

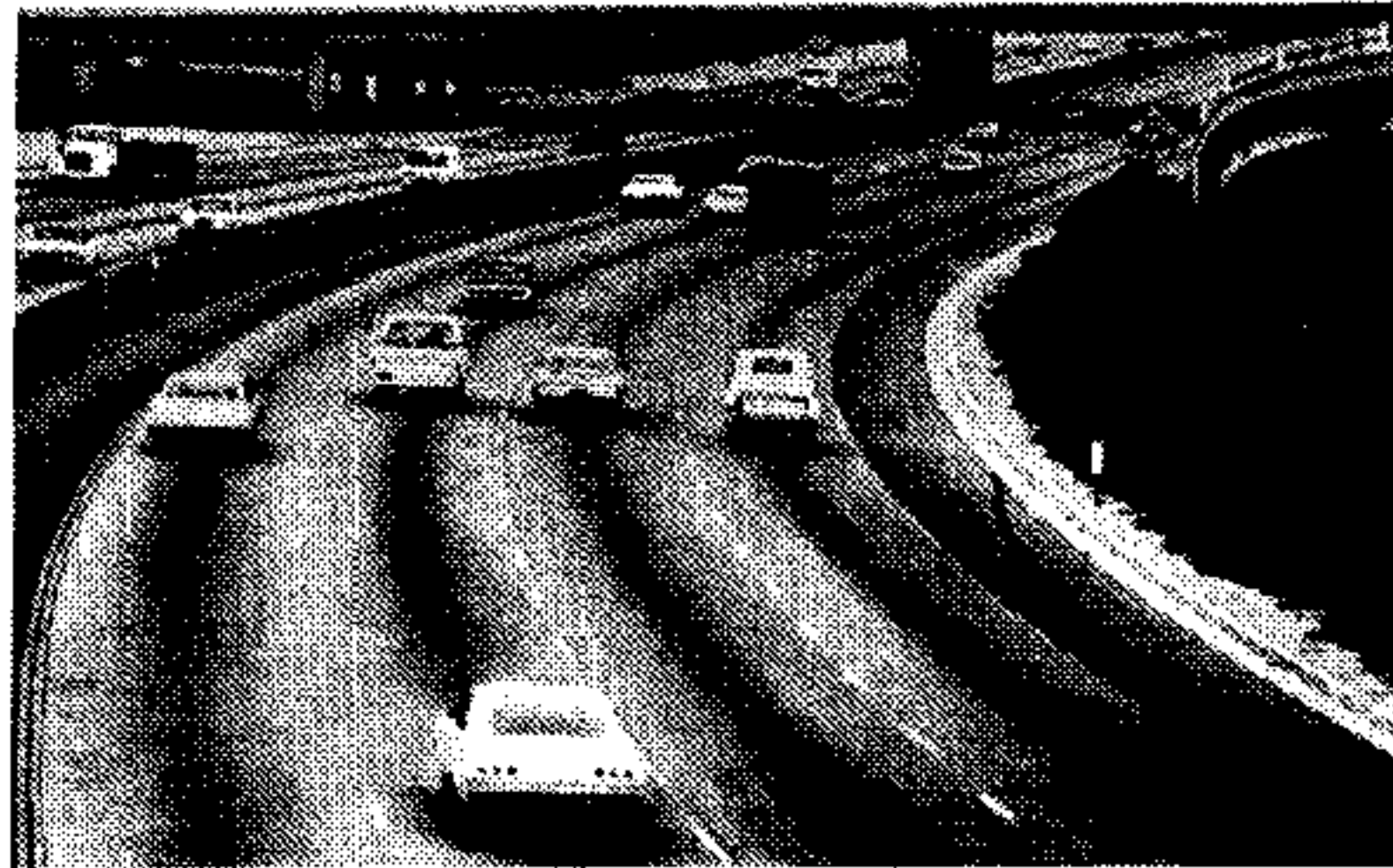
# INSIDE WASHINGTON



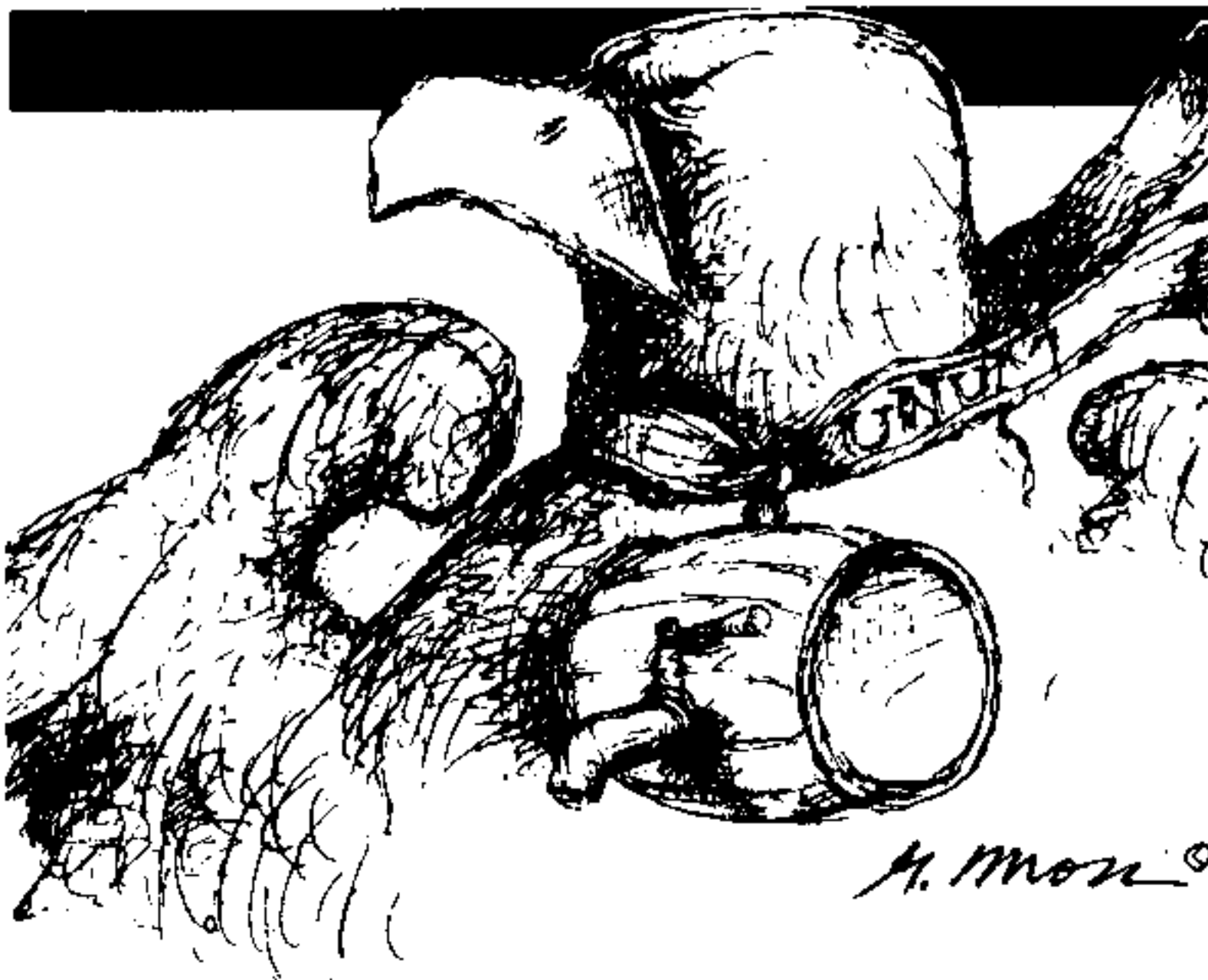
## Galloping Gephardt

Democratic Members of Congress won't be selected as delegates to the national convention until the spring of 1988, but the race for their support has heated up. The campaign of Missouri Rep. Richard A. Gephardt in particular is off to a fast start. A Feb. 25 fund-raiser in Washington will star 33 House colleagues, including Majority Leader Thomas S. Foley and Majority Whip Tony Coelho. All have agreed to help raise money, and most, a number of them from the South, are assisting with organizational activities in their home states.

