

These Days . . . *Post 8/26/66* By John Chamberlain

A Last Word on l'Affaire Klein

THE CASE of Sen. Tom Dodd, Democrat of Connecticut, has apparently been put in mothballs by the senatorial investigating committee pending further research into the uses which the Senator put the campaign money raised by the contested testimonial dinners.



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So we won't know much about the ins and outs of the Senator's accounting practices until some time in the fall. But if Dodd's reputation for financial probity is to be left dangling for a few more weeks or months, it should be said in the interim that the charges that he did anything reprehensible by befriending Gen. Julius Klein, public relations man for West German industrialists, have collapsed utterly.

Indeed, the whole weight of the evidence is that Dodd's trip to Germany, in the course of which he told former Chancellor Adenauer that Gen. Klein had been unfairly represented in the West German press because of the grilling he received before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, was an attempt to rectify a blatant injustice.

THE FACT is that Klein, a patriot who served America in two world wars, had been victimized by a sort of liberal "McCarthyism." He had voluntarily submitted to an interrogation by Sen. Fulbright's Foreign Relations Committee when it was trying to discover whether agents of foreign interests were exercising nefarious influence on the development of U.S. foreign policy.

Nothing was turned up to show that Klein had done anything to harm America. Yet the very fact that he had been grilled by a senatorial committee led to slanted news stories in the West German press. Not being fully acquainted with the nature of an American

congressional investigation, the West Germans apparently took Klein's appearance before Sen. Fulbright as evidence of some sort of guilt.

This sort of thing is an old story in the history of Senate investigations, in which the Senators get headlines that have a one-to-one relationship with the vigor, not to mention the ferocity, of their questioning. When Sen. McCarthy was zeroing in upon a supposed culprit, the liberals wrote long articles protesting that the victim should be permitted the rights of defense that are accorded to any common criminal in a court of law. But nobody took up for Gen. Klein when, as a result of the Senate questioning, he lost a

\$50,000-a-year account with a West German client.

That is, nobody spoke up for Klein except Tom Dodd. Gen. Klein was quite within his rights as a citizen to ask Dodd to undo some of the damage resulting from the Foreign Relations Committee interrogation. And Dodd, in taking time out during his trip to Germany to speak up in Klein's behalf, was doing what any friend should have done.

IT IS UNFORTUNATE that the question of Dodd's finances should be mixed up in the public mind with the Klein matter. There is no relation, organic or otherwise, between them. The fact is that Dodd acted like an honorable gentleman in trying to undo a wrong done to a friend. In my opinion he should have been more aggressive in defending himself. There was no necessity for trying to prove that the good word he spoke to Adenauer for Gen. Klein was subsidiary to the main business of a trip to Germany undertaken to interview a confessed Soviet assassin. Dodd, as Vice Chairman of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, had a perfect right to defend Klein against the imputation that he had somehow acted to undermine U. S. foreign policy.

The morality of the whole Klein affair is on Dodd's side. Whether he will be comparably vindicated on the subject of his finances is not for me to say in advance of the evidence. But the action of Dodd's employees in lifting documents from his safe for photostating is hardly to be recommended as a rule of ethical conduct.

If the documents had been taken from a private home without a search warrant, the act would come under the heading of theft and would in itself be punishable by law.

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