

MARK FOLEY FALLS INTO PELOSI'S LAP

Not literally, of course. She's not his type. But the Blotter is reporting that Florida investigators have asked the Speaker's help in accessing Foley's Congressional computer, which they had been prevented from subpoenaing because of the William Jefferson ruling extending Speech and Debate to Congressional materials.

Florida law enforcement officials investigating former Republican Rep. Mark Foley, whose e-mails and instant messages to teenage former congressional pages shocked the country, are hoping Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi will grant them access to Foley's House computers.

"We are respectfully requesting access to any and all computer equipment that the U.S. Government possesses that former Representative Foley utilized during his time in office," Florida Department of Law Enforcement Commissioner Gerald Bailey wrote to the speaker last month.

What makes this request particularly interesting is that Republicans have been trying to drum up a page scandal (yup, you guessed it, a consensual blow job) to blame Pelosi for. Thus, while Congress in general seems to want to use the Jefferson precedent to expand their own prerogatives, the new page scandal offers Pelosi cover for turning over Foley's computer files.

The early indication, at least, is that Pelosi would very much like to do that—turn over materials to the Florida investigative team.

Spokesman Brendan Daly also said the office wants to cooperate with Florida investigators and will consult with House lawyers.

If she were smart, she'd craft an approach that would make it difficult for all Congressmen to use the Jefferson precedent to hide their legal improprieties. But it's so much easier to get people in DC to take action to punish sex than bribery.