## Fuzz Buster Lobby

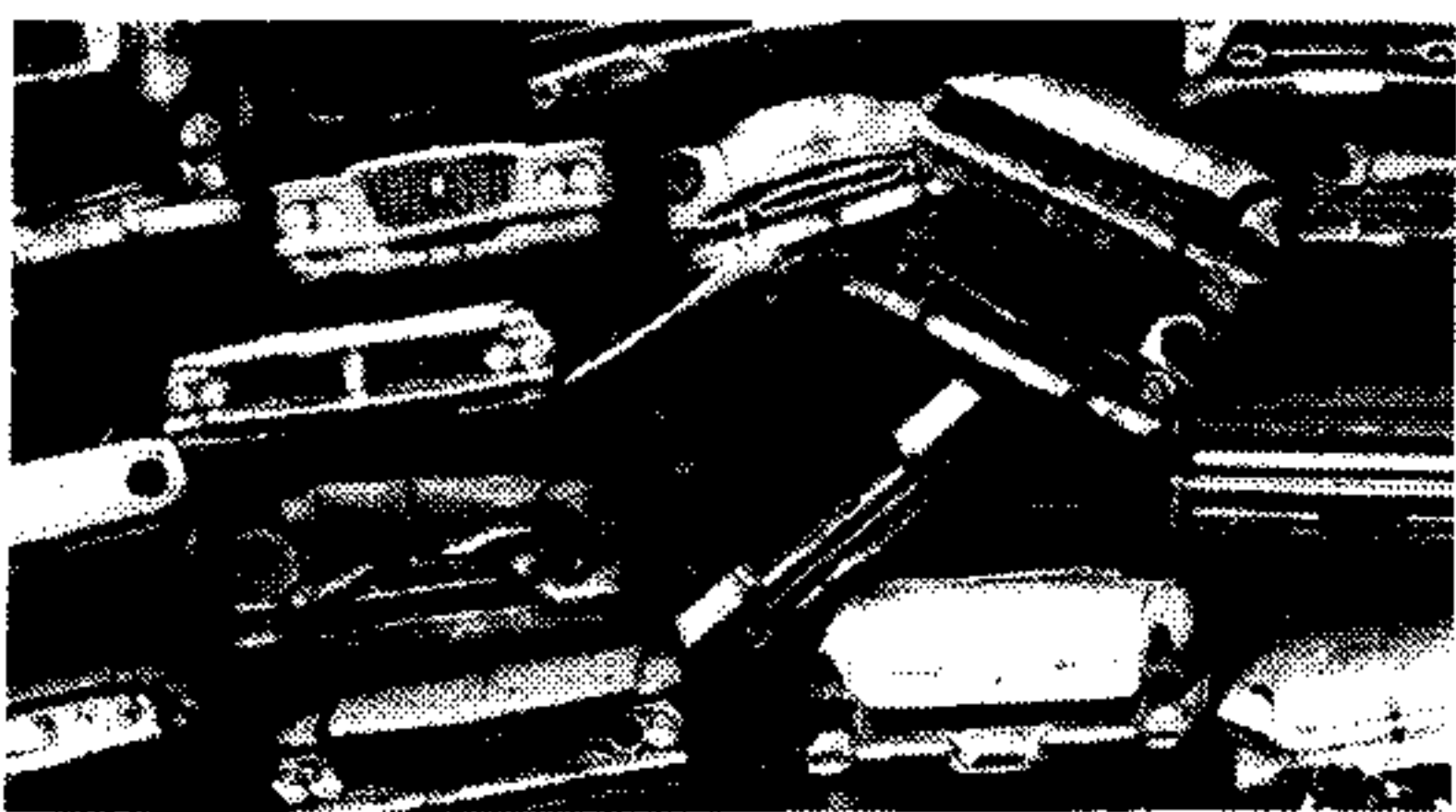


As Congress moves to enact a new highway bill, the manufacturers of radar detectors are picking up disturbing blips. In the last Congress, a Senate effort to boost the speed limit on some interstate highways to 65 miles per hour provoked a House counterproposal to outlaw the use of radar detectors. Now the Senate has again voted to raise the speed limit, and while a radar ban hasn't yet surfaced in the House, the manufacturers are lobbying to squelch any such move. One company has retained former Rep. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., who was once ranking minority member of the Public Works and Transportation Committee.



