

# House GOP: Trouble for Their Impeachment Counsel?

Albert E. Jenner Jr., hired by House Judiciary Committee Republicans as their chief counsel in the presidential impeachment proceedings, helped raise funds last fall for Democratic Sen. Adlai E. Stevenson III of Illinois—a previously shrouded fact which threatens much trouble for Jenner with his new employers.

The prestigious Jenner, a Chicago Republican but long a friend of the Stevenson family, was co-host for a breakfast in Stevenson's honor last October. That breakfast in turn was called to plan a fund-raising dinner to kick off Stevenson's re-election campaign, also attended by Jenner.

Some right-wing congressional Republicans feel that minor apostasy should disqualify Jenner from representing the Republican cause in what promises to be a highly partisan proceeding. But what really disturbs Judiciary Committee Republicans was Jenner's failure to mention his Stevenson connection when they interviewed him for the impeachment post. With Jenner now trying to minimize his Stevenson role, real troubles impend.

"I would rather he not be in support of any Democrat," an irritated Rep. Robert McClory of Illinois, second-ranking committee Republican, told

us. Instrumental in hiring Jenner, McClory said he had assumed Jenner was a loyal Republican and is "surprised and disappointed" that Jenner did not tell him about backing Stevenson.

But a later telephone conversation with Jenner pacified McClory, who said Jenner told him he was personally involved in no political fundraising, that he had never supported a Democrat for public office and that the Stevenson breakfast was "long before" the senator announced for re-election.

The facts seem different. Jenner was one of five co-hosts financing a breakfast in Stevenson's honor at Chicago's Palmer House last Oct. 1 and signing the telegram inviting some 40 businessmen to it. The sole purpose: to plan the Oct. 26 Hilton Hotel dinner where Stevenson would announce his candidacy for re-election. Jenner paid \$115 to attend that dinner.

Jenner told us merely that he was a close friend of Stevenson's father and would never oppose his son. But the Stevenson political organization viewed him—correctly—as an overt supporter.

There seems nothing inconsistent between a vote for a Stevenson and Jenner's duties as Republican counsel. What could pose trouble is Jenner's re-

luctance to reveal the full Stevenson connection.

The first setback for energy adviser William Simon in his battle to unify administration policy was at the hands of Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger, who managed a bureaucratic end run around Simon just after Christmas.

Schlesinger and Simon are emerging as two strong, dynamic figures in a generally flaccid administration. Hence, Schlesinger was not pleased with publicity depicting Simon as the law on Pentagon fuel allocation.

With Simon absent, Schlesinger—accompanied by the Joint Chiefs of Staff—went straight to President Nixon, and in terms decidedly unfavorable to Simon. The result: presidential agreement that Mr. Nixon, not Simon, would have final say on Pentagon energy questions.

That brought joy to the Pentagon. But well-placed officials in the administration doubt Schlesinger's wisdom in picking a fight with Simon, particularly in view of Schlesinger's inability to measure exactly how much fuel the Pentagon has. Nevertheless, the incident confirmed Schlesinger's skill as an infighter.

Meanwhile, progress is being made

in placing the new Energy Research and Development Administration under Simon's direct authority (though the research end will have a separate manager). That compromise averts another clash between Simon and federal budget chief Roy Ash, director of the Office of Management and Budget. Ash took the proposal to Mr. Nixon in San Clemente and got his approval.

A White House brainstorm to import respected Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Rush as President Nixon's top legal defense in the impeachment proceedings petered out for one reason: Rush has not practiced law for decades.

When Mr. Nixon named Henry A. Kissinger to be Secretary of State, his glitter dimmed Rush's own diplomatic candle. Nevertheless, Rush agreed to stay at State, running the bureaucracy during Kissinger's frequent absences.

When his old Duke University Law School student Richard Nixon asked Rush's services to prepare his defense, Rush was scarcely exuberant.

The idea quietly died when White House aides realized that Rush, former boss of Union Carbide and ambassador to West Germany, had forgotten what the inside of a courtroom—or a legal brief—looks like.