

for and about
people

'I believe that the public office is the public trust and those that abuse that trust ought to be exposed'

Anderson, Dita, Kleindienst and...

Washington

TURN TO the comic section of the Washington Post and right there next to Peanuts is a column entitled Washington Merry Go Round. Sounds like a little something for the kiddies, but to Jack Anderson and his 40 million readers, the column is not child's play.

It is a deadly serious business.

And Jack Anderson is a deadly serious man. Anderson has exposed a considerable amount of government finagling, mismanagement and deceit.



DITA BEARD
Cumulative panic

But despite Anderson's column — which runs daily in about 700 newspapers (including The San Francisco Chronicle), his books and daily TV news spot, it was not until his spectacular revelations in January (the "Anderson papers") which showed the U.S. tilting toward Pakistan, that Anderson himself became banner news.

And he continues to make muckraking headlines. The Senate Judiciary committee is conducting hearings into his charges that Richard Kleindienst, Nixon's acting attorney general, arranged a little deal in 1968 whereby International Telephone & Telegraph could be excused from three pending antitrust suits in exchange for an under-the-table donation to the GOP campaign coffers. The amount of the donation has been reported as high as \$400,000.

The major casualty in the ITT case is not Kleindienst, Anderson believes, but rather former Attorney General John Mitchell, who had resigned earlier to direct Nixon's re-election drive.

"I hear he wanted very badly to return to the attorney generalship. He was just beginning to enjoy the job, but I think he's going to have a little trouble getting it back."

Anderson says he got the



RICHARD KLEINDIENST
A bombshell

Kleindienst bombshell with the co-operation of another supersleuth, Ralph Nader. But he could not substantiate the story until a few ITT sources handed over the fateful memo with the "big D" for Dita Beard on it.

(Dita Beard was ITT's main Washington lobbyist. The memo concerned settlement of a government suit against ITT and an ITT subsidiary's donation to the Republican convention.)

Then all hell broke loose.

Anderson relates the chain reaction of events when he confronted Mrs. Beard (be-

fore her hospitalization) with the memo.

"She damn near fainted. She stammered and spluttered and refused to say a word."

Her panic, however, was cumulative. Mrs. Beard called one of Anderson's reporters, Brit Hume, at 10 p.m. several weeks ago to insist that he come over immediately. When he arrived, a doctor was present, seemingly to prevent Mrs. Beard from having a heart attack.

Mrs. Beard wanted to defend herself and "tell all," the columnist said. Yes, she had met with Mitchell about the ITT case — for an hour at the Kentucky governor's mansion after the Kentucky Derby last year. And yes, Mitchell did know the facts, she said.

"Little did she know that at the same time Mitchell was preparing a statement of denial," Anderson said with a laugh.

Anderson is not well loved by the Nixon administration. J. Edgar Hoover even went so far as to call him "the top scavenger of all columnists" because Anderson once rummaged through the FBI director's trash and wrote about it.

But what worries Anderson most is the government itself.

"It's so subtle," says the



Jack Anderson: "The top scavenger of all columnists"

man who had been Drew Pearson's assistant for many years and took over the column in 1969 after Pearson died. "There is an intense power struggle going on all the time, and the only way to stay in power is by controlling the news."

Anderson usually gets the story he's after. His information, he says, is obtained by three investigative reporters and himself — without arm-twisting.

"If we can't get it (the story) from the Republicans, we go to the Democrats — they love to talk. If Herb Klein won't talk to me, I get the information anyhow."

Anderson is not one of those who believe it necessary to travel the Georgetown-Sans Souci circuit for stories or sources.

A strict Mormon who usually eats lunch at home with the family and attends church twice each Sunday, Anderson thinks that "many of even the greatest reporters get sucked into the circles they cover, lose their objectivity and become part of the establishment."

Anderson himself has not been safe from criticism. Some feel he, like many syn-

dicated columnists, has been used. Some, like Joe Kraft, believe State Department officials out to "get (Presidential adviser Dr. Henry) Kissinger" leaked the secret documents about the Pakistan tilt to Anderson. Anderson denies both counts.

"Getting Henry was not the intention. My sources like the way Kissinger operates. If anyone got Henry, he got himself," Anderson maintains.

What does Anderson think about the '72 elections? "I think in spite of Jimmy the

Greek there is a latent distrust of Nixon, and the American public is quite capable of hating him. If he gives them an excuse, they'll throw him out and enjoy it. It depends on the economy. If it's booming, he'll win."

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