

Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

U.S. Lawyer Solicited Hill for Firm

A Justice Department attorney tried to enlist the aid of House officials in a scheme to organize an international investigating firm with \$500,000 from Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza.

The lawyer, William Callahan of the department's corporate crime unit in New York, has already received help from Rep. John Murphy (D-N.Y.), an old friend of Somoza.

The Nicaraguan, so far, hasn't made any commitment.

Callahan, working partly on government time, is establishing Intervest as a security firm for victims of white-collar crime such as banks, public relations firms, foreign governments and multinational corporations.

After receiving encouragement from such influential companies as Citibank and Ruder and Finn public relations, Callahan decided to approach Murphy.

The congressman, a former high school classmate of Somoza and a U.S. delegate to his inauguration, wrote the dictator a "Dear Tacho" letter on Oct. 25. In the letter, Murphy said that he had met with the Intervest group and "I . . . hold them in highest regard."

Accompanying the letter, on which Murphy had scrupulously written "Unofficial" and for which he had paid postage, the congressman sent a prospectus Callahan gave him. Murphy told us that he was unaware Callahan wanted Somoza's financial backing.

Callahan, however, made no bones about what he wanted from Somoza in a private letter to an old friend, House Doorkeeper James Molloy. Writing under a "personal and non-official strictly confidential" adjuration, Callahan told Molloy of Murphy's assistance.

"After sending all our material on the proposed company to the general (Somoza)," Callahan confided in the letter, "I received a phone call today from his business adviser who is in Miami."

"He said the general received the material and requested this guy to follow up and explore all the details, etc. We are looking for a commitment of \$500,000 for 2-3 years. . . . At this juncture it looks good."

Audaciously, Callahan asked the doorkeeper whether there is "anyone in Congress or Senate that you can have assist us with merely some type of recommendation, etc. . . . Perhaps the Foreign Affairs Committee. A further recommendation might cement the deal for us."

"I feel we're very close with this Somoza interest and he is a nut about security type operations," Callahan continued. "If he goes for it we'll probably sell him half the authorized stock of the company."

Callahan called Molloy a few days later, but the doorkeeper politely, but dutifully told him, "Billy, I can't take any outside interests, particularly if it's a foreign country. So forget it."

Callahan, a former lawyer in Richard M. Nixon's old firm and an award-winning ex-regional counsel on narcotics for the Justice Department, told us he planned to quit the department before starting to work full-time on the Intervest project.

Murphy said he thought Callahan only wanted Somoza as a client. He met Callahan through a mutual friend, Murphy told us, and only offered his help because he knew of Somoza's intense concern with security.

"Dollars Aweigh"—Naval auditors

have turned up what they believe to be "improprieties" between the Navy and the SEACOR company on a series of helicopter carrier contracts.

We reported last February that a senior Navy project officer, J.J. West, had worked closely with SEACOR in his official capacity and then was hired by the firm a week after retiring. Both SEACOR and West denied any wrongdoing.

The Navy audit, dated Sept. 23, makes no mention of the West case, but it does show how the brass hats bent the rules to give SEACOR unfair advantage over its competitors.

The firm was fed inside information, for example, prior to the award of a noncompetitive sole source contract. As added insurance for SEACOR, the Navy then violated its own regulations requiring that notice of the sole source contract be given to 14 other engineering companies.

Although SEACOR was certified as "uniquely qualified" for the contract, the auditors found that the Navy could have done the job itself and saved \$100,000 and 11 months in the bargain.

The rules require that all sole source contracts over \$100,000 be reviewed by a special board. To avoid the review, the Navy let two contracts to SEACOR, both of which were below \$100,000.

Finally, the auditors found, ten of the tasks assigned to SEACOR duplicated work already completed by another contractor.

Footnote: The secret audit report has been referred to the chief of naval materiel, who will decide whether to take disciplinary action against officials who have been too cozy with contractors.

R. H. . . .

DROBOTS

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Jack Anderson's Washington Merry-go-round

BY JACK ANDERSON
With Les Whitten

WASHINGTON — A top Justice Dept. attorney is trying to enlist the aid of Congress in a scheme to organize an international investigating firm with \$500,000 of Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza's money.

The lawyer, William Callahan of Justice's corporate crime unit in New York, has already received help from Rep. John Murphy, D-N.Y., an old friend of Somoza's.

The Nicaraguan, so far, hasn't made any commitment.

Callahan, working partly on government time, is establishing "Interinvest" as a security firm for victims of white-collar crime such as banks, public relations firms, foreign governments and multinational corporations.

After receiving encouragement from such influential companies as Citibank in New York City and Ruder and Finn public relations, Callahan decided to approach Murphy for assistance.

The congressman, a former high school classmate of Somoza's and a U.S. delegate to his Nicaraguan inauguration, wrote the dictator a "Dear Tacho" letter on October 25. In the letter, Murphy said he had met with the Interinvest group and "I... hold them in highest regard."

With the letter, on which Murphy had scrupulously written "unofficial" and had paid the postage himself, the congressman sent a handsome prospectus given him by Callahan. Murphy told us he

was unaware Callahan wanted financial backing from Somoza.

Callahan, however, made no bones about what he wanted from Somoza in a private letter to an old friend, House Doorkeeper James Molloy. Writing under a "personal and non-official strictly confidential" adjuration, Callahan told Molloy of Murphy's assistance.

"After sending all our material on the proposed company to the General (Somoza)," Callahan confided in the letter, "I received a phone call today from his business adviser who is in Miami.

"He said the General received the material and requested this guy to follow up and explore all the details, etc. We are looking for a commitment of \$500,000 for 2-3 years... At this juncture it looks good

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Callahan, a former lawyer in Richard Nixon's old law firm and an award-winning ex-regional counsel on narcotics for the Justice Dept., told us he planned to quit Justice before working full-time on the Interinvest project.

Murphy said he thought Callahan only wanted Somoza as a client. He met Callahan through a mutual friend, the congressman told us, and only offered his

help because he knew of Somoza's intense concern with security. Somoza's father was the victim of an assassin.