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It's been a busy week here at Mogadore Reservoir.

Monday at 9 AM, 120 Federal agents closed down the top two floors of the Cuyahoga County Administration Building with warrants to search records of County Commissioner Jimmy Dimora and others, and also dropped in on Jimmy's home to liven up the day for Lori and the kids. Jimmy also serves as chair of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party. This first public demonstration of what has apparently been a four-year investigation by the Feds, without tipping off local law enforcement, just happened to occur four days before the Democratic National Convention Platform Committee opened its national public hearings in Cleveland on Friday. This suggests someone in Federal law enforcement is paying attention to timing.

On the other hand, on Tuesday, other Federal law enforcement officials, who apparently do not talk to the Cleveland office, announced seven indictments of U. S. Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska, for allegedly having work done on his personal home by contractors who were not paid for their work. This is the identical activity for which the Cleveland Feds said they were trying to find evidence at the homes of Jimmy Dimora and Frank Russo. Since busting a U. S. Senator trumps "investigating" a county commissioner, the national news media talked about the Stevens indictments rather than about the Dimora investigation, and the DNC Platform Committee proceeded without undue embarrassment. This suggests the Feds still do not have that "inter-agency communication" thing worked out yet, so expect more arguments from the Feds to further overlook the concepts of "privacy" and "confidentiality" in the unending war on political opponents.

On Wednesday, President Bush signed the Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2008, into Public Law 110-289. This new law is 56 pages long and contains lots of benefits for lots of people, except, being a "Prevention" Act, doesn't do much for Americans who are already in foreclosure. This is one of this writer's near and dear issues, so next month's OCL will have a detailed study of how the Feds have bailed out the stockholders of FNMA and FMAC, and how the Feds have increased the authority of FHA to make taxpayer-backed loans to amounts over \$600,000 to bail out folks who bought really expensive homes in the speculation that the next fool would come along and buy that home from them for an even higher price. Interesting topic for a research paper - how many, if any, borrowers of mortgage loans in excess of the previous FHA limit of \$420,000, are NOT Republicans?

On Thursday, it was announced that the FBI investigation of the 2001 anthrax-by-mail murders came to a convenient close with the "apparent suicide" of Dr. Bruce Ivins, a researcher employed by the United States Army at the Fort Detrick, Maryland, biological weapons laboratory. Dr. Ivins's death removed the

likelihood of a murder trial that would include evidence of United States disease-weapons research and of security procedures around such weapons.

On Friday, the reaction of various present and former government officials to the news that Dr. Ivins had previously been diagnosed with homicidal and threatening personality traits, provided a bizarre perspective. Folks asked, "How could an individual with a homicidal psychiatric diagnosis get a government security clearance?" This writer asks, "When these government officials went about hiring someone to research how to make diseases into more efficient weapons for killing people, just exactly what psychological profile did they expect of the applicants who would answer that help-wanted posting?" Kumbaya, my Lord, kumbaya.

- Christopher J. Mallin, Old Country Lawyer