

BRENT WILKES “THE LEADER OF A CRIMINAL ENTERPRISE”

Duke Cunningham, who is none too bright, is looking pretty smart for pleading guilty and taking his eight year sentence for accepting bribes. Compared to the sixty years the Probation Office has recommended for Brent Wilkes, after all, those eight years look like child’s play (h/t chrisc).

Federal probation officials are recommending that Brent Wilkes, the Poway defense contractor who was convicted of bribing former Rep. Randy “Duke” Cunningham, should be sentenced to 60 years in prison, according to court records.

Apparently, the Probation Office calculated that everything Brent Wilkes’ company did for the government was criminal.

The specific reasons behind the probation recommendation are not known, because the reports are not publicly available. However, in a court filing last week, Geragos referred to sections of the report and his objections to them.

[snip]

The lawyer said he would challenge that calculation. In an interview he said probation officials appeared to have totaled up all the federal work ADCS got from the government and attributed all of it to criminal behavior.

[snip]

Geragos also said in the court filing that probation officials said Wilkes’ sentence should be increased because he

was an organizer or leader of a criminal enterprise.

I'm not much interested in Wilkes' sentence—I'd just like them to get started with the Dusty Foggo side of the case. But I am interested in how this sentence (assuming Judge Burns gives Wilkes anything close to that) affects all the other bribe-givers and -takers' behavior. You think maybe this will get John Dootlittle's or William Jefferson's attention? You think this will get the attention of all the Bush cronies who are still actively bribing Congressmen to get contracts?