

# The Two Stories of Gen. Klein

By Drew Pearson

Little more than a year ago, Chairman J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.), hauled Gen. Julius Klein before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and cross-examined him about his activities as a \$150,000-a-year West German agent.

The unhappy Klein confessed that he prepared speeches for Congressmen, planted stories in newspapers, and otherwise promoted West Germany. There is nothing illegal about this. However, the public is entitled to know when the speeches of a Representative or Senator are written by a foreign agent. That is why Congress passed the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

Gen. Klein, however, insisted to Senator Fulbright that he was not paid by the Government but by a private group. "It is a group," he said, "that you find in every city that people get together, whether the members are bankers or chaplains or doctors, of all business life."

Fulbright, peering professor-like through glasses half way down his nose, asked whether the group was "under the control of the Bonn government."

"This is not correct, Mr. Chairman," said Klein.

Klein was more candid, however, in his confessions to another committee member. In preparing secret "briefing memos" for Sen. Tom Dodd (D-

Conn.), Klein acknowledged that his client was indeed under the West German government's control.

Dodd did not turn this startling information over to the Committee, however, so it could bring perjury charges against Klein. He used the secret memos instead for guidance in approaching German leaders last year at Klein's behest.

## Government Supported

The Senator tried to convince them that the Foreign Relations Committee's criticism of Klein had been misunderstood and that they shouldn't cancel Klein's contract.

Klein furnished Dodd with a list of people to see in Germany, plus a background memo on each one.

In the memo on Dr. Gerhard Hempel, Klein informed the Senator: "Dr. Hempel is the former lord mayor of Weimar and the secretary general of the Society for the Promotion of German-American Cooperation, whose public relations interest I represent in the United States."

"The society is supported, naturally, through the influence of the German chancellery and whether they continue to use me depends on the goodwill in the chancellery in Bonn."

In another memo on West Germany's Secretary of State Karl Carstens, Klein wrote: "Carstens was the man who gave support to the German

group—the Society to Promote German-American Cooperation, Wiesbaden—that engaged me to handle political public relations. He is the key to this problem as without the support from his office the Wiesbaden group could not function."

"For your information, Carsten's office subsidized or contributed heavily to the Wiesbaden group which engaged me at the recommendation of Chancellor Adenauer originally."

## All the Way With JK

The background memo on Dr. Heinrich von Brentano, the former Foreign Minister, identified him as one of Klein's staunchest supporters.

"I visited him two weeks ago," wrote Klein, "and he will go all the way. He is the best friend and supporter I have—100 per cent for me."

Klein also prepared a memo on Hermann J. Abs, whose name should have been familiar to Dodd as a former prosecutor of the Nuremberg war crimes. Abs was not found guilty of any war crimes, but he was perhaps the leading financier in the Nazi regime.

Wrote Klein: "Mr. Abs is a leading German banker and a member of the board of directors of many of my commercial clients. The brunt of the attacks against me began when I started to fight for Abs."

He referred to a report in this column on Feb. 23, 1958,

that West German industrialists had hired "a prominent Illinois Republican, Gen. Julius Klein, to work with Hitler's former financier, Hermann Abs, in order to tap the United States Treasury for the return of German property."

## 'Poor' Banker Abs

What this column reported regarding banker Abs was that he had paid Gen. Klein \$40,000 plus expenses to lobby for the return of German property and that, though Klein claimed Abs was a poor victim of Hitler, "the fact is that Abs was one of the top bankers under Hitler, a director of I. G. Farben, a director of the Deutsche Bank; and Sen. Smathers of Florida has put in the Congressional Record proof that Abs was a member of the German bankers who participated in wresting away Jewish-owned property under Hitler."

This column also reported: "A confidential cable sent to Washington by U.S. political adviser Robert Murphy in 1948 reported: 'Abs cooperated hand-in-glove during the Third Reich with leading political personalities of the government, industry and (Nazi) party circles.'"

Such was one of the West German clients who paid the former commander of the Jewish War Veterans to write speeches for a United States Senator and propagandize various Congressmen.

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