

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Getting at Truth in Sen. Dodd's Case

By Drew Pearson
and Jack Anderson

The most important question in the Dodd-Klein investigation really boils down to who is telling the truth.

Gen. Julius Klein, the flamboyant public relations man from Chicago, a retired officer in the Illinois National Guard, has hurled the charge of liar all over the place. And Sen. Tom Dodd (D-Conn.), claims he never did a sales job to hold Klein's PR clients in Germany—except just a little bit.

If the Senate Ethics Committee wants to get the truth it will have no trouble doing so—provided its members conduct some tough cross-examination or else permit committee counsel Ben Fern to do so without interrupting him.

Here are some important points where the truth clearly needs to be known:

1. Gen. Klein stated in New York that he never sent any doublesealed envelopes to Sen. Dodd.

On the other hand, Helen Batherson, Klein's personal secretary for 12 years, definitely told Senate investigators that she did carry doublesealed envelopes from Klein to Dodd, the flaps taped down by Scotch tape. They did not contain documents.

Just who is telling the truth?

Klein's Instructions

2. Dodd swore under oath

that he had never seen the detailed instructions which Klein prepared for him telling him where to go, whom to see, and what to say in Germany.

"I never saw any such papers or knew they existed," Dodd swore to his fellow Senators.

These Senators let him off with only a few mild questions in contrast to the relentless grilling which Dodd's Wall Street attorney, John F. Sonnett, buttressed by six other attorneys, gave to former members of Dodd's staff.

One of those whom he cross-examined relentlessly was blonde Marjorie Carpenter, Dodd's former secretary, who swore that she had placed Klein's instructions in Dodd's "in" box, that he took them into his personal office and returned them to her just before he left for Germany, asking her to put the instructions in the material he was taking with him.

On this it should be fairly simple for the Senate Committee to ascertain who was telling the truth.

3. Earlier, Gen. Kenneth Buchanan, Klein's Washington representative, had taken Klein's instructions for Dodd's trip to the Senator's office. He also left a letter for Dodd which showed that he had discussed the instructions with him.

The letter read:

"We did talk over the phone several times during the past couple of days, but I had hoped

to have a personal meeting with you—as you said you would like, too—to talk with you about your coming visit to Germany and how you might be able, while there, to be of help to our mutual good friend, General Julius Klein.

"I am taking the liberty of enclosing some material which may bear on the problems that confront Julius."

Gen. Buchanan could be cross-examined to ascertain further just who was telling the truth.

Klein's Errand Boy

4. Two weeks before Dodd took his April 6 trip to Germany as Klein's "errand boy," the Senator flew to New York, March 22, meeting Klein there. It will be difficult to deny this for an entry in the Senator's diary reads:

"Arrived about 5 p.m. and was met by General Klein's driver and taken to the Essex House where I visited with the general."

During this visit he definitely discussed the forthcoming trip because the next day, Klein wired Dodd:

"First of all a million thanks for your visit. It was just grand and the medicine I needed. I forgot to mention that Under Secretary of State in the Foreign Office, Professor Carstens . . . was always in charge of my personal project so a visit with him will also be impor-

tant. You have his dossier in your folder."

This was a reference to the folder of instructions that Dodd now swears he never knew existed. Again it should be easy for the Ethics Committee to ascertain who is telling the truth.

5. Dodd also testified that he did not discuss Klein's problems with anyone in Germany, except for a passing mention to former Chancellor Adenauer.

This does not jibe with Klein's statements. Klein was clearly satisfied that Dodd had carried out the instructions. Following his return from Germany, the Senator reported in person to Klein who wrote to him happily on April 21, 1964:

"It was good seeing you last week . . . I had a very nice letter from Chancellor Adenauer and am very pleased. I heard many fine things about your recent mission to Germany for the Senate."

"I presume, Tom, you will write the various people you saw over there and if you do, I would appreciate it if you would add a PS: 'I was indeed glad to discuss with you also the fine work of our mutual good friend General Klein.'"

Later Klein prepared letters for the Senator to send, and Dodd signed the letters exactly as Klein drafted them except for minor editing.

Those are some of the facts the Senate Committee can use in ascertaining quite clearly who was telling the truth.

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