

POWER POLITICS

The FBI digs deeper into Saxbe's past; Rocky runs aground in North Dakota; Mayor Daley's fifth column

The Insider : Politics



Saxbe

While Congress mulls over the constitutionality of Ohio Sen. William Saxbe's designation as Attorney General, more than two dozen FBI agents have been combing Ohio to check the shady spots in his background. A lawyer, cattle breeder, pilot and licensed real-estate broker who has invested heavily in an Ohio ski resort and is building a second home in Costa Rica, Saxbe has been seriously embarrassed by past business ties.

The most embarrassing has been Saxbe's long friendship and business association with Sam W. Klein, a Cleveland millionaire who is treasurer and the largest single shareholder of Bally Manufacturing Corp. of Chicago. The world's largest producer of slot machines and pinball games, Bally has been investigated several times for alleged connections with organized crime.

In 1970, Saxbe bought 600 shares of Bally—which he quickly sold after the purchase was publicly disclosed. He also wrote two personal-reference letters for Klein to the Nevada Gaming Commission—in 1969 and then again last April.

FBI agents are looking into Saxbe's office "flower fund"—in which his employees contributed money to defray his political expenses between campaigns—while he served as Ohio's Attorney General.

And NEW TIMES has learned that the FBI is checking into a report that in 1963 Saxbe, then Ohio's Attorney General, and former Gov. James Rhodes may have accepted from organized crime interests one million dollars between them to help lengthen the state's horse racing season.

Despite Libyan President Qaddafi's recent business trip to Paris, U.S. intelligence officials are close to certain that the French will not supply the Arabs with nuclear weapons. Arab leadership is still considered too volatile, the countries too revolution prone, and France itself could become the object of nuclear blackmail. "Membership in the nuclear club has made France more conservative," remarks one analyst. Others point out that the Russians would almost certainly be able to inspect any French nuclear devices in Arab hands. "We should be able to buy a look at them ourselves," says an unsmiling CIA executive, "if the Israelis don't steal them first."

Aides to Senator Barry Goldwater are saying Mr. Republican is seriously considering retirement when his term is up in 1974. Goldwater is relatively young for a senator (he'll be 65 in 1974) but is reported to be terribly disillusioned about Watergate. Apparently he is also tired of the Washington grind after nearly 18 years on the job, including a Presidential campaign.

In Chicago, the liberal Independents who ousted Mayor Daley's delegation at the 1972 Democratic convention have run into some hard times. Led by northside Alderman William Singer, who has already announced he intends to challenge Daley for mayor in 1975, the Independents have conceded they can't get any "name" candidates to run in 1974. "The election is being decided right now over at Daley's slate-making sessions," said a despairing liberal strategist.

And within Daley's slate-making sessions—the first he has ever held in the open—it is his own younger party regulars who are giving him the most trouble. Edward Vrdolyak, an ambitious 35-year-old city councilman from the 10th Ward, is directing a serious fight to depose long-time Daley crony P.J. "Parky" Cullerton from his seat as County Assessor. "When Daley goes," says

one observer, "they are going to divvy up the city and people like Vrdolyak want to stake out their claims right now."

Oiling up his rusty Presidential campaign machine, New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller has taken to the hustings, keynoting Republican fund-raising events across the midwest. One stumbling block is that he can't seem to sell his newly unveiled hard-line image. Rocky likes to tell the folks about his "tough" drug law in New York. But in the conservative midlands he is remembered for New York's liberal abortion law.

Before his appearances November 26 in Grand Forks and Minot, N.D., Rocky was denounced from several quarters around the state—where an abortion law modeled after New York's was voted down by a 78 percent margin in 1972. The director of radio and TV for the Bismarck Diocese of the Catholic Church, the Rev. John Owens, said, "It's an insult to expect North Dakotans of good moral conscience to pay a man of his caliber homage and respect, much less money."

And the day Rockefeller appeared in North Dakota, the state's only Representative, Mark Andrews, and Senator Milton Young, both Republicans, found other commitments to keep them from attending.



Rockefeller