Berger Assails Scolnick Coddling Phila Inq. 5/23/69

Probe Asked of D. A. Favors

A state investigation of "favors" allegedly granted Sylvan Scolnick by the District Attorney's office was demanded on Thursday by David Berger, Democratic candidate for the office.

Berger told State Attorney General William C. Sennett that the relationship between District Attorney Arlen Specter and the 600-pound Scolnick—who is under a Federal prison sentence for a $600,000 bankruptcy fraud—"has scandalized the legal profession and the courts."

Berger described the Specter-Scolnick relationship as a "morally and ethically wrong partnership."

Specter, a Republican who is running for re-election, was on vacation Thursday and unavailable for comment. His first assistant, Richard A. Sprague, however, told a reporter:

"It is a shame a man running for public office just wants to make smears."

Berger, Sprague said, "doesn't know the facts."

Noting that Scolnick was turned over to Philadelphia authorities because he offered cooperation in numerous criminal investigations, Sprague said:

"Mr. Scolnick has been utilized by law enforcement agencies for a great number of prosecutions and a great deal of intelligence information has been testified to in court."

Specter, 5/24/69

The Phila Inquirer yesterday had a small story on charges against Specter, that he had left his office extend favors in the Sylvan Scolnick case. If you recall, this is the very fat guy involved in the case of the black-mailing reporter. Now these charges are during a campaign, when Specter is running for re-election, and coming from his opposition they may be without foundation. However, if you get the Phila papers, or if you can get family or friends to clip them, something of value might come out.

Specter was said not to be available for comment because he is on vacation.

Opponent identified as David Berger. Unknown to me. Berger made charge to State Atty. Gen.