

'Fedgate' may ensnare Ohio solon

Corruption rumors fly as Metzenbaum asks expanded powers for OSI

Associates of Ohio Senator Howard Metzenbaum (D) are reported anxious that the growing "Fedgate" scandal centered on the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, National City Bank of Cleveland, and apparently mob-controlled Ohio businesses (see Banking, page 7) may taint the career of the Ohio Democrat as well.

Though Metzenbaum's name has not yet appeared in connection with the "Fedgate," his own circle of business associates intersects closely some of those who are implicated in the scandal, and, Ohio observers note, the association is certain to throw attention on long-standing rumors of illicit activities which have arisen around Metzenbaum-connected business ventures, including Detroit-based Max Fisher, cited as a drug kingpin in the book *Dope, Inc.* Moreover, Metzenbaum is directly involved in the growing "Supergate" shakeup involving the *New York Times*, Ted Kennedy and the Justice Department (see COUNTERINTELLIGENCE). While the Kennedy forces and the *Times* allegedly joined hands to run a slander and dirty tricks campaign against 1980 presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, Metzenbaum reportedly approached the Justice Department's bogus anti-Nazi unit to undertake additional witchhunting activity. Metzenbaum, with Pennsylvania Senator John Heinz, requested that the unit investigate "potentially subversive domestic elements including the third parties."

It is the Labor Party, the third party of which LaRouche is chairman, which has waged a national campaign to wipe out the billion dollar drug traffic protected by an international network of financiers, organized crime and politicians dubbed "Dope Inc."

The "Purple Gang" connection

Metzenbaum's family, originally owners of the Phillips 66 gasoline stations in Ohio, long ago established ties with the Max Fisher dynasty. The Metzenbaum family business was sold to Fisher, who integrated it into his international gas and oil interests through his Ohio based firm, Marathon Oil. Through this business relationship, the Metzenbaums, including young Howard, were introduced into the inner circle of the "Ohio Mafia." Metzenbaum became the protégé and later the political lieu-

tenant of Fisher associate Stephen M. Young, a major shareholder in Fisher's United Brands (United Fruit). As district attorney of Cuyahoga County during Prohibition, Young is remembered for his spectacular lack of success in dealing with Fisher-connected mobster Moe Dalitz's "Jewish Navy of Lake Erie," the bootlegging operation that almost never got caught. During World War II Young was a high American occupation official in Italy, at the same time that former New York governor Thomas Dewey and others were making "deals" with the notorious heroin kingpin Lucky Luciano resulting in Luciano's release from prison and transport to Italy to regenerate the business of narcotics shipments to the postwar U.S.A.

It is Young who gave Metzenbaum his start in public life, by securing his appointment to the war labor board when Metzenbaum was 25 years old; after his graduation from Ohio State as a "labor law" specialist. This training gave young Howard the opportunity to learn how to hornswoggle the American labor movement from such experienced British-trained Fabians as Sidney Hillman and Walter Reuther. Afterwards, until 1950, Metzenbaum was awarded a seat in the Ohio state legislature. He then "retired" from public life, but functioned as a behind-the-scenes political advisor to Young, who was himself elected to the U.S. Senate in 1958.

How to buy a senate seat

By that time, Metzenbaum had "built himself a personal fortune" through franchises from the Cleveland Airport Authority, Avis Rent-a-Car, and United Brands. He was chairman of a nationwide chain of parking lots, Airport Parking Co. Bolstered by Young's political connections and his financial interest in United Brands, Metzenbaum conducted a series of "business dealings" with the heirs to Moe Dalitz—people like Lou Goldin, and shopping center magnate Edward DiBartolo of Youngstown. Metzenbaum's parking lots, especially those near the airport, became known to Cleveland area residents as a drop-off point for narcotics shipments. Metzenbaum's law partner Harold Stern and his associate Alva T. Bonda became very rich, so rich that Bonda bought the Cleveland Indians with assistance from none other than Felix Rohaytn of Lazard Freres, now chief of New

York's Big MAC; Stern and Young represented his legal interests. Bonda's business has connections to Buffalo's Jacobs brothers, of SportSystems-Emprise, with documented organized crime connections.

