

WILKES IS ON HIS OWN

Via chrisc, Judge Burns has severed the trials of Brent Wilkes and John Michael, on account of the health problems of the latter.

A judge Monday severed the trials of ex-defense contractor Brent Wilkes and banker John Michael, who are charged in connection with the corruption scandal that sent former Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham to prison.

U.S. District Judge Larry Burns postponed Michael's trial indefinitely after attorney Raymond Granger said his client had been diagnosed with viral meningitis. Pretrial motions are scheduled in Wilkes' case Tuesday, with jury selection set to begin Wednesday. Opening statements are scheduled for Oct. 9.

Given that Michael seems intent on avoiding conviction by exposing all of Tommy K's crimes, and Wilkes seems intent on avoiding conviction by ... who knows, exposing all of Congress' crimes? I don't think the separate trials will help either one overly much. Though it may mean that no prostitutes will show up at John Michael's trial.