

Allegations Against Klassen Probed

By Jack Anderson

The FBI is now investigating our allegations against Postmaster General Ted Klassen.

We have reported that Klassen accepted a \$22,917.67 consultant's fee from the Martin E. Segal Company, a postal contractor, while he was a member of the Postal Service's policy-making Board of Governors.

Before his promotion to the board, Klassen personally handled as deputy postmaster general a transaction that netted the Segal firm 15 per cent of a half-million-dollar contract.

Again, after Klassen left the board to become postmaster general the Segal firm was awarded another large contract to do a life insurance study for the Postal Service.

After our story appeared, the FBI assigned agents to determine whether the \$22,917.67, which Klassen collected from the Segal firm, was an illegal kickback in return for these postal contracts.

We have also documented in a series of columns how Klassen spent postal funds for Christmas gifts, fancy furnishings and other personal extravagances, how he padded the postal payroll with his friends and favored other friends with postal contracts, how he deliberately slowed the mails in 1972 to avoid a rate increase that might have hurt President Nixon's reelection prospects.

We will leave it to the FBI and

Justice Department to determine whether these activities were illegal or merely improper.

Ziegler's Lies—Despite all the Watergate lies that have backfired, presidential press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler still seems incapable of telling the truth about the most minor matters.

From time to time, we publish a catalog of "Zieglerisms," as we call his official falsehoods. Here is the latest edition:

1. A year ago, we reported that the White House kept a secret blacklist of Republican senators who had displeased President Nixon and who, forthwith, were denied White House invitations and other courtesies.

The White House put out an indignant denial that any such list existed. Now our story has been confirmed by none other than the former White House impresario of dirty tricks, Charles W. Colson.

On a tape made without his knowledge, Colson, said: "A lovely girl . . . worked for me and maintained all those lists which were known as the 'opponents lists,' people who would not be invited to the White House."

Those on the "opponents lists," said Colson, were "some guys in the Senate" who had annoyed the White House.

2. Earlier this month, Ziegler twice assured reporters that the phlebitis in President Nixon's

left leg had resolved itself and that the President was "fine."

This was contradicted later by both the President's physician, Dr. Walter Tkach, and staff chief, Gen. Alexander M. Haig, Jr., who acknowledged that the phlebitis condition is continuing.

Dr. Tkach added that he had warned the President not to go to the Middle East last month, because the blood clot in his leg might become dislodged and endanger his life.

This substantiates our report while the President was in the Middle East that a special medical team had been sent to the Mediterranean as an unprecedented precaution.

"The five-man team," we reported on June 14, "is led by Capt. William J. Fouty, chief of surgery at the Bethesda Naval Hospital, and Dr. Myer Rosenthal, head of the hospital's Intensive Care Unit."

3. We broadcast over the Mutual radio network on June 18 that the United States was preparing to sell police equipment to the Soviet secret police, of all people.

Among the crime-fighting equipment American companies would offer to the KGB, we reported, were mobile crime labs, metal detectors, voice identification systems, detection devices to locate explosives and narcotics, electric arcs, anti-car stealing devices, chemicals and gas, equipment for tracing fingerprints and equip-

ment to protect personnel against firearms.

Our report was echoed a month later by Sen. Henry Jackson (D-Wash.). Ziegler immediately denied it. He had spent an entire morning, he said, trying in vain to find out what Jackson was talking about. Perhaps American companies want to sell the Soviets "walkie-talkies or something," suggested Ziegler.

Next day, the story was confirmed, and Ziegler was caught in another lie.

Washington Whirl—Vice President Ford has been making hard-sell appeals for \$50 to \$5,000 for the Senate and House Republican campaign committees. His letter for House candidates is signed "Jerry Ford." The Senate letter is more formal, signed "Gerald R. Ford."

President Nixon's most aggressive defender, Rabbi Baruch Korff, is no stranger to controversy. In 1966, Korff defended the John Birch Society against attacks by the Jewish Anti-Defamation League. Bur Korff told us he has now had "second thoughts" about the Birchers, "because they want the President impeached."

The House Ethics Committee, which has been in existence since early 1967, got around to issuing its "Advisory Opinion No. 3" last month. In other words, the committee has felt compelled to issue formal ethical advice less than once every two years.

1974, United Feature Syndicate Inc.