

# Reporting on the U.S. Drug Agency

By Jack Anderson  
and Les Whitten

We began a series of columns in January exposing malfeasance, misfeasance and nonfeasance inside the Drug Enforcement Administration. We charged that internal dissension had crippled the agency and had weakened the war against narcotics.

Our articles triggered a series of events culminating in the forced resignation of Administrator John Bartels. He was asked to resign by Deputy Attorney General Harold R. Tyler Jr.

Bartels resisted at first, saying he needed time "to sleep on it." He immediately got in touch with one of his predecessors, Myles Ambrose, now an influential Washington attorney, who phoned the White House in Bartels' behalf.

But the White House refused to save Bartels. The next morning, he met again with Tyler and asked for still more time to decide. A few hours later, Tyler notified Bartels that his time was up.

Our sources say that Bartels was bounced to take the sting out of hearings scheduled this week by Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.). His subcommittee

has been investigating the charges we raised in our columns. We disclosed, for example, that:

- Top narcotics officials had been so busy investigating one another that they had little time to cope with the dope dealers.

- Despite record high budgets, DEA had been unable to stem the flow of heroin into the country. An estimated 125,000 new addicts, we reported, became hooked in the past year alone.

- The handling of internal corruption cases was sloppy. We quoted from a confidential management study which warned that the number of unresolved corruption cases leaves "the agency in an embarrassing situation."

- We reported that corrupt DEA agents had been caught dealing in the drugs they were supposed to be suppressing.

- As early as 1960, the drug enforcement apparatus maintained close ties with the Central Intelligence Agency. DEA has 64 former CIA employees on its payroll, and another 13 narcotics agents were trained by the CIA at its supersecret counterespionage school.

- We revealed that the drug agents maintained love traps

for the CIA in New York City and San Francisco. Foreign diplomats were lured into these apartments by prostitutes in the pay of the CIA, which filmed the sexual adventures through one-way mirrors and later tried to blackmail the victims into becoming informants.

We began our investigation of the DEA in November, 1974, two months before we published the first story. Our associate Bob Owens confronted the DEA with charges that Bartels was covering up an investigation of an assistant, Vincent Promuto.

Thereafter, DEA kept a sharp eye on us. One internal memo warned that we were "familiar" with "the Promuto matter." Later, Bartels drafted a four-page, single-spaced response to one of our columns and ordered every DEA employee to read it.

From Thailand to Turkey, DEA agents also were instructed to make sure Bartels' opus was published in the local newspapers. The DEA office in Thailand gave up, explaining in a memo that "none of the Bangkok newspapers subscribes to Jack Anderson's columns." But in most places, Bartels' orders were meticulously obeyed.

Responding to our charges, it seemed, had priority over fight-

ing the drug smugglers.

The American people will be able to judge the DEA for themselves, however, after Sen. Jackson has concluded his hearings.

**Barred Bar**—Sen. John Sparkman (D-Ala.) and Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) happen to have adjoining hideaways in the Capitol, linked by a bathroom-bar which could be entered from either side.

But the 75-year-old Sparkman, by right of seniority, outranks the 50-year-old Church. As the Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman, Sparkman pleaded that he needed a private bar to entertain visiting potentates.

So orders went out to board up Church's entrance and leave Sparkman with his own private toilet and boozing facilities. The carpenters, however, got their directions mixed up and boarded Sparkman's side of the fancy bathroom.

But Church didn't enjoy the unexpected luxury for long. One day, he found his new bathroom-bar sealed off. Sparkman belatedly had expropriated the facilities, as evidence that the seniority system is still intact in the Senate.