

G.O.P. Aide in Inquiry

Albert Ernest Jenner Jr.

By WILLIAM E. FARRELL

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CHICAGO, Jan. 24 — "It has been my experience there is so much to be done that there is little, if any, time available to talk about doing it," Albert Ernest Jenner Jr., said in a

speech nearly 24 years ago when, at 42 years old, he was the youngest president in

the history of the Illinois State Bar Association. While such a remark might be considered boosterish hyperbole by some, associates, friends and the wife of the man who is counsel to the Republican minority on the House advisory committee on impeachment insist he meant every word of it.

"The law comes first with him," an associate said recently.

"I meet the 1:04 A.M. train—the last one out of the Loop—if there are no cabs left," said Mr. Jenner's wife, the former Nadine Newbill, whom he married in 1932.

Mr. Jenner's credits in "Who's Who" read like an index of the myriad associations and committees spawned by the legal profession.

He is the senior partner in the Chicago firm of Jenner & Block and, among other things, was a professor of law at Northwestern University, was chairman of the United States Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Federal Rules of Evidence, served as special assistant to the Illinois Attorney General for nearly 13 years and was secretary of the board of managers of the Chicago Bar Association.

Aided National Inquiries

Two important national tasks performed by the Republican attorney were as senior counsel on the Warren Commission's inquiry into the assassination of President Kennedy and as a member of the Presidential commission to investigate the causes and prevention of violence in the United States in 1968-69.

Mr. Jenner, who gets by on an average of five hours of sleep a night and who looks younger than his 66 years, said in a recent interview that his major concern in law at the present time "is doing everything possible to insure individual privacy."

"This democracy remains vital and alive by adherence to the first 10 amendments," he said. "The central themes of this nation of three separate branches are not platitudes; they are fundamentals."



United Press International

The law comes first

Mr. Jenner confirmed reports that initially Representative Peter W. Rodino, Democrat of New Jersey and chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, had approached him to take the post of special counsel to direct the staff inquiry into impeachment.

"I said I couldn't do it," Mr. Jenner said, citing a backlog in his private practice. Instead, he, among others, recommended John Doar, the lawyer who was named to the post. Republican committee members then prodded him to "help us get somebody," Mr. Jenner said, and he finally took the minority counsel post after "the Illinois boys worked hard on me."

Since persuading the Republican lawyer to serve as minority counsel, some conservative members of the G.O.P. Congressional bloc have had qualms because they learned that Mr. Jenner was co-host at a business breakfast in Chicago last fall for Senator Adlai E. Stevenson 3d, an Illinois Democrat. Mr. Jenner, a long-time friend of the Stevenson family, also attended a fund-raising dinner for Mr. Stevenson, who

is seeking reelection this year.

Mr. Jenner estimates that his decision will keep him occupied in Washington and away from Chicago, where he was born and a city about which he will contenance no harsh remarks, until some time in April.

A student of history as well as law, he has very much in mind the historical significance of his latest undertaking.

"This is the first time in the history of this nation that a really serious level-headed inquiry into impeachment is taking place," he said. "This is history. The Johnson thing was an aberration,"—a reference to the impeachment proceedings brought against President Andrew Johnson.

Mr. Jenner was born on June 20, 1907, and received his bachelor of law degree from the University of Illinois in 1930.

Mrs. Jenner scotched a report that her husband "boxed his way through college."

"He boxed well in college," she said, "but so did the other people he boxed with."

Mr. Jenner is the oldest of three children, and according to his wife, who is a classicist with an interest in genealogy, his ancestry is "precisely 50 per cent English and 50 per cent Irish."

"There's a certain English reserve," Mrs. Jenner said, "but he enjoys everything—the enjoyment is pure Irish right down to the roots."

A sense of humor "You know I've been struggling with that one," his wife said. "I'm sure he thinks he has. It's whimsical. It's a special brand."

Mr. Jenner is a bit of a clothes horse and is addicted to bow ties. His friends call him Bert and, his wife said: "Anyone who calls him Al does not know him at all—either they are politicians or clients and you can't correct them."

Asked about his hobbies, Mr. Jenner replied, "I have a horrible confession to make to you I have no hobbies. There is, however, an occasional game of golf, an occasional TV "shoot-em-up" so long as it isn't Perry Mason and an infrequent "wade" through a book on philosophy.

He is intensely proud of his only child, Cynthia Lee Jenner, an actress who is currently teaching speech and drama at Brooklyn College in New York City.

His theatrical tastes run toward upbeat and escapist, and if the night's offering has been ballyhooed as mordant, or far out, of excessively gloomy "he'd rather prepare a brief" one close friend said.

Window Washer Killed

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 24 (UPI)—A window washer fell to his death today in center city. The police said that Charles Levey, 36 years old, of Blackwood, N.J., fell from the 14th floor of the Banker's Security Building at Juniper and Walnut Streets.