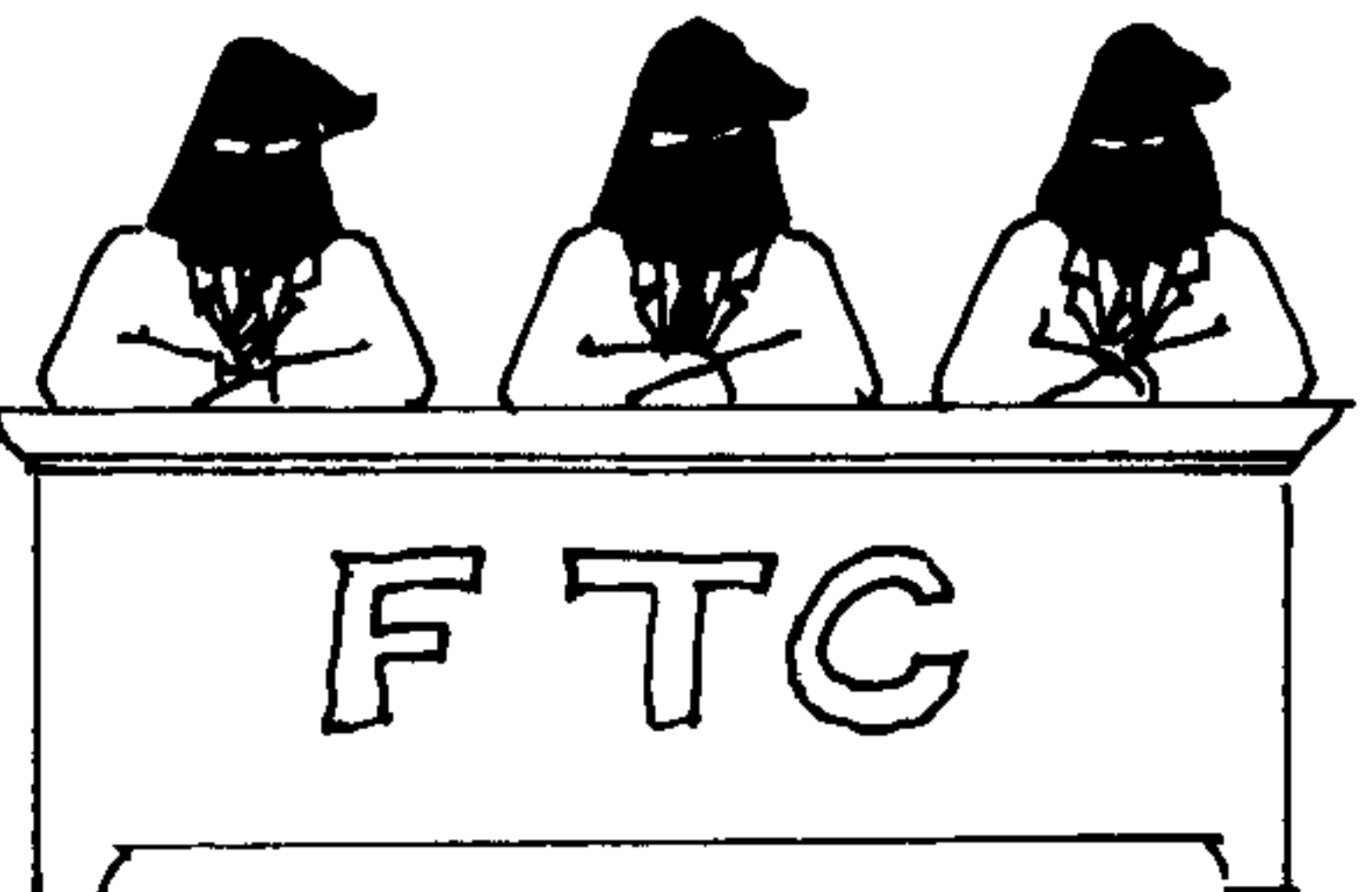
## Rumbles on the Right

Legal complications may be piling up for Howard J. Ruff, the Utah-based investment adviser, and his coterie of right-wing political and economic groups. John Houston, a former top official in Ruff's Washington network, is planning to file a class-action suit against various Ruff groups and aides, contending that much of the \$30 million contributed to those organizations since 1980 has been misused. Separately, an Internal Revenue Service criminal investigation has intensified and indictments reportedly may be imminent; possible charges include tax violations by individuals and abuse of its tax-exempt status by Ruff's Free the Eagle organization.



## Junk Trade

Steve Charnovitz, a new House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee aide, provided House Speaker Jim Wright with those startling trade deficit examples for his response to the State of the Union message. Charnovitz, who left the Labor Department a month ago, recalled reading that waste paper is one of the leading exports of the Port of New York. Further research disclosed that New York's No. 1 export, by tonnage, is bulk scrap metal. Another leading export item, Charnovitz added, is textile wastes—also known as rags.



## An FTC Flogging

It's rare for an agency to publicly savage a top staffer. But the Federal Trade Commission has lambasted the director of its Bureau of Consumer Protection, William C. MacLeod, for a less than enthusiastic effort to pursue a still-pending complaint that the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. had misrepresented the results of a study of the effects of smoking. "The commission finds that the director has continued to demonstrate either a lack of comprehension of his responsibilities ... or unwillingness to carry out that responsibility," an FTC order said. Commission chairman Daniel Oliver dissented.