

Dodd Documents Theft Triggered By Jealous Wife of an Office Aide

By Philip Meyer

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Personal relationships between two young couples played an important role in raising the public charges of misconduct against Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.)

The Senator's alleged misdeeds were first brought to public attention as the result of the efforts of the couples, brought together as Dodd's employes.

This aspect of the Dodd case had been widely rumored in Washington months before the Senate hearings began. The essential details came out, bit by bit, in the public testimony.

The two couples are James P. Boyd, 37, Dodd's former administrative assistant, and Marjorie Carpenter, 28, former secretary; Michael O'Hare, 30, former office manager, and Terry Golden, 23, former secretary to two other Dodd aides.

Delivered Documents

They are the only former staff members who have been identified as having removed some 4000 documents from Dodd's files, and delivered the copies to newspaper columnist Jack Anderson, an associate of Drew Pearson.

These documents contained the basic case against Dodd, who is accused of misappropriating campaign funds and being an "errand boy" for public relations man Julius Klein.

The document theft, a unique case of political espionage, was triggered by a jealous and unhappy young wife and mother, who blew the whistle on her husband's office romance.

Here's how it came out:

Shortly after the 1964 election, which sent Dodd back to the Senate for his second term, the Senator received a call from Federal Judge M. Joseph Blumenfeld, a close friend and former law partner in Hartford, Conn.

"Everybody in Connecticut seems to know about the disloyalty of some of your employes but you, and you had better know about it," Blumenfeld told Dodd. "Furthermore, Mrs. Boyd has

come to see me, and we had quite an emotional and hysterical meeting."

Dodd's Reaction

Gloria Boyd, wife of Dodd's assistant, had turned to Judge Blumenfeld for advice. She was disturbed because her husband had, for the previous year, been conducting what was described in the hearing as a "social relationship" with Marjorie Carpenter.

From other friends Dodd

then learned that Mrs. Carpenter had criticized him in public places during his campaign for re-election. Boyd had been present and had not contradicted her.

Both the criticism and the Boyd-Carpenter "social relationship" upset the Senator, and he reacted quickly.

On Dec. 7, 1964, back in Washington, Dodd called Mrs. Carpenter, an attractive blond divorcee, into his office.

"I have new plans for this office for the new session," he said, "and they don't include you."

As Dodd recalls the conversation, Mrs. Carpenter replied that she would like to remain until the end of the year.

"You can't remain one minute," Dodd replied. "And pick up your personal effects and leave the premises."

Second Thoughts

Within the hour the Senator also wrote a note to Boyd, firing him.

Later, Dodd began to have second thoughts about Boyd, whom he valued as an aide and speech writer. He was also concerned about Gloria Boyd, whom he described as "a nice woman" who "had (four) nice little children."

In the next day or two, Dodd told Boyd he could remain on the payroll for a while longer.

There followed a period of about five months in which Boyd's position was in a kind of limbo. He did some writing

for Dodd, although not in the office, while Dodd sought a way to restore their old relationship. It was in this period that Boyd developed the plan to build a misconduct case against Dodd.

He acted not for revenge and not for money, Boyd insisted during his testimony.

"I am not," he said, "in any sense a disgruntled employe or one who is operating out of vengeance because of having been deprived of a job."

Resignation Letter

The final decision to go ahead with the massive job of getting and copying the documents was not made until May, 1965, when Boyd decided that Dodd's terms for putting him back to work were not adequate.

Dodd had offered Boyd a job on a Senate subcommittee, with a pay cut of several thousand dollars a year, and the understanding that he eventually would be restored to his old position. In his final letter of resignation, Boyd said he couldn't accept those terms.

The first requirement of the

project was a key to Dodd's office. Mrs. Carpenter obtained one from a secretary, Judith Berling, Boyd testified.

The two then made several trips to Dodd's office, during four days in June, removing documents to be copied.

Mike O'Hare and Terry Golden were aware of the project but had declined to join it. Boyd tried to recruit them because he wanted the help of someone still inside the office. In August, 1965, he took O'Hare to meet Anderson.

No Reason Given

O'Hare testified that the talk with Anderson convinced him that "possibly some good could come out of the expose that he planned." But his participation in the project was sporadic until October, when

Miss Golden was fired. O'Hare was assigned to do the firing himself.

"Milton Wernstrom (Dodd's legislative assistant) . . . told me that the Senator wanted to get rid of Terry, and I asked him why," he recalled.

"He said he didn't know. He said he thought that the Senator just didn't like her . . . He said, 'Since she is your girl friend, I thought maybe you would rather fire her than me.'"

So O'Hare fired Miss Golden, shapely and red haired. That weekend, he went into the office alone and began removing documents in major quantities.

Today, Boyd is divorced and out of work. His last job, for a House committee, was abolished by "a budget adjustment." He is making heavy alimony and child support payments from dwindling savings.

One-Week Job

Marjorie Carpenter is also unemployed. She was hired by Supreme Court Justice Abe Fortas' old law firm, Arnold and Porter, but the job lasted only a week. Pearson has reported that she was fired at Dodd's request.

Mike O'Hare and Miss Golden have jobs, but they are afraid to name their employers for fear that they, too, will wind up unemployed.

Temporary joblessness is not the only price the two couples have paid. They have also foregone their ties to the official world of Capitol Hill. For Boyd, at least, no other world existed.

Would they do it again? The project evolved, Boyd said with sober fatalism, "from a deepening realization that it was necessary." Now it is done, and nothing can change it.