

Nominee for Cabinet

Richard Gordon Kleindienst

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 15— Three weeks ago, Hall of Heroes Publications presented its first "outstanding American award. It said that the recipient's "outstanding efforts and achievements in the public interest, above and beyond the call of his expected duties, have increased

for all of us
Man our security in
in the and our enjoy-
News ment of our lives,
 our liberties, our
 property, and our
 happiness." The recipient
 was Richard Gordon Klein-
 dienst, who was nominated
 today to be Attorney General
 of the United States. The
 giver was a one-man oper-
 ation that publishes comic
 books out of a small, clut-
 tered office in the National
 Press Building. Even Mr.
 Kleindienst conceded embar-
 rassment later, saying that
 he had not checked out the
 award before he had agreed
 to accept it.

If it seems injudicious for the Deputy Attorney General—Mr. Kleindienst's present position—to accept such an award, many people here, and not all of them Democrats, would argue that Mr. Kleindienst is not a man known for his caution. Even his close friends acknowledge that—as one of them said week before last—"Dick sometimes shoots from the hip."

It was precisely his reputation for being bright and politically skillful but very — perhaps too—rapid in making and articulating decisions that recently prompted speculation here that the President would not name him as Mr. Mitchell's successor.

By all accounts Mr. Kleindienst is both bright and outspoken. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Harvard in 1947 and from Harvard Law School.

Mr. Kleindienst tells with relish how his Phi Bet Kappa certificate (in Latin) was sent to his parents' home in Ari-

zona and his father, not realizing what it was, threw it in the trash. When Richard came home, he dug it out.

In Sensitive Situations

Mr. Kleindienst has been in the thick of a series of sensitive Justice Department situations—ranging from the Supreme Court nominations to the Mayday antiwar protests to Representative Hale Boggs's attack on the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This fact, plus his role as campaign director for Barry Goldwater in his 1964 Presidential campaign, has made him a target for Congressional and other liberals.

His problems are compounded by a proclivity to be quoted making bold statements. The nominee is said to be "profane in two languages"—English and Navajo.

In response to Mr. Boggs's charges that the F.B.I. had tapped the telephones of Congressmen, Mr. Kleindienst said, for example that he and his colleagues thought that Mr. Boggs "must have been sick or not in possession of his faculties."

Yet, on the basis of recent interviews newsmen have portrayed him as a misunderstood man of social conscience, a good deal more moderate than other officials in the Department of Justice.

Mr. Kleindienst was born in Winslow, Ariz., Aug. 5, 1923, the son of a brakeman on the Santa Fe Railroad. His mother had come west from Concord, Mass., because of her health.

He served during World War II as a navigator in the 15th Air Force and reached the rank of first lieutenant. He returned to Arizona in 1950 after completing college and law school.

Mr. Kleindienst joined the firm of Jennings, Strouss, Salmon and Trask in Phoenix. In 1958 he left to form Shimmel, Hill, Kleindienst and Bishop. In March, 1969, after Mr. Kleindienst became Deputy Attorney General,



Associated Press

Speedy decision-maker

the firm—now called Shimmel, Hill and Bishop—opened a Washington office.

From 1953 to 1954 Mr. Kleindienst was a member of the Arizona Legislature, and in 1964 he ran as the Republican candidate for Governor. He worked for Senator Barry Goldwater's election and in 1968 was national director of field operations for Richard M. Nixon's Presidential campaign.

Bar Association Leader

Mr. Kleindienst is an Episcopalian. He has been a member of the American Legion, the Elks, the Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Phoenix Thunderbirds, the Arizona Club and the Paradise Valley Country Club. He is currently president-elect of the Federal Bar Association.

Mr. Kleindienst is married to the former Margaret Dunbar of Cleveland. They have four children and live in McLean, Va.

Asked at a social gathering last fall if it was true that he would be nominated after Mr. Mitchell resigned and thus get a chance to direct the Justice Department for 10 months, Mr. Kleindienst smiled broadly and replied, "I hear it's going to be five years."