

Double Standard in Jail Sentences

By Jack Anderson

From inside the McNeil Island penitentiary has come a fascinating insight into the controversy over prison sentences.

Some of ex-President Nixon's former associates, who became entangled in the Watergate crimes, have complained that the courts made examples of them. Others point out the former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew and former Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst escaped prison sentences for crimes that cost less-favored men their liberty.

Now a McNeil Island convict named Edward Browder has sent us proof that it helps to be a government bigwig, Mafia don, labor leader or White House intimate at sentencing time.

The 57-year-old Browder presented us with a four-inch-thick survey entitled "A Study of White Collar Offenses Involving Politicians, Bankers, Businessmen and the Professional Swindler, Promoter, Labor Union Racketeer, Organized Criminal Offenders."

Browder is good at statistics, as a former manipulator of pilfered stocks. He has also had plenty of time to conduct his survey at McNeil Island where

he is serving a 25-year sentence.

Insofar as possible, we checked out his statistical findings with the annual reports of the federal courts. We also consulted a similar survey by federal prosecutors in New York. Browder's figures stand up.

The inmate found that noted white-collar criminals average a little more than two years in prison regardless of how much they steal. About 20 per cent get off with no prison time at all through fines, probation or suspended sentences. Many are able to delay cases almost indefinitely, sometimes until they are dropped.

Major Mafia figures and top labor hoodlums get an even kinder break from the judges. Their prison terms average about two years, with almost 40 per cent getting no prison sentences. Only narcotics sentences are consistently stiff.

Among the examples cited by Browder was Mafia don Angelo (Gyp) DeCarlo, who drew a 12-year sentence but was freed by President Nixon after only 18 months.

The survey also cites a host of bigwigs who wound up with less than two years or, in some cases, no jail at all. Among them were former Rep. John Dowdy (D-

Tex.), former Rep. Irv. Whalley (R-Pa.), New York Democratic leader Carmine DeSapio, financier Louis Wolfson, ex-Army Maj. Gen. Carl Turner and former Nixon figures Herb Kalmbach and Kleindienst.

In one ingenious section of his survey, Browder shows through computations that prominent white-collar defendants average about one year for every \$10 million they steal. He also found some \$800 million in thefts, stock swindles and other dodges, which had been punished only with fines, probation and suspended sentences.

In contrast, bank robbers who got away with a few thousand dollars averaged 11-year sentences, five times longer in the slammer than bank embezzlers who got away with millions.

Footnote: Browder cites a few exceptions including Billie Sol Estes, the fertilizer king, who did six years, and Tino de Angelis, the salad oil swindler, who served seven. Browder also feels, obviously, that his own 25-year sentence is excessive.

Although his findings are restricted to the federal courts, our sources say that the discrimination in sentences is often worse in state courts.

Rockefeller's Nieces—The scathingly anti-Nixon movie, "Millhouse: A White Comedy," was heavily financed by three nieces of Vice President-designate Nelson Rockefeller.

Rockefeller had nothing to do with his nieces's generosity. His brother Laurance's daughter, Laura, ponied up \$30,000. And two of David Rockefeller's daughters, Abby and Peggy, gave \$5,000 and \$2,000 respectively.

The film cost \$200,000. So far, the Rockefeller women have gotten back \$32,000 of their \$37,000 investment.

Although abashed that we had learned of his Rockefeller financing, the producer of "Millhouse," Emile de Antonio, reluctantly confirmed that the nieces put up the money. He said he did not want any inference that the money came from the senior Rockefellers.

"As far as I know it was a totally individual thing," de Antonio said.

His "Millhouse" told in factual, but stinging detail the story of Mr. Nixon's climb to power. It so infuriated the White House that the "plumbers" were sicced on de Antonio, and an FBI check was run on him.

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