

A8 The Nation

The Briefing

Behind the headlines in Washington

NINA J. EASTON

O'Neill III sets up a new shingle

Thomas P. O'Neill III, the state's former lieutenant governor and a son of the late House Speaker, opened a branch of his Beacon Hill lobby shop in Washington a few months ago, headed by a former National Transportation Safety Board official, Peter Goelz, and is planning an expansion.

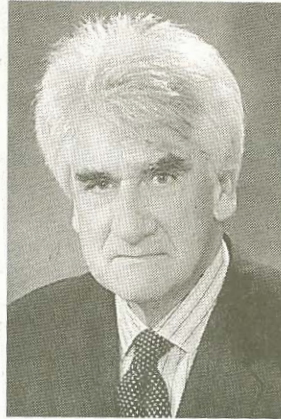
Business has been good: O'Neill's firm, which houses two Big Dig lobbyists, John D. Cahill and Andrew M. Paven, pushed Massachusetts state interests through the transportation bill recently signed into law.

Doesn't a D.C. office bring O'Neill into direct competition with his brother, Christopher "Kip" O'Neill, whose longtime Washington lobby shop, at \$12 million in billings, ranks 90th in town, according to the Center for Public Integrity?

"No," insisted Tom O'Neill. "We've been pretty steadfast to make sure neither gets in each other's way."

Tom O'Neill, whose white mane makes him a dead ringer for his late father, maintains a higher media profile, and admits to missing life in politics. Kip O'Neill keeps his name out of the press, but still runs a PAC for Democratic candidates named after his father, which in 2004 doled out nearly \$24,000.

But on one project the O'Neill brothers are working on, in unison: They have begun organizing a June ceremony at which the Big Dig's main artery will be officially named the "Thomas P. 'Tip' O'Neill Tunnel" after the lawmaker who helped secure billions of federal dollars for the project. Bush Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta has committed to be on hand.



Thomas P. O'Neill III said his new lobby shop would not compete with brother Christopher's.