

# McGovern Ready to Hit Primaries

By Jack Anderson

Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.) decided at a secret strategy session last month in the Virgin Islands to enter a host of presidential primaries.

These will include California, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Oregon, South Dakota, West Virginia and Wisconsin, and also probably Pennsylvania and Rhode Island.

He expects Ed Muskie (D-Me.), the front runner, to win the first two primaries in New Hampshire and Florida. But McGovern believes he will make a good showing against Muskie in California, Massachusetts, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

McGovern strategy will be to concentrate on becoming the leading challenger by the year's end. If he can crowd out the other rivals and establish himself as the No. 2 candidate, he would be able to narrow the race to a Muskie vs. McGovern showdown.

This would put McGovern in a position to pick up the support of the other liberals in the race and to dramatize the differences between himself and Muskie.

Footnote: at the secret meeting, he received a financial report from his treasurer, Henry Kimelman, who announced that more than \$400,000 had been raised, most of it by direct mail.

## Drive on Mafia

The FBI has plenty of agents to search for stolen cars, infiltrate antiwar rallies, keep files on congressmen and polish J. Edgar Hoover's image. But it has assigned only four to the Justice Department's vital, 17-city drive against the Mafia.

The campaign against the centipede crime syndicate is spearheaded by strike forces in each city. These are run by tough, young Justice Department lawyers, who have 228 federal agents from various law enforcement agencies working under them.

The confidential strike force rosters show how badly the FBI has let down the rest of the anti-Mafia team. Only four of the 228 federal agents come from the FBI. The rest are Treasury, narcotics, postal and securities agents.

Apologists for the FBI insist that its agents help out the strike forces without direct assignments, that the FBI conducts its own separate Mafia investigations. This is partly true, but other agencies have contributed full-time lawmen to a unified drive against organized crime.

In New York City, corporate headquarters of the Costa Nostri, 27 agents are fighting organized crime under the Justice Department lawyers. The FBI has contributed one man.

On the West Coast, a hotbed

of Mafia activity, 33 federal agents are working for strike forces in San Francisco and Los Angeles. Not one of them is an FBI man.

The FBI has assigned one man each to the strike forces in Chicago, Pittsburgh and Boston. But not a single FBI agent serves on the strike forces in Brooklyn, Buffalo, Cleveland, Detroit, Kansas City, Miami, New Orleans, Philadelphia and St. Louis.

Footnote: drug addicts, who must steal to feed their habit, have caused the alarming increase in unorganized crime. And the Mafia is the brain behind most organized crime. Yet the nation's foremost law enforcement agency, the 7,800-man FBI, turned down ex-President Lyndon Johnson's appeal to help crack down on the illicit drug traffic and provides only marginal help in the drive against the Mafia.

## Cultural Revolution

We have stirred up our own small cultural revolution by calling the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts a public works palace for the rich and by comparing the odor of the contract negotiations to the smell of the Potomac River outside.

This brought an explosive rebuttal from Roger Stevens, the center's distinguished chairman, and we responded with additional facts to support our charges. Here are the latest developments:

- We mentioned, as an illustration of the lavishness of the center, that chandeliers had been installed in the elevators. These have now been removed.

- We charged that the juicy maintenance contract had been tentatively awarded, not to the lowest bidder, but to a subsidiary of International Telephone and Telegraph. The conglomerate, a benefactor of the center, already had the parking and food concessions. Stevens has now ordered all maintenance bids rejected.

We also informed Stevens that the center's fabulous haute cuisine restaurant, La Grande Scene, had not hired a single black as a waiter or busboy.

This is more important than it may seem, for black waiters have been discriminated against in most of Washington's expensive restaurants where the prices, and therefore the tips, are highest. Many had hoped the Kennedy Center would provide a new opportunity.

"This is unacceptable in an institution that bears Jack Kennedy's name," Stevens responded. "The contractor will be put on notice in a letter immediately that this must stop."

Roger Stevens, who has given generously of his time and money to the Kennedy Center, has impressed us with his conscientiousness.

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