funders of Italy's Red Brigades.

Judge George Pratt of the Eastern District of New York had several days prior to Williams's hospitalization denied a motion by Williams's attorneys to delay sentencing pending further investigation of Marie Weinberg's explosive charges of perjury and other misconduct.

The Senate has indefinitely postponed deliberations on the Williams case due to the Senator's condition.

Civil Rights

Minority spokesmen support Sen. Williams

by Elliot Greenspan

Reflecting the spreading outrage at the illegal and unconstitutional tactics used in the Abscam prosecution of Senator Harrison Williams (D-N.J.), two New York City political leaders, both nationally prominent civil rights figures, spoke out in defense of Williams Jan. 28 at a press conference held in New York City by the National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC), and released statements of support for Williams from black and Hispanic leaders from around the nation.

Jack and Montano speak

Hulan Jack, who served as Manhattan Borough President from 1954 to 1961, the first black elected county official in America, and who also served as a New York State Assemblyman for 18 years, was joined by State Assemblyman from the South Bronx Armando Montano. Montano, who represents the 77th Assembly District, is Chairman of the Democratic Program Committee and is the senior Hispanic elected official on the East Coast.

In a prepared statement, Mr. Jack, a member of the advisory council of the NDPC, addressed "the process of entrapment and despicable prosecution of Senator Williams by the Department of Justice," and he cited the parallel between the frameup of Williams and the "vicious" behavior of Abscam prosecutor Thomas Puccio in the case of former New York Assemblyman Samuel Wright of Brooklyn.

"A mobilization of support for Senator Williams is sweeping the country from the North to the South," Mr. Jack said. "Civil rights groups, labor organizations, public officials, and citizens are concerned at the process of entrapment and despicable prosecution of Senator Williams, as perpetrated by the Department of Justice. This case is a clear demonstration that we the people cannot become indifferent and must keep a continuing watchful alert lest we lose our rights to the greed of the autocracy."

Assemblyman Montano, in his remarks to the press, emphasized that, if successful, the attack on Senator Williams would be the prelude to a new onslaught

against minority leaders and the interests of their constituencies and the entire U.S. population:

“Senator Williams has been a great legislator, whose record on the civil rights fight has been exceptional,” Montano said. “America will go down the primrose path, along the road of Global 2000 and ‘planned shrinkage,’ unless this kind of injustice is stopped.” Prosecutorial discretion becomes prosecutorial discrimination when used against Hispanic, black, and other individuals who fight for civil rights.” The press conference was attended by UPI, a major black news service, three leading Hispanic dailies, and two campus-based radio stations.

In response to a question as to whether the press conference had been sanctioned by the Democratic Party, Hulan Jack replied that the Democratic National Committee (DNC) had not come to the aid of Williams. “The DNC sat idly by and allowed the prosecutor to become a dictator in the Williams case,” he said.

Asked by reporters about the relationship between the Abscam cases and the current economic situation, the speakers emphasized that Abscam is nothing but an attack on urban, labor-based Democratic machines, who represent the bread and butter interests of their constituencies against the depression. Mr. Jack referred to the earlier vilification of Harlem Congressman Adam Clayton Powell as a similar operation against the interests of minorities.

Excerpts from statements sent to Hulan Jack for release at the Jan. 28 press conference follow. Other statements were sent by Barbara Simmons, Executive Director of the Washington, D.C. chapter of the NAACP; Sandra Esparza, National President for Youth, League of United Latin American Citizens; William Goodman, Business Manager, Laborers International Union Local #135, Norristown, Pennsylvania; Dr. William Banks, Supreme President of the International Masons and President, WGPR-TV, Detroit; Joe Chaneyfield, Vice-President, Service Employees International Union, Local #305, Newark, New Jersey.

Mayor Coleman Young of Detroit: In times of great economic crisis, government officials and political leaders must be free to be bold and fight—against significant odds—to achieve progress. If our leaders are subjected to harassment and entrapment, as indeed clearly seems to be the case of one of our U.S. Senators, Harrison Williams of New Jersey, then few will retain the courage to lead such political struggles.

With a profound knowledge of the stakes involved for our system of constitutional government and for our economy, I therefore urge my Senators and all Senators to scrutinize, in detail, the Abscam operation, to put the burden of proof on the Abscam operatives of the Justice Department and FBI, and to give Senator Williams full

right of legal appeal to prove his innocence before judging his behavior.

“Official government injustice is the worst form of tyranny a democracy can experience.”

George Forbes, City Council President, Cleveland, Ohio: The U.S. Senate will act soon on the ethics questions pertaining to Senator Williams. It is critical that the Senate treat this matter as the basis for a comprehensive investigation of the practices employed in the Abscam operation. . . .

I will urge my Senators to act accordingly by closely examining the legality of the actions of the entire Abscam operation and to utterly reject any illegal instances of evidence-gathering which may later form the basis of a possible criminal prosecution, and I urge all others who feel the American system of political democracy and economic progress to be jeopardized by possible entrapment to likewise reject such actions.

Hon. William Dyson, Chairman of the Connecticut Legislative Black Caucus: Over the past weeks, we have witnessed new revelations each day of the extent of government wrong-doing in the shameful persecution of Senator Williams. I would ask the following question: Was it Senator Williams’ unflagging commitment to labor rights and to civil rights that made him a target of government entrapment operations? Were the corrupt government operatives who, today, hired felons and convicts to try to entrap Williams, deployed by the same plotters who savagely harassed and set up the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, then?

With these questions in mind, I am urging my Senators, and all Senators, to closely examine the *entire* evidence in the Williams case. I urge that the Senate take no action against Senator Williams until his appeals process has been completed and the full evidence presented.

José Torres, President of the Puerto Rican Civil Rights Association: As National President of the Puerto Rican Civil Rights Association, I wish to join with those labor and civil rights leaders, and concerned citizens who have already come to the defense of U.S. Senator Harrison Williams. I know of Senator Williams’ long career in aiding the cause of minorities and labor, and I suspect that it was because he spoke out in defense of civil and political rights that he was targeted by the FBI.

Robert “Buddy” Battle III, Director, Region 1a, United Auto Workers, Detroit: I am taking the occasion of the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King to issue this brief call for justice in America. I am concerned about the FBI harassing and framing up political targets today, as was done to Dr. King, thus jeopardizing our bedrock system of constitutional law. . . .

I know Dr. King would have fought for the civil rights of Senator Williams, long a friend of the labor and civil rights movements.