

# He Sought to Help

Radio (150) TEN CENTS

## Klein

### Calls Agent Victim of 'Injustice'

#### Gave Good Word To Adenauer on Official '64 Trip

By Richard Harwood  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.) acknowledged to the Senate Ethics Committee yesterday that he intended — "if the opportunity arose" — to promote foreign agent Julius Klein's business interests in the course of an official trip to Germany in April, 1964.

"I was anxious," he said, "to do anything I could to help General Klein straighten out what I thought was an injustice . . . He had been depicted (in Germany) as a criminal . . . I had known him long time . . . I thought well of him and if I could in any wise make known the facts (of his case), I was willing to do so."

Klein and his public rela-

tions firm were under a cloud with their West German clients as a result of unfavorable publicity arising out of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's investigation of foreign agents in 1963. Klein, therefore urged the Senator repeatedly to go to Germany and testify to Klein's good reputation in Washington.

There were innumerable letters, phone calls, visits and telegrams from Klein, Dodd related to the Committee. Some of them had a demanding tone and others were blunt and insulting.

"He is a very aggressive man," said Dodd.

Because of Klein's interest and because "an injustice had been done," Dodd said he had no hesitancy in vouching for Klein's character in the course of his own German trip to investigate the Communist "international murder" apparatus.

As it turned out, however, Dodd said, there was only one opportunity to get in a good word for Klein with German officials. It was in the course of a meeting with former Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, and was in response to an Adenauer question about the Foreign Relations Committee hearings.

"I said," Dodd testified, "that he (Klein) was not indicted, that he was not on trial, and that he appeared on the general subject of foreign lobbying . . ."

That was the only mention

See DODD, A7, Col. 1.

of Klein on the trip, Dodd said.

Dodd's appearance before the Committee yesterday was historic in the sense that he is the first Senator since the late Joseph McCarthy to appear before a panel of his peers to answer charges of misconduct.

It was marked by a moment of drama in which his attorney, John F. Sonnett, asked that the vice chairman of the Committee, Sen. Wallace Bennett (R-Utah), be disqualified from rendering a final judgment on Dodd because of prejudice.

"It seems clear on this record," Sonnett declared, "that . . . Senator Bennett's conclusions on the merits have already been reached prior to even hearing Senator Dodd. Senator Bennett should be disqualified because he has, in the words of the Supreme Court, 'a constitutionality disqualifying prejudgment of guilt.'"

#### Proposal Rejected

Sonnett's proposal was immediately rejected by the Committee Chairman, Sen. John Stennis (D-Miss.), and seemed to widen the breach and increase the tension between Dodd and the men who will decide if he is guilty of misconduct.

"I am compelled to say, Mr. Sonnett," Stennis replied, "I do not think that anyone thinks that we would try to exclude a member of this Committee from consideration of any case, so I just think it is a futile matter."

This was the third rebuke to the Dodd defense tactics in as many sessions. Last Thursday, there was an implied reprimand for Dodd's threat to prosecute a hostile witness for perjury. On Friday, there was a more pointed rebuke for "threats" against Committee witnesses, including a verbal threat by one of the Senator's sons.

All this, however, was overshadowed by Dodd himself. He was taking the stand to deny that he had acted as an "errand boy" for Klein in the course of his German trip more than two years ago. The charge was originally made by columnists Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson and is the only issue before the Committee at this phase of its inquiry into Dodd's possible "abuse" of his position as a United States

Senator. In the weeks ahead, other charges against Dodd will be aired.

For the moment, however, the German trip is crucial.

#### Tells of Trip's Purpose

Its real purpose, the Senator declared over and over again yesterday, was to shed light on terrorism and murder by the Communists and to investigate in particular the case of assassin Boydan Stashinskiy.

The Committee's skepticism at this explanation was apparent throughout Dodd's testimony.

