

Banking Backfire

The recent report in this space, telling how Sen. John McClellan (D-Ark.) has been investigating banks out of his front office and working in his back office to block competition for his own bank, did the Senator an injustice.

This column must now apologize for understating his banking interests. McClellan is a director and stockholder in the First National Bank of Little Rock, which was threatened with competition from a group seeking a Federal charter to open a rival bank. The Senator owns 1560 shares in First National, which makes him one of the 20 largest stockholders.

As the Senate's No. 1 investigator, he held headlined hearings last year into the failures of three newly-chartered banks. Later he appeared before the American Bankers Association convention to charge that "too many national banks are being unwisely chartered too fast and too freely."

At the same time, McClellan was quietly forwarding letters from constituents to Comptroller of the Currency James Saxon, oppos-

ing not only the application for the Little Rock charter but also applications for bank charters in nearby West Memphis and Jacksonville, Ark.

This column has now discovered that McClellan also happens to be a stockholder in the bank of West Memphis, which has been fighting to keep competitors out of its territory.

When a group first tried to establish a rival bank in West Memphis ten years ago, McClellan arranged an appointment for B. J. Lambert, president of the bank in which the Senator holds an interest, to see then-Comptroller Ray Gidney. The comptroller's office subsequently turned down the application.

Last year, another group sought a charter in West Memphis, and McClellan began his crusade against new charters. When he called a press conference to explain his views at the Bankers convention, observers spotted among the reporters none other than B. J. Lambert.

Nevertheless, Saxon granted the West Memphis charter, though he turned down the application for a new national bank in Little Rock.

Mystery Mother

The Federal raid on American Nazi Party headquarters in Arlington, Va., last month produced more than evidence of unpaid taxes. Startled agents

also discovered that a mystery woman, a tall fading blonde, is living in the Nazi barracks in the midst of all the storm troopers.

Even more astonishing, the records reveal that a baby daughter also lived with her in the barracks for several months. A coroner's report claims the baby "choked and gagged" to death three years ago.

The mother is Barbara von Goetz, who has a room across the hall from the living quarters of the self-styled American fuhrer, George Lincoln Rockwell. She claims to be his secretary.

She gave birth to a daughter, according to the records, on Dec. 8, 1961, at the District of Columbia General Hospital.

At the Nazi barracks, the baby caught a bad cold, possibly from the icy atmosphere Rockwell maintains in his quarters. Apparently he considers it Nordic to keep the air frigid.

A doctor was called in, but the child died on Oct. 25, 1962.

This column attempted to reach Miss von Goetz for comment, but a Nazi spokesman professed never to have heard of her.

"No women live here," he said sternly.

Federal agents told this column, however, that she still makes her home with the Nazis.

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