

International Primate Protection League

PO DRAWER 766, SUMMERVILLE, SC 29484, U.S.A.



February 19, 1993

Dear Overseas IPPL Member:

We urgently need your help to ensure that Miami orangutan smuggler Matthew Block does not escape with probation for his role in the cruel "Bangkok Six" orangutan shipment. There was no "probation" for the baby orangutans or their mothers shot to bring them into captivity. On 9 February 1993, Block pled guilty to one felony count after the Miami prosecutor Guy Lewis dropped the four existing charges and consolidated them into just one.

This prosecutor, sad to say and for a reason unknown, has been acting just like an extra defense lawyer for Matthew Block who already has two of Miami's most expensive criminal defense lawyers working for him!

The case is in the hands of a wonderful judge named James Kehoe who will announce Block's sentence on 15 April 1993. Lewis is now planning to submit a motion to the judge saying that Matthew Block has "cooperated" with the government - and therefore should not go to jail for a horribly cruel crime that shocked the world.

With prosecution and defense now appearing to act as one team, animal-lovers around the world are the only hope to ensure justice in this case.

We need hundreds of letters from many countries to Judge James Kehoe thanking him for his concern for the world's endangered wildlife and for rejecting a plea-bargain in this case that would have let Block off with just 2 trivial misdemeanors.

Please tell the Judge Kehoe that:

1) you greatly appreciate his rejection of the weak "plea-bargain" in the "Bangkok Six" orangutan case,

2) you hope he will administer a tough sentence to Matthew Block which will inspire confidence around the world that the United States will not tolerate participation by US nationals in the destruction of highly endangered species such as orangutans,

3) you know that animal smuggling syndicates around the world are watching this case closely to see whether Matthew Block will get off lightly, and will be encouraged to continue their sordid dealings if Block gets off with no jail time.

4) you hope that he will set strict conditions to protect and compensate human victims for the lawsuits, harassment, intimidation, and threats generated by Mr. Block and his associates against decent caring people who worked hard three years to ensure justice for the orangutans.

Here are some suggestions as to how you can increase your effectiveness