Chairman Stennis pointed out more than once that the Stashinskiy case had been thoroughly explored in 1962 by Life magazine, that the documents brought back by Dodd had been available in his own office since early 1963, and that the time chosen for the trip—April 6, 1964—conflicted with Dodd's duties as one of the floor managers of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

In that context and in the context of Klein's endless entreaties for Dodd's help and Dodd's willingness to give it, as expressed in a letter from the Senator to Klein in February, 1964, Stennis was at a loss to explain the trip.

"If Klein had no part in your trip," Stennis asked Dodd bluntly, "and if the Civil Rights bill was not strong enough to hold you . . . why did you go?"

#### Admits Intent to Help

Dodd reiterated his interest in Communist terrorist tactics and then, for the first time, acknowledged that he intended to help Klein if the opportunity arose.

Stennis reminded Dodd that the latter had said in a letter to Klein on Feb. 14: "It now looks as if I will be unable to get away until some time in March . . . I believe that I might be more successful with the people in Germany if I talk to them alone. I don't think it is at all necessary for you to accompany me and there is a chance that it might be misunderstood. You know how anxious I am to help you and it is for this reason that I want to present your case in the best possible light."

The day before this letter was written, Dodd had re-

quested permission to make the German trip at Government expense on behalf of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee.

#### Quizzed by Stennis

"In consideration of your prior conversations with Klein—and you have reiterated your interest (in his case)—how could you go there," Stennis asked, "and not mention Mr. Klein to but one man of this group (of German officials Dodd saw)?"

"Because," said Dodd, "I didn't have any mission (for Klein) . . . I wasn't his advocate or agent and didn't want to create the impression I was . . . I wanted to straighten it out (for Klein) if I had an opportunity to do so."

Dodd was unable to recall when he first met Klein except that it was many years ago and Klein had been praised by such people as Douglas MacArthur and Herbert Hoover.

"It was not what you would call an intimate relationship," said Dodd. But it was unusual, in some respects, because of Klein's "aggressive" personality.

Klein offered Dodd the use of his Essex House suite in New York and Dodd said he accepted his hospitality. Klein was a Republican but he contributed to Dodd's political campaigns. He wrote countless letters, Dodd said, and was at times offensive.

"I wasn't obligated to him," said Dodd, "and I don't think Senator (Hubert) Humphrey or Senator (Jacob) Javits (R-N.Y.) felt obligated to him" when they gave Klein help.

#### Insulting Letter Recalled

Sen. John Sherman Cooper of Kentucky, one of the three Republicans on the Committee, was curious about Dodd's response to an insulting letter from Klein in November, 1963. Klein was dissatisfied with Dodd's failure to come to his defense more fulsomely following the Foreign Relations Committee hearings. "What are you afraid of?" Klein wrote. "Do you consider friendship a one-way street? All I can say is I am ashamed of you?"

Dodd responded to this immediately with an apologetic letter to Klein and a letter of high praise for Klein addressed to the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee,





The Washington Post

**Sen. Wallace Bennett**  
*... accused of bias*

Sen. William Fulbright (D-Ark.).

"What was it about this man," Cooper asked, "to permit him to use such language to you? ... Did you ever tell him to take his business and go elsewhere?"

"You'd have to know him," Dodd replied. "... He's pretty aggressive ... I like him ... I'd always found him to be a decent individual ..."

Stennis had a similar question: "I don't know how he could write to you that way or how you could let him write it. Can you explain that?"

"I don't know how you explain another man's attitude," said Dodd. "I've tolerated bad mannerisms and peculiarities of others ... I didn't take any deep offense at it."

On the contrary, several months later Dodd wrote letters drafted by Klein and sent them to the chief assistant of German Chancellor Ludwig Erhard. They were full of praise for Klein and emphasized his political influence in Washington.

At the end of the day, Dodd thanked the Committee for its fairness and with that the hearings recessed for at least two weeks. The next witness—on or about July 15—will be Klein.