

# Justice Probing Ex-Rep. Minshall-

By Charles R. Babcock  
Washington Post Staff Writer

To receptionists in the office of former Rep. William E. Minshall (R-Ohio), it was clear that South Korean businessman Tongsun Park was a special sort of visitor. Whenever Park made his frequent calls or visits, he was put straight through to Minshall, without waiting.

"We didn't do that for anyone but his three sons," said one secretary to Minshall, who was ranking minority member of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee when he retired last year to become a Washington lobbyist. "I got the impression that Tongsun Park was Mr. Minshall's closest friend."

Department of Justice officials are now questioning Minshall and members of his staff about his close relationship with Park, a central figure in their investigation of alleged South Korean influence buying in the U.S.

Park has been identified as a principal agent of South Korean President Park Chung Hee in a campaign to lavish gifts and cash on U.S. congressmen. Justice Department sources say they now consider Minshall a "key Park associate."

Minshall, 65, and Rep. Richard Hanna (D-Calif.), another former member now under investigation, have been hosts of parties for colleagues at Park's posh George Town Club. In 1973, for instance, they were cohosts of a party Park threw for Rep. John J. McFall (D-Calif.). Their names were engraved on a silver tea set that Park gave as a present to McFall.

Hanna has verified reports that he was a secret business partner of Park's while still in Congress. McFall, the majority whip, said last month that he accepted \$4,000 in cash from Tongsun Park for a secret office account.

In a brief telephone interview yesterday, Minshall denied ever receiving money from Park. He did acknowledge socializing with him and doing favors for him.

He also verified that the Justice Department had issued a subpoena for some of his congressional records, but had withdrawn it because of his decision to cooperate voluntarily in the investigation.

In interviews with The Washington Post, members of Minshall's staff said the congressmen wrote letters on Tongsun Park's behalf, arranged interviews with U.S. officials such as his good friend, then Defense Secretary Melvin Laird, and took a mysterious trip to South Korea shortly after the 1972 Republican convention.

Judith Rush, one long-time Minshall aide, told The Washington Post that a diary she kept during Minshall's last three years in Congress referred to one such letter and the 1972 trip to Korea.

She also said she personally had rewritten and typed another letter, from Minshall to President Park Chung Hee of South Korea, which Tongsun Park had brought into the office.

"When Tongsun Park brought the letter in it was two pages long, all about what a great guy Tongsun Park was," she said. "Mr. Minshall asked me to shorten it to one page and redo it in his style. It told the president what a great job Tongsun Park was doing for Korea."

Mrs. Rush said FBI agents questioned her last week about Minshall's relationship with Tongsun Park.

She told The Washington Post that her diary also included references to two other incidents that had bothered her:

- A report from Minshall's Cleveland office manager that a student, who borrowed a law book from the congressmen's office there in early 1973, returned "aghast" because he

had opened it in front of friends and found \$4,100 between the pages.

Both Minshall and Paul Brokaw, the aide in Cleveland, deny the incident took place. "It's psychedelic," Minshall said.

- Numerous reports to her from Brokaw that Minshall had received unreported campaign contribution from George Steinbrenner, the American Shipbuilding Co. executive who was convicted of making illegal payments to President Nixon's 1972 campaign.

Minshall and Brokaw again deny there were any such donations from Steinbrenner. But Justice Department sources say that Minshall's campaign finances were investigated in connection with Steinbrenner's illegal gifts.

Another Minshall employee, who



**WILLIAM E. MINSHALL**                      **TONGSUN PARK**  
... their relationship being probed by the Department of Justice.

# Tongsun Park Relationship

shows that Minshall had called the office from Kennedy airport enroute to Korea, she said.

And on Sept. 5, he was back in the office, according to the diary, telling the staff not to say where he had been, Mrs. Rush said.

Minshall said he could not recall who had paid for that trip to Korea or why he had gone. "I have trouble remembering what happened two weeks ago," he said.

He said he did have some "vague recollection" about a letter he had written to President Park at Tongsun Park's request. But he said no copy of it had been found in his files at Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland.

Apparently acting on a tip, the Justice Department issued a subpoena to the society last month for any documents relating to South Korea in the papers Minshall had given to the historical society when he retired.

Kermit J. Pike, director of the library there, said last week that some documents had been found and sent on to the Justice Department. He declined to describe the material, though he did indicate some contained references to Tongsun Park.

"The subpoena wasn't necessary, because Mr. Minshall talked with Craig Bradley (a lawyer with the Justice Department's public integrity section) and agreed to cooperate," Pike said.

Minshall termed Mrs. Rush's diary references to the \$4,100 in the law book and the unreported Steinbrenner money "so preposterous that they're not worthy of further comment."

Mrs. Rush said she recorded the law book episode in her Jan. 23, 1973, diary entry: "Paul (Brokaw) extremely upset because he loaned copy of code to young law student (from WEM's library) . . . said young man returned a ghost. He'd found \$4,100 in cash between its pages—and before witnesses. Good grief!"

The next day, Mrs. Rush said she

wrote that Brokaw was still worried, had said "It could hit the fan" and was ready to take any blame.

In a telephone interview from Cleveland, Brokaw said, "I don't recall anything of that nature. It's outlandish. I don't know where Judy got that."

In late 1973 and early 1974 diary entries mentioned much concern in Minshall's office over reports that Steinbrenner had told Watergate investigators he'd given money to Minshall. At one point Mrs. Rush quoted Brokaw as telling an American Shipbuilding official, "My God, don't you know he's not on any of our reports."

After Steinbrenner pleaded guilty to the illegal Nixon contribution in August, 1974, Mrs. Rush wrote in her diary—and Brokaw verified—that Minshall had written a letter asking for leniency and parole for the shipbuilding executive, who is also owner of the New York Yankees baseball team.

Minshall recently was added to the board of directors of American Shipbuilding.

He also has retained close ties to contractor that so often lobbied his the Northrop Corp., the giant defense Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.

1 When Minshall decided not to run for re-election in 1974, he told an Ohio reporter he planned to stay in town as a "consultant."

"In Washington, it's not what you know, but who you know," he said. "I know my way around Washington. . . I'm sure I can open a few doors."

One of the first he opened was at Northrop, which paid him \$5,700 last year to lobby his former colleagues on its behalf.

It also was disclosed last year that Minshall had been Northrop's guest at its Chesapeake Bay hunting lodge in 1971, 1973 and 1974, while he was still a member of Congress and a member of that key subcommittee.

asked not to be identified, said she recalled seeing a letter Minshall had written to an agency asking for aid for a Tongsun Park business deal.

Mrs. Rush said she also recalled other letters Minshall had written at Park's request, one to President Park about the status of the defense appropriations bill, and one to the head of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency.

In an Aug. 21, 1972, diary entry, Mrs. Rush said she wrote that Minshall had failed to call the office from the Republican convention in Miami. "The Koreans are furious," she said because he was to have dictated a letter for them to go in the diplomatic pouch. The next day the letter was sent she wrote.

A week later, on Aug. 28, the diary