

Outburst Dims 'Saint' Image

Javits Sees Benefit in Clark's Anger

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NEW YORK—The question posed to Ramsey Clark during an upstate swing in his quest for a U.S. Senate seat was untypically hostile:

"Do you think you are some sort of moral saint?"

The 6-foot-4-inch transplanted Texan replied quietly, "Nope." But the image of moral sainthood, which had been working for him, now seems tarnished.

The turnabout occurred after a bitter, toe-to-toe fray last week with his durable opponent, 71-year-old incumbent Jacob K. Javits, over Clark's 1972 peace-seeking visit to Hanoi.

As a result of the controversy, Javits and his aides are convinced that the liberal Republican has turned the corner in what was shaping up as the closest campaign of his 18-year Senate career.

"He's been trying to create an image of sainthood," Javits said. "I think it was interesting for the public to see Clark could get mad. It made him a bit more human."

Javits had injected into the campaign Clark's much-publicized Hanoi trip by releasing Central Intelligence Agency tape recordings of the former Attorney Gener-



SEN. JACOB K. JAVITS



RAMSEY CLARK

... controversy over Hanoi broadcast becomes factor

al's antiwar comments broadcast by North Vietnam. He accompanied them with a charge that Clark had been "exploited" by the



enemy and, therefore, was "not qualified to serve in the Senate.

The usually unflappable Clark exploded in anger the next day, calling Javits a "Nixon thug" who had re-

sorted to Watergate-style dirty tricks. The effect of the outburst, at least from the point of view of Javits' campaign aides, was to leave the impression that Javits had exposed indiscretions of his opponent in Hanoi and that Clark was vulnerable.

When asked whether he considered the flurry of charges a political liability, Clark immediately reverted to his now-familiar antipolitics stance.

"I don't make political assessments; get someone else to do that. If I start making purely political assessments, I'll become a purely political person."

For the same reason, Clark said, he would not discuss public opinion polls. A poll issued Sunday by the New York Daily News shows Clark 11 percentage points behind Javits, and another made two weeks ago for Newsday and the Gannett newspapers had him seven points behind.

Despite the deficit, which could widen during a planned \$200,000 Javits television blitz in the last week, Clark is closer to unseating Javits than anyone dared think when he was nominated almost two months ago.

At the Democratic Party's designating convention last May, when he was seconded by an Attica inmate who was charged with murder in the 1972 prison uprising, the 46-year-old Clark was considered a political oddity by the regulars, far too liberal for the taste of New York voters.

But he conducted a populist, antipolitics campaign and, in a startling upset, defeated the convention's choice, Syracuse Mayor Lee Alexander by a comfortable margin.

As he did in the primary, Clark imposed upon himself in the general campaign a \$100 ceiling on contributions, but he so far has been able to draw in more than \$600,000 from 30,000 donors and the money is still coming in at the rate of \$20,000 a day.

Javits expects to spend a total of \$900,000, much of which has gone for television commercials. Until last week, Clark had no television spots, but in the remaining days his campaign plans to spend \$50,000 for one-minute spots to gain what Democratic strategists concede is much-needed exposure.

A key concern in the Javits campaign headquarters has been Barbara Keating, a 36-year-old Vietnam war widow who is running on the Conservative Party platform. She has a 15 per cent following, according to the most authoritative polls.