

New Security Watcher

Robert Charles Mardian

By PAUL DELANEY

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 12—Perhaps it was inevitable that Robert Charles Mardian would some day wind up in the Justice Department as head of its Internal Security Division.

If anyone could strengthen the division, which has been dormant the last few years, Mr. Mardian could, his friends say. They describe him as very aggressive.

**Man
in the
News**

Mr. Mardian has a close relationship with Attorney General John N. Mitchell, with whom he plays golf. He also is a close friend of Deputy Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst, a neighbor in suburban McLean, Va., with whom Mr. Mardian rides to work mornings. Some observers regard this as a factor in his appointment.

But Mr. Mardian's family is no stranger to security watching; his father, an American, had been constantly jailed by the Turks because of his fierce nationalism. When the Mardians settled in the West, the four boys adopted the ways of many second-generation Americans who achieved success with aggressiveness, conservatism and Republicanism.

Supported Goldwater

Robert Mardian was the youngest of the four boys and remained in Pasadena, Calif., but his three brothers moved to Phoenix, Ariz., where they formed a successful construction company and became active in politics. Samuel Mardian was Mayor of Phoenix in the nineteen-sixties and they were all close friends and supporters of Senator Barry Goldwater, the Republican Presidential candidate in 1964.

Robert Mardian is not expected to preside over an idle division. As general counsel of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, he was often in the middle of controversy, and Justice Department lawyers expect him to move vigorously within the power circles of the department.

"Mr. Mardian is a very hard-working, tough-minded, aggressive, competitive guy," Mr. Kleindienst commented.

Attorney General Mitchell said of Mr. Mardian; "He is an able lawyer and a person who is dedicated to the President and to this Administration."

Native of Pasadena

Mr. Mardian was born in Pasadena on Oct. 23, 1923, and attended the public schools there. He later studied at Columbia University, North Dakota State Teachers College and the University of California at Santa Barbara. He received a law degree from the University of Southern California in 1949.

In 1946, Mr. Mardian married Dorothy D. Denniss, whom he met while he was in the Navy. They have three sons: Robert Charles Jr., a recent graduate of Stanford University; William Denniss, a



Associated Press

*Aggressive, conservative
and Republican.*

student at Arizona State University, and Blair Anthony, a student at the University of California at Los Angeles.

While he was at Southern California, Mr. Mardian met Richard Nixon, who was visiting the campus, and he knew Robert H. Finch, now Counsellor to the President, who was two years behind him in law school.

After law school, Mr. Mardian entered private practice. He also served as an executive with a savings and loan corporation.

He entered politics in 1956 when he was appointed as a member of the Pasadena School Board. He was elected the next year, but resigned almost immediately to devote time to his work.

Conflict on Desegregation

Mr. Mardian considers himself a middle-of-the-roader, politically and philosophically. However, as general counsel at the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, he says he found himself in conflict with persons from the "previous Administration who had other ideas."

One of the conflicts was over school desegregation. Mr. Mardian reportedly suggested to Mr. Finch, then Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, that desegregation guidelines in the South be eased. Liberal employees of the department were furious, and Mr. Finch disclaimed any connection with the suggestion.

Mr. Mardian is believed to be the theoretician for the Administration's desegregation policies of distinguishing between de jure segregation, which is imposed by law, and de facto segregation, which is imposed by Housing patterns.

Mr. Mardian is an enthusiastic sports fan and played league softball until he came to Washington. He was a star athlete in college and still jogs when the weather is good.

"I'm not in the same condition now as I was in California," the 5-foot 11, 175-pound attorney said, but he added that his weight was the same as in his college days.

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