

Says Javits Needed No Briefing

Klein Admits He Pursued Dodd For Help in Shoring Up Image

By George Lardner Jr.
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Puffing on a Corona Corona and quoting Shakespeare as best he could, Julius Klein protested yesterday that he would never try to corrupt a United States Senator.

The portly, name-dropping publicist insisted to the Senate Ethics Committee that he had a "God-given right" to ask Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.) to help shore up his sagging image with his West German clients.

Dodd, he suggested, just needed more coaching than other Senators might.

"I don't call this pressure," he said.

He expressed much more satisfaction with the assistance he said he got from Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R-N.Y.).

"Senator Javits," Klein told the Committee, "is completely indoctrinated in this issue."

Flanked by two attorneys, Klein, a

registered foreign agent, was the final witness in the first phase of the Committee's inquiry into misconduct charges against Dodd.

The Connecticut Senator has been accused of serving as an errand boy for Klein, especially in connection with a 1964 trip the Senator made to West Germany.

Klein took "full responsibility" for peppering Dodd with letters, memos, telegrams and phone calls to get him to help clear him of criticisms leveled at him the year before by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He said it was hurting him with his clients.

But, he said, "if I had to write a thousand letters, I would do it. I'm starting to write letters again," he added.

Committee Chairman John C. Stennis (D-Miss.) noted that Klein's correspondence with Dodd showed that "you were telling

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Klein Tells of 'Coaching' Dodd

him just not only whom to see (in West Germany) but how to see them . . ."

Klein conceded that he hadn't done that with other Senators he had written to help him out. But he said that was because Dodd, while a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, hadn't attended the 1963 hearings that questioned his activities.

"I was disappointed," he said.

The balding publicist who heads Julius Klein Public Relations Inc. of Chicago said Javits, by contrast, "doesn't need any briefing."

"He knows exactly what happened and defended me and rightfully so. Senator Javits is a very distinguished Senator but also very highly respected in American Jewish circles. I was portrayed as a Nazi lover/representing Nazis."

Tells of Javits's 'Aid'

Javits made a 1964 trip to West Germany shortly before Dodd's trek, which lasted from April 6 to 12. Klein said the New York Senator put in a good word for him with former Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and former Foreign Minister Heinrich von Brentano.

"You would have been satisfied if Senator Dodd had come to Germany and done whatever Senator Javits did?" Sen. Eugene McCarthy (D-Minn.) asked him.

"That is right," said Klein. (Javits put out no formal statement replying to Klein's testimony, but told reporters he was in Bonn in January of 1964 in connection with the NATO Economic Committee and ADELA, the organization set up to help channel funds for industrial development in Latin America.)

He said that as he recalled it, Klein's name was brought up — by Adenauer and von Brentano—when he was discussing Nazi indemnification funds with them.)

The 64-year-old Klein testified before a bemused audience throughout the day with often vague and sometimes contradictory testimony.

He acknowledged huddling with Dodd on his return in

New York, but said he "took it for granted" that Dodd had done a good job of sending his image back up the flagpole. Dodd has testified that he intended to put in a good word for Klein "if the opportunity arose," but got a chance only with Adenauer.

Klein had given him a list of nine West German officials and businessmen to see. But he said at one point that he didn't even ask Dodd on his return whether he had seen Adenauer or anyone else.

"He didn't even state to me that he mentioned me in a favorable manner to Chancellor Adenauer," Klein said.

Stennis was incredulous. "As reflected by your letters," he told Klein, "you had this matter very much on your concern before he left."

"Do you mean to say that now when he got back, you didn't even ask him whom he saw, if he said a word to any, not even one, in your behalf, I mean?"

Klein said all he asked Dodd was "Did you speak to my friends?"

Blames Fulbright

Klein, who blames Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.) for all his troubles, said Dodd simply replied, "Everybody seems to understand the Fulbright matter better now."

"I said, 'That is wonderful,'" Klein concluded, though he added then that Dodd "did mention Chancellor Adenauer . . . he spoke to Chancellor Adenauer about me."

Klein also denied writing a memo to Dodd, one of those in the pre-trip "dossier" sent to the Senator, which stated that a West German government office headed by Dr. Karl Carstens "subsidized or contributed heavily" to Klein's leading clients, the Society for German American Cooperation

Admits Writing Biographies

But later, when asked about the memo in a different context, he said he did write "the biographies on the individual Germans" (including the Carstens memo).

"As you keep on asking me these questions," Klein told

Committee Counsel Benjamin Fern at one point, "thank God my memory comes back."

Klein also insisted that it was his reputation, and not his public relations accounts, that kept him plugging for a better image.

"As a Great Englishman once said," he told the Committee, "You steal nothing when you steal my money, but when you steal my reputation you steal everything."

Cites Contacts With Dodd

An author ("The Windy City" and other books) as well as a PR man, Klein maintained throughout the day that "I have a right to ask anybody, any Senator to see anybody. The Senator can throw such a request in the wastebasket . . . They can ignore it, or rebuke it, or throw me out of the office if they want to."

Klein acknowledged ghost-writing speeches for Dodd (but said they were never delivered), submitting a draft letter (with a plug for Klein) to a West German official that Dodd used verbatim, and getting Dodd to co-host luncheons here with other Senators for visiting West German officials (including one banquet in the hearing room the Ethics Committee was using).

But he said, "I would never ask a United States Senator to do anything wrong."

Committee Counsel Fern said he didn't see how Klein could describe his representations to Dodd for the trip as "anything other than pressure."

Letters, Cables Cited

Fern cited "some 20 letters and cables and many phone calls from you . . . the additional representations of two of your senior employees . . . (and) the bulging packet of briefing materials which were specifically for Senator Dodd . . ."

"I don't know how a single United States Senator, at least those I know, who can be pressured," Klein replied. Dod, he also noted, "didn't salvage a single client" Klein

had lost, but Klein didn't lose any other clients after the trip either.

"Surely he didn't dome any harm," Klein said. "I can't say it was helpful, but it surely didn't do me any harm."

Dodd has testified that he made the trip in the first place to interview a Soviet assassin for the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee. The Senator did not attend yesterday's hearing.

His lawyer, John F. Sonnett, had no questions for the international PR man, Sonnett did, however, submit records showing that Dodd also stayed at suites in New York's Essex House other than Klein's on trips there between 1962 and 1965. Dodd used the Klein suite several times a year.

Klein's Knuckles Rapped

The hearing ended with a statement from Stennis that he did not know just when hearings would be resumed on other charges against Dodd—and with a rap on the knuckles for Klein.

The PR man, who had submitted a statement for the record, asked Stennis for a ruling on its inclusion, and then distributed it to reporters before Stennis made up his mind.

Stennis said he considered that "somewhat of an affront to the Committee."

The Committee Chairman also took strong exception to a note on Klein's statement saying that exhibits it cited were "available for reporters at the office of the Senate Committee Chief Counsel."

"That is a new score," Stennis complained. He said the statement boiled down largely to an attack on columnists Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson and other witnesses before the committee, some of whom it called "liars."

Stennis said he wouldn't put it in the record. "It started out as a press release," he told Klein, "and it will remain that way."

Klein thanked him for his courtesy, picked up his Corona and left.