

Jenner's Republican Sins

The law is a pristine thing to Albert Jenner, his wife said

By Vera Glaser

Washington

In a town where courage is in short supply, Albert and Nadine Jenner are a gutsy pair.

"Of course we are going to stay," Bert (as he is known) told Nadine early Monday, after he was stripped of his functions as the House Judiciary Committee's minority counsel.

Jenner continues to serve on the committee's minority staff.

Jenner's sin has been to advocate impeachment of a president of his own party, and to say that a U.S. president can be held responsible for the actions of his subordinates.

Not surprisingly, that has infuriated some Republicans.

"Some people back home in Chicago think Bert is crucifying Mr. Nixon," Mrs. Jenner said. "Bert isn't crucifying anybody. The law is a pristine thing to him."

It has been "painful" for Jenner to grasp the nettle, his wife acknowledged. "We voted for Mr. Nixon at all times," she said. "My brother lived in La Habra, Calif.,

and worked for him. They probably think we're poison ivy."

Jenner, now a senior partner of the prominent Chicago firm of Jenner & Block, and the former Nadine Newbill of Portland, Ore., were college sweethearts at the University of Illinois.

Mrs. Jenner is petite, white haired, spirited, and not bitter at the Republicans who are making life difficult for her spouse.

"If you were in their shoes, wouldn't you grasp at every straw?" she asked. "We were brought up to believe that even if the president only won by one vote, he was our president. Our parents taught us that. Maybe we're the last of the redhot somethings."

She is in Washington not so much to "rally round" her husband in a difficult time, but to work on personal projects connected with the Bicentennial and the Smithsonian Institution.

Jenner was originally invited by Judiciary Committee Chairman Peter W. Rodino (Dem.-N.J.) to be chief committee counsel. He de-

clined and recommended John Doar, who took the job. Later Jenner agreed to be minority counsel and joined the staff in January.

Before long, Republicans were complaining about his forthright stands. They learned he had contributed to the Senate campaign of Democrat Adlai Stevenson III, an episode Mrs. Jenner described as "a little, quibbly thing."

"Bert is a Republican, no matter what they say," she asserted. "He gave Stevenson \$1000 and sat at the speakers' table. He was immediately labeled a turncoat. He knowingly put his neck on the block because Stevenson is remarkable. It was ill - advised, but a strong stand. I'm proud of him."

Since then, she said, her husband has given an equal sum to Stevenson's opponent, lawyer and former Illinois legislator George Burditt, for whom Jenner is helping to raise money.

Mrs. Jenner thinks Republicans may also be miffed because her husband, whose legal credits in "Who's Who" are lengthy, attended bipartisan lawyers' meetings called by Democratic Presidents Kennedy and Johnson.

"Anybody who knows Bert knows he is impartial about the law," she said. "You don't sacrifice your principles. You sacrifice everybody around you. If he'd been back in the Revolution, he would have been a statesman then."

