

Merry-Go-Round *SF Chronicle Feb. 3 1967*

Top U.S. Policeman Sets Foreign Policy



Drew Pearson

Today's column is by Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson

THERE WAS AN important closed-door debate inside the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on whether to summon J. Edgar Hoover to testify regarding his fears that the Soviet-American consular treaty would increase espionage in the United States.

Hoover had written a letter to secretary of State Dean Rusk, which had the effect of withdrawing his objections to the treaty. But almost simultaneously he wrote a letter to his close friend, Senator Karl Mundt, (Rep-S.D.), listing many cases of Soviet espionage. This letter had the effect of knocking the props out from under the first letter and from under the treaty.

Senate members of the Foreign Relations Committee, therefore, wanted to ascertain which letter represented Hoover's real view.

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SOME OF THE Senators were also concerned about the fact that American foreign policy was being set by the top policeman of the United States.

Many senators have been critical of the fact that foreign dictatorships have had their policies set by the secret police, not only in Nazi Germany, but more recently in Latin American governments.

Yet the United States was permitting the head of the FBI to knock down one of the most important foundation stones of President Johnson's new policy of easing tensions with European Communist nations.

The President has argued that if the world's two chief atomic powers — the U.S.A. and the USSR — can get along together, there will be no World War III.

Yet the consular treaty, which the United States took the initiative in negotiating with Russia, has been stymied for two years because of J. Edgar Hoover's objection.

When Chairman J. William Fulbright, (Dem-Ark.), wrote Hoover recently asking him to testify before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in order to thereby straighten out his views, the FBI chief wrote back that his appearance was up to acting Attorney General Ramsey Clark. Fulbright therefore proposed, in a closed-door session, that he be authorized to write Clark and ask him to send Hoover before the Senate Committee to testify. One senator, Frank Lausche, (Dem-Ohio), seemed reluctant to have Hoover put on the spot at all, but finally went along with the proposed letter.

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SENATOR TEDDY KENNEDY, younger brother of the late President, has started wooing southern leaders very much as Jack Kennedy did before he got the presidential nomination. Last week the young senator from Massachusetts paid his respects to Governor John J. McKeithen when the Louisiana governor arrived in Washington for the Mardi Gras Ball.

The meeting was cordial but not without some sage advice.

"You and your brother ought to get behind the president and give him some help," said Governor McKeithen. "Right now, thanks to this war in Vietnam, he needs it. But when this war is over, he won't need you any more than he needs a third leg."

Senator Kennedy listened, but made no comment. At least he did not disagree.

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