

# How Dodd Rewarded Contributors

By Drew Pearson  
and Jack Anderson

Ever since Harry Truman accepted a deep freeze there has been much discussion of gifts to public officials, but generally the discussion has been one-sided.

It has been about Democratic Presidents, not Republicans; and about members of the executive branch of Government, not Congressmen.

The deep freeze, valued at about \$1200, was given to Mrs. Truman by a Milwaukee contractor in 1946, through President Truman's military aide, Gen. Harry Vaughan. More recently, a stereo set valued at around \$800 was given to President Johnson by an insurance salesman through a then Senate secretary, Bobby Baker.

Both gifts became the subject of Senate inquiries and tremendous national interest. The news was splashed all over front pages.

Much greater immunity has been given to gifts to members of Congress. Almost never do they investigate themselves.

Neither President Truman nor President Johnson gave any service for their celebrated gifts. This has not always been true of members of Congress. Sen. Tom Dodd (D-Conn.) has been a notorious gift-taker and a checkup on his gifts shows that he has

sometimes rendered service. Incidentally, we do not believe the great majority of other Senators engage in this practice. Here is part of the Dodd record:

**Sapphire Ring**—Edgar Parser, New York diamond dealer, gave Mrs. Dodd a sapphire ring. Shortly thereafter, she lost the stone out of the ring. Dodd asked Parser for a new sapphire, which he got.

Sen. Dodd tried to have Parser appointed U.S. Ambassador to Belgium, later U.S. Ambassador to Luxembourg. Parser was more successful in supplying two sapphires than Dodd was in securing either one of two ambassadorial appointments.

**Footwear**—Most of the Dodd family has been outfitted with footwear, from boots to tennis shoes, by the Goodyear Company at Middletown, Conn. When the tariff was cut on the importation of foreign footwear, Sen. Dodd vigorously opposed the cut.

**Hair Dryers**—Mrs. Dodd received a gift of two hair dryers from General Electric for a charity auction. When the dryers arrived she liked them so much that she kept one for herself and gave one to a friend.

**Television Set**—This was given to the Senator by Florence Lowe, an executive of Metromedia TV stations at the time Dodd was investigating

violence on television. Dodd thereafter gave Mrs. Lowe's son a job on his subcommittee staff, also ordered his aides to stop their investigation of Metromedia.

**Wall-to-Wall Carpeting**—This rich blue carpeting in Dodd's country place at North Stonington, Conn., came from New London furniture dealer Syd Symon. Dodd has boasted to aides that the carpeting cost him nothing. He arranged a presidential pardon at Symon's request for the latter's friend, Philip Levine, convicted of income tax evasion.

Symon, when queried by this column, insisted that Dodd had paid the wholesale price for the carpeting. Asked how the payment was made, Symon replied "by personal check." When Symon was told there was no record in Dodd's accounting of a check to Symon, he shouted, "It's none of your G—d— business!" and hung up the phone.

**Clocks**—The Senator, a collector of clocks, has a large number in his North Stonington home from the Ingraham Company, which sent him a catalogue and told him to take his pick. Dodd arranged a \$1-million area development loan for the company's new plant in Bristol, Conn.

Wesley Songer, president of Ingraham, admitted the Senator had obtained "several" clocks from the company, but

claimed Dodd paid wholesale prices for all but one. This had been a gift.

**Silverware**—Ralph Bertinni, recently retired president of International Silver, acknowledged that the company had replated some of Dodd's silverware. He also acknowledged that he had persuaded Dodd to intervene at the White House for high silver tariffs.

**Air-Conditioned Olds**—We reported earlier that Dunbar Associates supplied Dodd with an air-conditioned Oldsmobile in 1964. A new angle has now developed, namely a brand-new 1966 Olds has been delivered to the Senator. It is still registered in the company's name. Dodd has secured Government contracts for Dunbar Associates.

**Foreign Gifts**—When Sen. Dodd and wife visited Korea last year they received so many presents — oriental handicraft, silks, jewelry, silk screen, a hand-carved table — that the gifts were sent home by boat and two of the Senator's aides had to make two trips to Baltimore to bring them to Washington.

Shortly thereafter Dodd delivered a Senate speech hailing President Park of Korea as a "great modern statesman under whose administration Korea has been blessed with political stability and with an almost miraculous degree of social and economic progress."

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