

Javits's Ties to Gen. Klein Recalled

By Drew Pearson
and Jack Anderson

Sen. Jacob Javits of New York, who has a fine record in Congress and wants to be Vice President of the United States, is either politically stupid or else inexplicably beholden to Gen. Julius Klein, the intimate of Sen. Tom Dodd and paid agent of West German interests.

At the height of the backstage controversy over whether Rheinmetall, Hitler's second biggest arms supplier, should pay restitution to Jewish survivors of slave labor camps, Javits wrote a letter to Klein which helped bail him out with the Jewish War Veterans and other Jewish organizations indignant over Klein's vigorous championing of Rheinmetall in getting a \$75 million contract from the Defense Department to manufacture a 20 mm. cannon for the U.S. armed forces.

Klein, who is the paid agent for Rheinmetall, had claimed the company was completely "innocent of such charges as have been alleged."

The timing of the Javits letter defending Klein is important. It came after the State and Defense Departments had taken a firm stand that Rheinmetall must make a token payment to surviving victims of slave labor camps if it wanted to get the arms contract with the United States.

The West German govern-

ment, through its defense minister, had been just as adamant on this point, possibly more so, having told U.S. authorities not to sign until Rheinmetall paid up.

Javits's Brother Ben

The Javits letter came also just as the controversy over Klein and his friend Dodd was at its height; and after the Senate Ethics Committee had officially announced that it would investigate this column's charges regarding Sen. Dodd and his operations on behalf of Gen. Klein.

Finally, the Javits letter came just as his brother Ben had been approached by Klein about representing him before the Senate Ethics Committee. This has now been finalized.

"The present controversy surrounding you within the Jewish War Veterans," wrote Sen. Javits to Gen. Klein on April 21, "is, as these things always are, unfortunate. However, it is my present understanding that the controversy is on its way to a just solution; I fervently hope so."

"Within the context of your representation of West German business concerns and individuals—which is itself a matter of your business judgment and your personal disposition and not for me to pass on—I feel you have done your utmost to secure justice for the victims of Nazism and a measure of reparation through aid to Israel."

The Javits letter was promptly and triumphantly circulated by Klein as justification for his various operations.

When Javits was asked for comment on why he had written this unusual letter to Klein, the Senator's office replied that Klein had appealed to Javits because he was going to be kicked out of the Jewish War Veterans.

Later the Senator himself phoned to say, first, that his brother conducted his own law firm and his brother's defense of Klein before the Senate Ethics Committee had no connection with the Senator; second, that he had believed that Klein, in his relations with former-Chancellor Adenauer, had helped secure reparations for Israel.

"You know Julius," the Senator added. "He's always bothering me and Hubert Humphrey and his other Senate friends."

State Department Facts

Sen. Javits, it should be noted, was fully aware of the seriousness of the State Department's Nazi claims against Rheinmetall, because six weeks before his letter to Klein he had received a letter, March 7, 1966, from Assistant Secretary of State Douglas MacArthur II, outlining Rheinmetall's record. The letter read:

"It appears that of the five

present principal officers of the Rheinmetall AG, three were members of the Nazi Party during World War II. Of these five officers, two, including one of the Nazi Party members, were plant directors of Rheinmetall Borsig AG during the war. The degree of active involvement in Nazi Party activities by the three wartime members is not known . . .

"There may be as many as 1000 claims by former slave labor employes involved. Many of these appear to derive from employment in plants which were in the Soviet zone in East Germany."

Despite the Javits letter and three weeks after it was sent, Rheinmetall agreed on May 16 to pay \$625 million to the Jewish Claims Conference for the former slave victims who worked in Rheinmetall camps.

Earlier, on Feb. 9 of this year, Rep. Leonard Farbstein (D-N.Y.), had introduced a bill to prohibit "the purchase by the United States of arms and ammunition from foreign firms which have used slave labor, unless compensation has been made to the individuals or their heirs."

Sen. Javits did not go that far. He prepared a speech criticizing the award of a \$75 million U.S. arms contract to a company that had refused to compensate its former slave laborers. But he never delivered it.

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