

Dodd Trip Expense Record Reviewed

By Drew Pearson
and Jack Anderson

The more you look into the expense records of Sen. Tom Dodd, the Connecticut Democrat, the more you wonder why away with double-billing for other Senators let him get his various trips around the country. He had a habit of submitting vouchers to the Senate to collect his expenses, then turning around and collecting from the Junior Chamber of Commerce, the National Council of Juvenile Judges, or the Free Cuba Committee for the same trips.

A study of the records makes you realize why Senator Dodd's shrewd attorneys decided to drop 12 counts of his libel suit against us, and have refused to let Dodd answer any questions in pre-trial depositions regarding his expenses.

The Senate Ethics Committee has said that it would look into its colleague's expenses and subpoenaed his records when Dodd refused to supply them.

One reason for Dodd's ability to collect twice for his trips around the U.S.A. is the fact that the Senate does not check on a member's expenses. As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Juvenile Delinquency, therefore, Dodd was able to submit expenses to the Secretary of the Senate

and collect without having any questions asked.

Judges Billed

On June 30-July 1, 1961, Sen. Dodd took a trip to San Francisco to address the National Council of Juvenile Judges and was reimbursed twice—despite delicate hints from the judges that their treasury was bare.

"Now we come to the subject that is rather difficult to approach," wrote Judge Joseph B. Felton of Salem, Ore., the program chairman, in a letter dated May 26, 1961, to Carl Perian on Dodd's juvenile delinquency staff. "As you know, our organization has little money, but on the other hand we do not want to appear on the cheap side, but we do feel that we would like to offer Senator Dodd an honorarium of at least \$100.

"Furthermore, do you know whether or not he intends to travel on subcommittee funds or whether our organization should provide for his transportation? We, of course, will reimburse him for the transportation if necessary."

As it turned out, Dodd traveled on subcommittee funds but soaked the judges anyhow for his travel expenses. He collected \$397.27 from the Juvenile Delinquency Subcommittee, then billed the judges \$376.86 for the same plane trip. He charged the subcommittee \$20.41 extra for trans-

portation to Providence, R.I., which explains the difference between the two bills. He also accepted the \$100 honorarium the judges offered, and charged them for his stay at San Francisco's St. Francis Hotel.

In September, 1965, Dodd and his assistant, David Martin, flew to Miami to interview General Wessin y Wessin, the Dominican strongman, billing the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee \$153.72 each for travel.

Meanwhile, they had already been furnished plane tickets for the same trip by the Citizens Committee for a Free Cuba, which also picked up their hotel bill at the fashionable Eden Roc Hotel on Miami Beach. In addition, the Cubans gave Dodd two more tickets, which he used to bring two sons, Tom Jr. and Jeremy, to Miami with him.

Dodd simply cashed the ticket the Cubans had given him and pocketed the proceeds. Martin transferred his ticket to his wife's name and brought her to Miami with him.

Doctors Pay

In an expansive mood, Dodd picked up the \$150 tab for a dinner party in Miami. On more sober after-thought, however, he directed Martin to phone the Free Cuba Committee and request reimbursement. The committee obedi-

ently mailed him a check, dated Oct. 4, 1965, for \$150.

In June, 1964, Dodd flew to San Francisco to address the American Medical Association Convention. The Association's Political Action Committee paid him a \$2,000 lecture fee, by check No. 3669, dated June 17, 1964.

The Senator always likes an assistant to accompany him on trips and this time brought along Mike O'Hare. To pay their joint expenses, Dodd billed the doctors \$739.80 which was paid by check No. 3740, dated July 8, 1964.

This money went directly into the Senator's pocket, because he billed his Connecticut Campaign Committee for the actual plane tickets. He used his American Airlines credit card to buy a \$340.72 round-trip ticket for himself (ticket No. 01 262713703) and a \$345.34 round-trip ticket for O'Hare (ticket No. 007313177-887). O'Hare's ticket was more expensive because he flew from Washington to New York to join the Senator for the plane ride to San Francisco.

On August 1, 1964, he submitted O'Hare's ticket to his Campaign Committee as part of an \$870.11 American Airlines bill. The bill was paid August 5.

The following September 1, he submitted his own ticket as part of a \$461.32 American Airlines bill, which the committee paid September 10.

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