

Dodd's Personal War on Poverty

By Jack Anderson

The deeper you look into the curious finances of Sen. Tom Dodd (D-Conn.) the less he resembles a hardship case who needs contributions from his friends to live in a style befitting a United States Senator.



Anderson

According to our estimates, he raised over \$300,000 during the 1961-64 period — more than double what he needed to pay even his campaign expenses. On top of this he called upon his contributors to shell out still another \$100,000 in March, 1965, to pay off his so-called "campaign deficit."

His aides plead that Dodd is a poor man who can't make ends meet on his regular income. However, new evidence has come to light that Dodd isn't as impoverished as he pretends.

This column has already reported that in 1961 he paid taxes on an income of \$88,031.88, which should be enough even for a Senator to struggle along on. He paid no taxes on an additional \$54,555.68, which he raised from a testimonial dinner and deposited in his personal bank account.

This column also reported that \$50,000 of his 1961 income

was paid by the Teamsters Union. But when his law partners tried to claim part of this fee, Dodd not only turned them down but complained that he wasn't collecting enough for the use of his name on the law-firm door.

"There will be no Teamster fee for anyone else," he wrote to one of the partners, John Calvocoressi, on July 2, 1962. "In view of the long struggle I went through, borrowing and paying interest, and the many sacrifices I have had to make since that time, I think it is asking too much to expect any share of that fee."

Valuable Name on Door

"I am sure you will understand when I tell you that I have made a large contribution to the firm, and actually my return has been small. It should be much larger, and this is something I will have to talk about very soon."

"I am sure you know as well as I do that there is a considerable amount of business that goes into the office because of me. . . ."

"I am very busy with my Senate duties, and I have very little time to devote to law practice. Yet I must supplement my income in order to provide for my family."

"Many men who are in public life receive a steady income from their law practices because of the value of the association. I have never asked

for such an arrangement, but I must increase my income from my private law practice."

"To put it simply, I wish you men would sometimes think about how you can help me."

This letter may interest those Connecticut voters who remember Dodd's reply during the 1958 campaign to the charge that he was a registered agent for Guatemala.

"Of course," he said, "I will not represent the government of Guatemala or any other private client if I am elected to the Senate."

Back in Connecticut, Dodd's political legman, Ed Sullivan, a grizzled, former beer-truck driver, has also been looking for financial opportunities for Dodd.

It was Sullivan who, in a letter dated March 14, 1960, suggested the testimonial dinner. In the same letter, he added meaningfully:

Liquor Dealer Fee

"This morning I spent an hour with Jack Kelly (a local Democratic leader, now deceased). We had a real good talk. I know there is nothing Jack wouldn't do for you, and also I know that he can steer things your way that would easily solve all your problems."

"I am sure, Tom, this is the right move. Your Washington income must be added to, and you must agree on a plan that will do this. You spoke for an engineering outfit. Some

little attorney came to Jack for them. They got what you asked for. This is fine if you are in, but no good otherwise."

In another letter, Sullivan suggested that Dodd use his influence to help Johnny Barton, Inc., a Stamford, Conn., wholesale liquor dealer.

"On this deal, I have these thoughts," wrote Sullivan. "Take a fee or become their local attorney (not you I know) on a retainer basis. Or rent them a warehouse. Or take a share of the operation in this branch, with a steady income (if possible)."

As it turned out, one of Dodd's campaign managers, Paul V. McNamara, was retained by Johnny Barton. McNamara sent the Senator at least one check, No. 3332, dated Dec. 17, 1964, for \$3750 from Barton.

McNamara explained to this column that he had earned the fee from Barton for saving his liquor distributorship.

"The Senator shared in the fee," said McNamara, explaining it was a common practice among lawyers.

By an interesting coincidence, Dodd's former law partner, John Calvocoressi, now happens to serve on the Connecticut Liquor Commission. However, McNamara denied that the law fee he split with the Senator involved any matter before the Commission.

This is just part of the story of how Dodd supplemented his income.