

Tough

By Sanford J. Ungar

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Richard Gordon Kleindienst is a music lover, a practical-joker, a tough-talking political wheeler-dealer, a deeply religious man, a staunch supporter of Washington's independent court system and a favorite target of the American Civil Liberties Union.

He is a member of the

Dealer From Arizona

law enforcement officer by next month.

Kleindienst has served for the past three years as one of the hardest-working, and sometimes the most controversial, member of President Nixon's Justice Department.

He once compared the job of Deputy Attorney General, his current position, to that of a golf caddy.

It is true that Kleindienst has spoken out on many controversies. He has favored preventive detention, the continued illegal status of marijuana, the quelling of student protest with force and the mass arrest and detention of protesters during last spring's Mayday antiwar demonstrations in Washington.

And it is on some of those issues that liberal Democratic opponents are expected to focus when Kleindienst goes before the Senate Judiciary Committee next Wednesday.

Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.), a member of the committee who has led successful campaigns against some of President Nixon's Supreme Court nominees, served notice yesterday that he was concerned over Kleindienst's "very callous attitude in the whole area of civil rights."

Committee Chairman James O. Eastland (D-Miss.), on the other hand, endorsed Kleindienst as "an outstanding American of unusual ability" and a "worthy successor" to Attorney General John N. Mitchell.

Senate Republican Leader Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, once a Kleindienst foe in GOP circles, estimated that "there will be the usual rhetoric" but "no great opposition."

Kleindienst can be expected to defend himself with impunity, eloquence and pride when he goes before the Senate.

He is intensely proud, for example, of his record in civil rights, and claims that this record is widely misinterpreted and distorted for political purposes.

Kleindienst was born in the northern Arizona railroad town of Winslow, where he was part of a white minority in a community of Indians, Mexican-Americans and Orientals.

When he was elected president of his high school class, it was with the support of those groups. "I wasn't aware of racial prejudice until I got out of the parochial setting in which I was reared," Kleindienst said recently.

To his critics Kleindienst often points out that, unlike many of them, he has sent his four children to integrated public schools. "I wouldn't want my children anywhere that was restricted according to race, class or financial condition," he says.

The Senate's only black member, Republican Edward Brooke of Massachusetts, who has broken with his party on a number of other recent nominations, hailed Kleindienst as "an able man" yesterday and said he would vote to confirm him.

Kleindienst's name first came to national attention in 1964.

Then 40, he was a member of the "Arizona Mafia" which labored for a year to capture the Republican presidential nomination for Sen. Barry M. Goldwater.

He flew 140,000 miles around the country on Goldwater's behalf, briefing re-

gional allies on how to control the conventions which selected delegates in states where there was no primary.

"You win by working on the delegates," Kleindienst said at the time, "not by Madison Avenue Razzamatazz at the last minute." While Republican liberals watched with amazement, Kleindienst merely smiled as the votes—long since sewn up—rolled in to nominate Goldwater at the Cow Palace at San Francisco.

Kleindienst was the Republican candidate for governor of Arizona that year. Perhaps because he neglected his own campaign for that of Goldwater, perhaps because he was caught up in the landslide that reelected President Lyndon B. Johnson, he lost.

Four years later, however, he was back as a member of the Nixon organization. As its field director, he repeated his 1964 performance and turned the tide to swamp New York Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller at the Miami Republican convention.

As deputy attorney general, Kleindienst has been close to John N. Mitchell, although their styles, personalities and backgrounds differ totally.

Where others remain silent, he has spoken out, in speeches, letters to the editor and interviews, saying exactly what he thinks.

There is a sign in the press room at the Justice Department noting that as of yesterday, "it has been 392 days since Attorney General Mitchell's last Washington press conference."

That is expected to change, even if nothing else does.

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Wheeler.

Harvard chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, president-elect of the Federal Bar Association and holder of the first "Outstanding American" award from the Hall of Heroes, which publishes comic books.

If he succeeds in neutralizing his opponents in the U.S. Senate—as he is expected to do with ease—he will be the nation's chief