

FBI Actions in Dodd Probe Challenged

By Drew Pearson

This column is supposed to report what goes on behind the scenes in Washington, so here is a report on what has been going on behind the scenes in the Sen. Dodd investigation.

Early in our development of this story, Jack Anderson notified the FBI that we had certain important documents pertaining to the ethics of a key Senator, and invited the FBI around to study and evaluate the documents.

Mr. Anderson, I might add, not having been around Washington as long as I, labors under the impression that the FBI is anxious to root out and suppress wrong-doing wherever it may be—even in high places.

The FBI, therefore, with Mr. Anderson's cooperation, photographed every scrap of evidence we had. When some of the photos didn't develop clearly, the FBI even came back and rephotographed.

Jack had also been working with half a dozen prospective witnesses, all former Dodd employees, to tell the FBI what they knew of Dodd's misconduct. These were young people who had been shocked at what was happening in Dodd's office and departed. They felt under moral obliga-

tion to report what was happening.

Mr. Anderson offered to produce these witnesses, no strings attached, for the FBI.

FBI Cross-Examines

The G-men called on the witnesses all right, but didn't ask a single question about Dodd, his conduct, whether he had diverted funds from testimonial dinners to his own pocket and whether he had acted on behalf of a foreign agent, Gen. Julius Klein.

Instead, the FBI cross-examined these young people about the alleged theft of Dodd's documents. They also heckled them about other stories Jack Anderson and I had written, including how we got the unpublished manuscript of the Cosa Nostra squealer, Joe Valachi. What this had to do with the Dodd case is hard to explain, but the FBI didn't try to explain it.

These witnesses are clean-cut young men and women, who believe Senators are not above the law and that it should not be against the law to document corruption charges against a U.S. Senator. They are not disgruntled employees who came running to us with information against their boss. We sought them out; it took weeks to persuade them that their first loyalty should be to their country, not to Dodd.

However, the public can

judge for itself these witnesses if they are ever given a chance to testify.

As fast as the FBI discovered the identity of the witnesses, they were bullied and badgered, hounded and harassed. One lost his job on a House committee; the news of his dismissal came from Dodd's office. Another, who decided it was his duty to testify against Dodd, felt it improper to remain in Dodd's office. Since submitting his resignation, he has been unable to find another job. Others have had their jobs threatened.

Agents hauled some witnesses right into Dodd's office for cross-examination and behaved as if they were working for the Senator. Other witnesses were alternately soft-soaped and threatened with Federal prosecution.

I have been around Washington a long time, but have never seen such an example of police state operation.

Above J. Edgar Hoover

Such investigations, of course, do not happen by accident. They usually go beyond the Attorney General, Mr. Katzenbach, an awfully nice guy, but a bit wishy-washy when it comes to standing up to the White House or the Senate Judiciary Committee of which Tom Dodd is a member.

Such investigations usually

go right up to the President himself. Mr. Johnson has on his desk a direct private phone to J. Edgar Hoover. They are very old friends.

Lyndon is not only a friend of Hoover but he is a friend of Dodd. It takes a real friend to make the two trips he made to Connecticut to speak at two testimonial dinners which raised \$100,000 for Tom's personal bank account.

After the 1961 testimonial, Dodd's political lieutenant, Ed Sullivan, wrote to him: "Charles McDonough (an insurance executive) drove Vice President Johnson back to the airport from dinner. On the way, he told Charlie under no condition would he miss your dinner. He said he considers you and Grace (Mrs. Dodd) amongst the best friends of he and Mrs. Johnson, and considers you on the Senate floor the best friend he has."

Lyndon did all right for Tom. He hoisted him to a choice position on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, ahead of other Senators; a vantage point from which he was able to work more effectively with Gen. Julius Klein. And he almost picked Tom to run with him for Vice President.

Such is part of the inside story of what goes on in Washington.

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