

Dodd Launches Election Bid by Blasting Writer

6-13-69
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(States-Item National Service)
WASHINGTON — U.S. Sen.

Thomas J. Dodd, D-Conn., yesterday set the stage for his 1970 re-election campaign in a major speech highly critical of the persons and institutions leading to his 1966 Senate censure.

It was the first time in two years Dodd spoke about his censure on the Senate floor.

The speech was part of remarks made by Dodd in introducing a bill to make it a federal crime for an individual to "unlawfully enter a federal office, or without authorization to knowingly and wilfully remove any document from such office, or make unauthorized copies of documents, or to receive such documents."

THE LEGISLATION obviously is aimed at columnists Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson, frequently mentioned in the speech, who in 1966 published numerous syndicated columns based on information in Dodd's confidential office files.

"About four years ago, my Senate office was illegally entered by two former employees who had been fired by me for bad personal conduct and, particularly, for immoral conduct. These two thieves removed thousands of papers from my files, made photo-copies of them, and turned them over to Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson of infamous reputation," Dodd said.

Tracing his efforts in the case, Dodd said in 1966 he submitted evidence to the Justice Department, hoping for criminal proceedings against Pearson, Anderson and his two former aides. He said however, the department informed him no suit could be brought because "there was no section of the law that was clearly applicable."

"THE FACTS," Dodd

said, "established beyond any challenge that a multiple crime had been committed in the office of a United States senator. They also established beyond any challenge that there was a criminal conspiracy to plunder my office, to remove my files, and to convert them to booty for the use and profit of the conspirators."

Dodd explained he filed suit in U.S. District Court against Pearson and Anderson, and in 1968 received a favorable judgment. The decision later was overturned by the District Court of Appeals, and on Monday this was upheld by the United States Supreme Court.

Critical of the unfavorable court decisions Dodd said, "Many outstanding lawyers share my view of the court of appeals' opinion, and it will long be considered as a landmark of juridical mumbo-jumbo."

HE THEN added, "When I appealed to the United States Supreme Court, that court, only 10 days after my petition was filed, including a long Memorial Day week end, announced that it would not take the case for review."

Dodd wondered whether the Supreme Court's refusal, and the Justice Department's decision not to prosecute individuals involved would not encourage "more plunder, more burglary, more pilfering and more skull-duggery."

Dodd is understood to be facing an up-hill fight in his re-election bid from both the Republicans and his own Democratic party. While he is the only candidate thus far to formally declare for the 1970 race, it is well understood he will be challenged by factions within his party.

Most Connecticut politicians have said it is too early to consider alternate candidates for the 1970 Senate race. However Dodd has assuredly begun his long, hard fight for both nomination and election victories.