

# Columnists Under Investigation

By Drew Pearson  
and Jack Anderson

A funny thing happened to us the other day at the Justice Department. We were called down there by Attorney General Nicholas deB. Katzenbach and were told we were under criminal investigation on a charge filed by Sen. Thomas Dodd (D-Conn.) of stealing documents from his files.

This raises a very important point. If it is a crime for newsmen to seek evidence documenting charges of corruption against a United States Senator, then the press must give up one of its important functions and Senators will remain a sacrosanct body, able to expose others regarding deep freezes, mink coats, vicuna coats and Bobby Baker's conflicts of interest, but immune from exposure themselves.

For it is almost impossible to prove indictable facts regarding a Senator, or for that matter any official, without using evidence obtained from the inside.

Furthermore, using inside evidence is one of the chief ways the FBI and most law enforcement agencies operate.

It would have been impossible, for instance, for the FBI to secure evidence on the Ku Klux Klan in the Liuzzo murder case without having an FBI agent inside the Klan. Almost every week the FBI pays money for inside information. So does Internal Revenue.

Many of the tax convictions in the United States result from inside information.

There is a law on the statute books providing remuneration to tax informers; and Congress appropriates the money for the FBI to pay for inside information.

## Public's Right to Know

As it happens, we paid no money and stole no documents. We did talk to former members of Dodd's staff who were motivated by the highest interest, namely the public's right to know when a United States Senator delivers speeches and performs chores for a foreign agent; when he deposits in his personal account thousands of dollars contributed to his election; when he accepts valuables from companies he helped in regard to Government contracts; and when he charges both the taxpayers and private organizations for trips he makes around the country.

The Attorney General's investigation also raises an important point regarding senatorial "theft" or use of unauthorized documents.

We asked Mr. Katzenbach, for instance, whether he had investigated Sen. John Williams (R-Del.) as to how he obtained the documents which he publicized in the Bobby Baker case. Obviously they were obtained from Government employees who believed in the public's right to know.

The Attorney General said he had not investigated Sen. Williams.

We also asked whether he had investigated Sen. Dodd's possession or possible theft of the Otepka papers. This was the famous case where Dodd, as vice chairman of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, was personally involved with obtaining State Department files.

The State Department considered this theft. For on Sept. 23, 1963, it charged Otto F. Otepka, chief of the evidence valuation division of the State Department's Office of Security, with violations of 13 regulations by giving confidential information to the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee.

## Championed 'Theft'

On Nov. 5, Otepka was dismissed. Later that day, Sen. Dodd denounced the State Department, warning that if Otepka's ouster "is permitted to stand it will become impossible or exceedingly difficult to elicit any information from employees of the executive branch that bears on . . . wrongdoing by their superiors."

Katzenbach said he had not investigated Dodd in connection with the alleged theft of the Otepka papers.

Other important members of Congress have used documents obviously obtained from sub rosa Government

sources, most of these critical of the executive branch—Sens. John McClellan (D-Ark.), Ed Long (D-Mo.), Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.), and Rep. Mike Feighan (D-Ohio).

It was evident that the Attorney General had not investigated any of them for obtaining Government documents.

We also asked whether instructions to investigate alleged theft in the Dodd case came from the White House. Our question was based on the fact that the President and Tom Dodd have been extremely close. At the Atlantic City Democratic convention it was widely reported at first that Dodd, not Hubert Humphrey, would get the Johnson nod for Vice President.

Dodd had nominated Lyndon Johnson for President at the 1960 Los Angeles convention. Lyndon, in turn, had intervened to put Dodd on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee ahead of Sen. Joe Clark (D-Pa.), who had seniority; and twice had gone to Connecticut to be the star attraction at Dodd's fund-raising dinners.

The Attorney General denied that instructions to investigate came from the White House.

That's the funny thing that happened the other day at the Justice Department. It will be interesting to see what happens next.

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