

Justice Employs Double Standard

By Jack Anderson

The heavy hand of politics is leaning hard on the scales of justice. It is now evident that Attorney General John Mitchell, the passionless protector of law and order, is putting politics ahead of the law.

Mitchell not only has dropped the income tax case against Sen. Tom Dodd (D-Conn.). This column has learned that he has also made a deal with him not to press the other criminal charges hanging over his head. The senator, in turn, has pledged his vote to Mitchell on key issues.

Note: A Justice Department spokesman insisted to this column that Mitchell had made no deal with Dodd. Insiders, however, say otherwise.

There is abundant documentary evidence that Dodd accepted money and gifts from industries being investigated by committees on which he served; that he took money and loans from people for whom he obtained or attempted to obtain official appointments; that he took money and gifts from people for whom he performed official services; that he interceded with the federal government for his private law clients; and that he charged the government for trips that were essentially vacations.

In most of these instances, Dodd appears to have violated federal law. The Senate Ethics Committee, uncomfortable

about investigating a member of its own inner circle, delicately declined to go into these cases but referred them instead to the Justice Department.

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ONE SPECIFIC charge was that Dodd had pocketed \$8,000 in cash from the International Latex Corporation. In return for the money, he was supposed to seek a major ambassadorship for the board chairman, A. N. Spanel. The intrigue proceeded far enough for Spanel's Washington operative, Irving Ferman, to send Dodd a resume about Mrs. Spanel, which noted that she was "fluent in Italian and French."

Mitchell moved recently against International Latex, but as evidence of his deal with Dodd, the indictment, incredibly, didn't even mention Dodd by name. The Justice Department was content to accuse the company of paying off an unnamed senator.

In contrast, Mitchell bore down hard on ex-Sen. Dan Brewster (D-Md.) for allegedly accepting a bribe from Spiegel, Inc., a Chicago mail-order house. Brewster didn't pocket the money but treated it as a campaign contribution. Yet the Justice Department indicted both Brewster and Spiegel.

The essential difference in the two cases is that the pathetic Brewster, broken in

both health and spirit, has lost his political power. But Dodd is a pivotal member of the powerful Senate Judiciary Committee, which oversees the activities of the Justice Department.

Without him, the committee breaks down to eight conservatives and eight liberals. Dodd has always played ball with Chairman James Eastland (D-Miss.) on such matters as internal security. But on other issues, Dodd's votes have been more responsive to the liberal attitudes of the voters back in Connecticut.

Vote Juggling

DODD'S VOTE is crucial to Mitchell, therefore, on close-fought issues. On the two showdown roll calls in 1969, Dodd voted for the administration's anti-missile system and voted inside the Judiciary Committee to confirm Judge Clement Haynsworth to the Supreme Court.

Dodd voted against Haynsworth on the Senate floor, however, after waiting to see how everyone else lined up. It isn't uncommon for key senators to withhold their votes on close issues until they are sure of the outcome. Not until Dodd knew his vote wouldn't be needed to save Haynsworth, in any event, did he join the 55-to-45 majority against confirmation.

Significantly, Vice President Agnew left behind his tally sheet, showing how he had ex-

pected the vote to go. Among the yeas, nays and "doubtfuls," he had firmly marked Dodd in favor of Haynsworth—evidence that Dodd's vote would have been available if it had been needed.

Attorney General Mitchell, in throwing out Dodd's income tax case, overruled the Internal Revenue Service which had recommended criminal prosecution. Revenue agents spent more than a year unraveling Dodd's tangled finances. They found bank accounts and personal loans all the way from Los Angeles to the Bahamas.

Their call for criminal prosecution not only was approved by both the regional and national IRS offices but also had the full support of Jon Newman, then the U.S. attorney in Connecticut.

However, President Johnson on the eve of his retirement appointed Richard Crane right out of Dodd's office as Newman's assistant. LBJ and Dodd were close personal friends and political allies.

From the day Crane moved into the U.S. attorney's office, he has worked vigorously to get Dodd off the hook. His strong opposition to criminal prosecution may have had some effect on the Justice Department. But the final decision to drop all criminal charges was made by Mitchell essentially for political reasons.

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