

Friends in high places

Part 2 of a series on the secret government of Michael Dukakis in Massachusetts, by an EIR investigative team.

Part 1 of this article focused on Michael Dukakis's use of executive privilege in order to prevent access to information that might be politically damaging to him. The second part examines how the unusual relationship between Dukakis and high-level state and federal law enforcement officials serves that same purpose.

Howie Carr, *Boston Herald* columnist and long-time critic of Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, has a term for the mutually beneficial political and financial relationships of people in high places that seem to be the key to the Dukakis administration. He calls them "Funny Coincidences."

For example, says Carr in an Aug. 25 column, "Just look at how [Dukakis intimate Paul] Brontas's law firm, Hale and Dorr, transitioned William Weld from his job at the Justice Department into Hale and Dorr for a mere \$200,000 or so a year, a job which of course had absolutely nothing to do with Weld's subsequent testimony about Ed Meese before a congressional committee."

He also finds it a "Funny Coincidence" that another Hale and Dorr protégé, Massachusetts Attorney General James Shannon, held back from indicting Dukakis's former education secretary, Gerald Indelicato, on charges of fraud, until after the Democratic primaries were over. Indelicato was later convicted, and is now serving 30 months in a Massachusetts prison while awaiting trial on other charges.

An *EIR* investigation indicates that these incidents, and others, indeed represent more than just a series of funny coincidences. In particular, that investigation shows that Dukakis has a broad array of more than passing acquaintances in important positions in federal and state law enforcement circles. And those friends seem to help him out quite often. The potentially devastating political scandal surrounding the New Braintree prison site is a case in point.

The New Braintree scandal

The presidential campaign of Michael Dukakis was faced with a potentially crippling political scandal when, in June 1988, the *Washington Times* broke the story that the FBI was

investigating charges of "cronyism" surrounding the Dukakis administration's selection of New Braintree, Massachusetts as the site to build a medium-security prison. The charges centered on allegations by New Braintree residents that the administration had provided insider information to Dr. Gary Jacobsen and real estate developer Daniel Striar about their intention to purchase that site. Before the selection was made public, the charges continued, Jacobsen and Striar used that information to purchase the land, which, when sold to the state, would net them a several million-dollar profit.

If true, the resulting scandal could have once and for all destroyed Dukakis's otherwise undeserved reputation as a "squeaky clean" governor who waged a one-man battle against corruption. That the potential problem surrounding this issue was known to Dukakis is demonstrated by its inclusion in the "critical issues" memo written by Dukakis aides shortly after his announcement for President.

In fact, the problem had been plaguing the administration for over a year, when the allegations were first made. Up until June 1988, however, Dukakis had been able to limit the damage by denying his accusers access to documents on the matter, asserting executive privilege.

When the *Washington Times* latched onto the story, the entire affair threatened to blow up in the governor's face. That did not occur, however. The scandal began to die down when the Special Agent in Charge of the FBI's Boston office, James Ahearn, confirmed that there was an inquiry into the matter, but that Governor Dukakis was not a target of the investigation. It was finally put to rest, at least as far as the press was concerned, with a late-summer FBI announcement that the matter had been closed, and no wrongdoing found.

The FBI's unusual conduct in the whole affair, however, began to raise an entirely new set of questions from long-time Dukakis watchers. Wasn't it unusual for the FBI to comment on an open investigation, and to state that the governor was not a target of the investigation? Wasn't it even more unusual that, according to a statement issued by Jacobsen and Striar after the *Washington Times* story broke, "No records have been subpoenaed, no grand jury empaneled, no

Dukakis administration official formally questioned, and absolutely no contact between the FBI and anyone working with us on the sale of this land"? This, despite the fact that the FBI had claimed it had been questioning people on the matter since it opened its preliminary inquiry in March 1987.

This was some investigation! It certainly appeared that the FBI was attempting to limit the damage caused to the Dukakis campaign by the investigation. But why would the FBI, in a Republican administration, supervised by a Republican Attorney General, Ed Meese, want to help Dukakis in any way at all?

It became even more curious when the *Washington Times*, reporting on the closing of the investigation, quoted Boston U.S. Attorney Frank McNamara, a conservative Republican and Meese appointee, to the effect that he was unaware that the investigation had been closed. According to this account, FBI headquarters was also unaware that the investigation had been closed!

Perhaps the matter is not so strange when one discovers that shortly after James Ahearn became Special Agent in Charge of the Boston office in November 1986, his wife Barbara, herself a former FBI agent, was hired by the Dukakis administration for the newly created position of Chief of Investigations for the Department of Mental Health. She left the FBI after her husband became Special Agent in Charge in November 1986, because the FBI policy forbids one spouse from working for the other.

It was one month later that Mrs. Ahearn was hired by the Dukakis administration for a job that was never posted or opened to competition from other job-seekers. Moreover, upon her being hired, she was paid \$719 a week for a post with a management title normally paying \$598 a week. Since then, she has been promoted several times and is currently making \$812 a week or a healthy \$42,246 a year.

Interestingly, Mrs. Ahearn is not the only relative of a top FBI official working among Dukakis circles. The sister of FBI second-in-command Jack Clogherty has a job as a secretary to Massachusetts Speaker of the House and Dukakis intimate George Keeverian. Interestingly, Keeverian has close ties to media consultant Michael Goldman, who "coincidentally" was hired by Jacobsen and Striar as a consultant and their spokesman.

One of Goldman's functions was to help deal with a demand by two state legislators, a Republican and Democrat, for a legislative investigation of the New Braintree matter. The investigation never took place, since, after being sent to languish in the Ways and Means Committee, it was decided that it was a bad precedent to investigate the administration's siting procedures. Of course, that decision was made by a Democratic-controlled House, whose Speaker was George Keeverian.

Weld, Dukakis, and the U.S. Attorney's office

There also seems to be a fairly intimate relationship with

Dukakis circles and key officials at the United States Attorney's office in Boston, dating back to the time when William Weld was the U.S. Attorney. That would not be surprising, as the two have known each other since the time that Dukakis acted as Weld's supervisor at the law firm of Hill and Barlow.

It has long been alleged that Weld and Dukakis collaborated in the politically motivated witchhunt against former Boston Mayor Kevin White. That witchhunt, which the *National Law Journal* characterized as a "textbook example of a prosecutor misusing his power," destroyed White's career, although he was legally exonerated. Weld, on the other hand, went on to the Justice Department, where he led the charge against Attorney General Ed Meese, who was also legally exonerated. Weld, on the other hand, as mentioned earlier, ended up with a lucrative job at the law firm of Dukakis intimate Paul Brontas, Hale and Dorr.

Other officials of the U.S. Attorney's office, particularly those who were Weld protégés and who were displeased with the choice of Frank McNamara as his successor, were also tapped.

For example, Robert Mueller, Assistant U.S. Attorney under Weld and his successor Frank McNamara, resigned his position this past summer, ending up with a job at another bastion of Dukakis supporters, his and Weld's old firm of Hill and Barlow. Previous to working for the Boston U.S. Attorney's office, Mueller was a federal prosecutor in San Francisco. Coincidentally, the number-two man at the FBI's San Francisco office at the time was James Ahearn.

More directly, Daniel Small, another veteran of the Weld U.S. Attorney's office who served as the Assistant U.S. Attorney for white collar crime, left his post earlier in the year, prior to the end of the primary campaigns, to become the representative of the Dukakis campaign to the Democratic National Committee.

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