

Philadelphia Teamsters

By Mark Forrest

Special to The Washington Post

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 2—Once again Arlen Specter and Teamsters Local 107 are unwilling allies.

The gunning down two weeks ago of a Teamster dissident, Robert DeGeorge, has given the District Attorney both an issue and a spotlight as he runs for mayor against the Democratic incumbent James H. J. Tate.

Specter's office has sought five warrants in the case and now is setting in motion a grand jury probe of the Teamsters' local to investigate reports of a tie-in between the union and the Mafia.

It isn't the first time the corruption ridden local has given Specter a break politically. In 1963, when Specter was an obscure assistant DA, he sent Local 107's secretary-treasurer, Raymond Cohen, to jail for two years;



ARLEN SPECTER
... not on defensive

five other 107 officials were convicted with Cohen for conspiracy to cheat and defraud the union.

Specter's performance so impressed Robert Kennedy

that the then-Attorney General offered him a post in the Justice Department to aid in the case against International Teamsters president, James R. Hoffa. Specter turned Kennedy down.

Early in January of 1964, Specter was offered another post in Washington and this time he took it. Specter was named to the staff of the Warren Commission. Asked if his successful prosecution of Cohen was the probable cause, Specter said shyly, "My hunch is that it was a factor."

When the Commission closed in September, Arlen Specter seemed destined for bigger things. Pennsylvania State Attorney General Walter Alessandro invited Specter to become a special deputy to probe Philadelphia's magistrates.

Specter, still a Democrat, accepted the Republicans' offer. For the next 11 months, he and a staff of

State investigators looked into the tangle of politics, influence peddling and pay-offs in Philadelphia's minor judiciary.

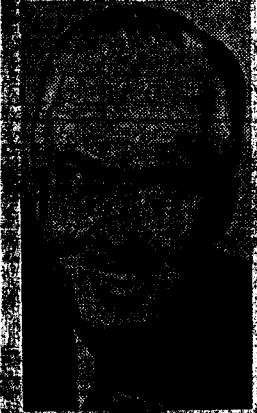
Again Specter sought and got convictions. He also offered a remedy in the form of a proposed bill to reform the magistrates. The bill is still pending in the State legislature.

Arlen Specter had become a city as well as a national figure. He outlasted the Warren Commission and the magistrate incumbent, the Republican incumbent for District Attorney of Philadelphia.

Specter won that nomination while still in office and he remained in office until after his election over James C. Cunniff. Specter won an easy victory over Cunniff but now in a race against Mayor Nates victory if it comes will be anything but easy.

Once again, Local 107 has

Provide Issue for Foe



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 ...During the same period, Specter went to New Haven, Conn. to look at urban renewal...
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 ...Specter is now doing what...
 ...does best—probing and...
 ...The investigation...
 ...Local 107 must be...
 ...more exciting to the...
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 ...at playground...
 ...But the race is far from...
 ...James H. Tate...
 ...the man to beat for...
 ...Specter will need all...
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