In 1966 Metzenbaum sold his parking lot empire—to International Telephone and Telegraph (ITT), an international conglomerate well known for its role, documented in Senate hearings, in promoting the Pinochet coup in Chile, and otherwise pursuing parallel policies to Fisher's United Brands in keeping Latin America ruled by an antiprogress oligarchy. While Max Fisher's United Brands maintained countries like Guatemala and Nicaragua as "banana republics" and centers of the drug trade, Metzenbaum served as chairman of ITT's Consumer Corporation.

By 1968, Metzenbaum was through with ITT and heavily into the banking business: he, Bonda, and Stern had acquired a major interest in Society National Bank, the fourth largest bank in Cleveland. Metzenbaum was getting known as a key figure in the state's Democratic party, and, after one unsuccessful Senate race, in 1974 he was appointed by Gov. John Gilligan, the man who brought legalized gambling in the form of the state lottery to Ohio, to the U.S. Senate to replace retiring William Saxbe. With financial support from Bonda and DiBartolo, Metzenbaum hung onto his Senate seat in the 1976 campaign.

Metzenbaum's senate career

While a staunch member of the Senate's Zionist lobby, loudly advocating the "defense of Israel" and for "hunting Nazis" in the U.S.A., Metzenbaum has devoted his years in the Senate to the promotion of fabian anti-growth policies. Here is his record.

Nazi Law: As a member of the Senate Judiciary committee run by Ted Kennedy, Metzenbaum has been a consistent advocate of S. 1437 ("grandson" of S. 1), the so-called reform of the federal criminal code. By legislating mandatory sentences without parole, regardless of the character of the person convicted and his potential for rehabilitation, S. 1437 violates the natural-law foundations of the U.S. Constitution. It is intended to provide a context for wholesale frameups through such provisions as mandatory sentences "for operating or managing a racketeering business." While low-level crooks and grafters may be prosecuted under this statute, the Fishers and Metzenbaums will go free.

Legalized Drugs: S. 1437 is another step toward legalizing marijuana, by reducing penalties for possession and use. Metzenbaum also supports former HEW Sec-

retary Joe Califano's demand that the U.S. stop supplying the marijuana killing chemical paraquat to Mexico and other nations interested in eradicating drug crops. Finally, Metzenbaum, as a member of Judiciary's anti-trust subcommittee, has helped to create the legal basis for "insurance-free zones" in Cleveland, Detroit and New York—freeing insurance companies from state regulation, so that Dope, Inc. insurance firms can invest in gambling stocks and drugs.

Zero-Growth Energy: As a member of the Energy and Natural Resources committee, Metzenbaum has been one of the principal spokesmen in Congress for wiping out all development of nuclear energy. He helped lead the fight against the Clinch River breeder reactor. He has sponsored numerous legislative initiatives to terminate nuclear plant construction. A campaigner for mandatory conservation programs, Metzenbaum is an advocate of Henry Jackson's "bust OPEC" strategy to create a national oil purchasing agency, a policy that would put U.S. industry in a government oil rationing stranglehold. Among Ohio utilities, Metzenbaum is credited with having driven business away from the Cleveland area.

Labor Links: With a near-perfect AFL-CIO voting record, Metzenbaum is closely associated with the anti-growth policies of the AFL-CIO's Lane Kirkland. He backs mandatory wage and price controls. He is also a noisy supporter of Kennedy's trucking deregulation, which, as this news service has documented, would throw U.S. over-the-road freight into chaos, and provoke labor turmoil by attempting to break the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

A final solution for Cleveland

Metzenbaum's office is fond of parroting the London *Economist's* line that Cleveland, like other big U.S. cities in trouble, should be turned into a "services economy" and forget industrial growth. Metzenbaum backs the reelection of Dennis Kucinich, Cleveland's "crusading, populist" mayor, who has brought the city to the point that it can't afford garbage pickups.

Is it any coincidence that while Metzenbaum and his cronies have built their business and political careers, Cleveland has become the international capital of pornography? Reuben Sturman—the owner of the Sovereign News Co. and numerous other porno outlets operating in all 50 states, Canada, and the Netherlands, the distributor of *Screw* magazine and similar filth—maintains his base in Cleveland, and has often been investigated and indicted, but never convicted?

—Karen Steinherz