

Dope in high places: Sen. Pat Moynihan

by Kathleen Klenetsky

Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan has recently adopted a very tough anti-LaRouche position, and a very tough anti-drug position. On the LaRouche issue, we suppose, his fear and hatred are sincere enough. On the drug issue, however, things aren't so clear.

Moynihan's anti-drug posture on closer inspection proves to be an anti-Third World posture. He doesn't attack drugs, but the nation of origin of the drugs. He doesn't attack the drug mafia; he attacks the Third World governments battling the drug mafia, as if these were responsible for the supranational drug mafia.

It's a neat trick, and strengthens the supranational drug mafia against national governments.

At the same time, the senior senator from New York is running a special smear campaign against Democratic presidential contender Lyndon LaRouche, and has managed to become one of the most wild-eyed "LaRouche baiters" on the national political scene. LaRouche, of course, is known internationally as one of the most effective opponents of the drug mafia.

There seems to be a pattern here.

It turns out that Daniel Patrick Moynihan, protégé of Averell Harriman (Stalin's friend), former Moynihan, protégé of Averell Harriman (Stalin's friend), former ambassador to India, and famous for "benign neglect" of all that is evil in America and the world, has been a loud supporter of legalizing drug traffic since before he entered the Senate.

"I am concerned," he said during his 1976 campaign, "that the prejudicial treatment of marijuana offenders in the absence of clearly harmful effects has created insuperable practical problems of law enforcement and has seriously harmed the standing of our law enforcement agencies in the eyes of the public. My position is that I support the decriminalization of marijuana offenses. I would, if elected to the Senate, lend the prestige and support of my office toward that end." He then attacked "unscrupulous dealers" who might be watering down the product!

Sure enough, in the legislative sphere, Moynihan became a loud supporter of mass legal drug consumption. In 1979, he was one of the main sponsors of a radical marijuana "decriminalization" bill. When that measure was defeated, he threw his support behind Sen. Ted Kennedy's omnibus Crim-

inal Code Reform Bill, which would have removed federal criminal penalties for marijuana possession.

These pot bills were key elements of the drug lobby's first efforts to remove criminal penalties from all illegal drugs. Fortunately, both were defeated.

Moynihan's patrons

It turns out that Moynihan's supporters have a lot of drug-trafficking connections. He is a client of the New York law firm of Willkie, Farr, Gallagher. The firm sits at the top of Dope, Inc.

One partner is Kenneth Bialkin, until recently national chairman of organized crime's Anti-Defamation League. Bialkin has been the attorney and business partner of Robert Vesco, now living in Castro's Cuba, and the heir apparent to the late Meyer Lansky. Vesco is the actual kingpin of South American cocaine traffic. For example: "I am nothing compared to Vesco," said Carlos Lehder Rivas, Colombia's biggest drug-runner!

Willkie, Farr, Gallagher has had other clients besides Moynihan and Vesco: First Boston, the money-laundering firm; Rapid American Corporation, owned by Israeli mafia figure Meshulam Riklis; and Shearson Lehman/American Express, whose Philadelphia branch was recently indicted for money-laundering.

Moynihan in part owes his political success to Willkie, Farr, Gallagher's financial and political backing, and to Kenneth Bialkin personally. FEC records document that Moynihan received thousands of dollars in contributions from at least 11 members of the firm for his 1982 reelection campaign, including Kenneth Bialkin and his wife.

In fact, Charles Straub, a senior partner of Willkie, Farr, Gallagher, was Moynihan's 1982 campaign chairman.

Does Moynihan use drugs?

We don't know for sure, but two people close to Moynihan have been involved in drug scandals in recent years.

One was Abbie Hoffman, the former "Yippie" proto-terrorist. After being indicted as a cocaine dealer in the early 1970s, Hoffman went underground and became "Barry Freed," a radical environmentalist in New York State. Moynihan befriended and brought him to Washington to testify before a Senate committee. When Hoffman finally turned himself in and was convicted on the cocaine charges, Moynihan called for him to be pardoned.

A similar case involved Eric Breindel, a young Harvard graduate whom Moynihan hired as an aide on the Senate Intelligence Committee with top-level security clearance. Earlier, Breindel had written an article for the *New Leader* slandering LaRouche as an "American fascist." The same Breindel was arrested in May 1983 for heroin possession and conspiracy to violate drug laws.

Does Moynihan use drugs? Probably not, said one Washington observer: "He's never sober long enough to stick the needle in."