

# ENUF says case is just too much

By HOWARD FISCHER

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DOUGLAS — In another place and time, the group of people around the table at the Cowbellies Hall might be lobbying for harsher penalties against criminals.

But instead, this group of a dozen or so volunteers — middle-aged and politically conservative — is battling the federal government over its indictment of Thomas and Patrick Hanigan.

Formed this fall after a federal grand jury charged the Douglas-area brothers with robbery affecting interstate commerce in an attack on three Mexicans, the group called itself ENUF, then found words to fit the initials: Enlightened Nationals United for Freedom.

Morton Fagan, one of the members, said the group wants to show that the Hanigan brothers are being treated unjustly. He pointed out that both were acquitted two years ago in Cochise County Superior Court of robbery, kidnapping, assault and conspiracy charges arising from the alleged abduction and torture of the illegal aliens in August 1976.

Hispanic groups, notably the National Coalition on the Hanigan Case, said the Cochise County verdict was unfair because of poor investigation, poor prosecution and a jury that would never have convicted the "hometown boys."

But the pro-Hanigan forces say the U.S. Justice Department bowed to political pressure in seeking to indict the brothers on federal charges.

Fagan said the Hobbs Act, under which they are charged, is a subsection of a racketeering statute prohibiting obstruction of commerce by robbery, extortion or physical violence. The government's case, he continued, rests on the premise that because the victims were going to work for an Elfrida rancher, they were involved in commerce.

A rather flimsy premise, he says.

Right now the pro-Hanigan group — which includes Mildred Hanigan, the mother of the defendants — hopes to raise public consciousness about the indictment and the Hobbs Act, though they are not sure what good, if any, they can do for the brothers.

"But the more people know in the long run, the more it's going to do the Hanigans some good," added William Uren, another of their supporters.

The group has flooded local newspapers with letters, trying to refute what it sees as misinformation or simply lack of information about the case. It meets again Friday evening to begin yet another effort: trying to swing politicians over to their side.

Fagan said the group hopes to put together a massive portfolio of solid information about the case, a "grand declaration" on every point. The packet is to be sent to every major public figure in the area.

Castulo Sanchez agreed that the groups that have pushed for a new Hanigan indictment have done so through politics, "selling themselves as a political power."

"This group will show the politicians there are other voters here" who represent a majority, he added.

Fagan said even if the group is unable to affect the Hanigan case, it will try to change the Hobbs Act so people in similar circumstances do not find themselves in the same position.