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Nick Thimmesch Getting The Chile Story Out

Washington

FOR TWO years now, Edward Korry, once a whiz-kid diplomat, has knocked his bald head on the wall to set the record straight on how rich and powerful Americans employed shady techniques to protect U.S. interests in Chile and covered up the story afterwards.

Korry, 54, is an exasperated man who, instead of closing his eyes to what he sees as the truth, has gone forth



like Don Quixote, lancing such names as Carter, Mondale, Ford, Nixon, Kissinger, Rocke-feller, Helms, Church and the Brothers Kennedy. Korry got into this fix many years ago. After a distin-guished career in journalism, he was recrui-ted by the Kennedy Administration to serve as a diplomat. He still regards himself as a liberal Democrat.

Nick Thimmesch

As ambassador to

Chile in the years when his government worked hard to thwart Salvador Allende, Korry was torn between his feeling that Allende was bad for the United States and his observations that his administration had performed illegal acts to stop

It is possible that Korry's ardor to get his story out would have diminished when the Carter Administration took over in 1977, but the President's handling of the Helms case only fanned the old flames.

IN THE March issue of Penthouse, Korry charges that Carter covered up and lied in the Helms case, for the same reason others have — because full revelation would put a burning light on big-name corporations and politicians.

Helms pleaded "no contest" to the misdemeanor of not telling the truth to a Senate committee while under oath. His plea was arranged in secret by Attorney General Griffin Bell and Helms' lawyer, Edward Bennett Williams, treasurer of the Democratic party during the Carter campaign. Helms had threatnened to spill the beans on U.S. involvement, particularly that of the CIA which he had directed, in Chilean internal affairs.

Korry writes that though Carter had publicly denied knowledge of the Helms deal, the President had discussed the case in the Oval Office with Vice President Walter Mondale and Bell. Mondale, as a member of the Senate Committee investigating the CIA in 1975 — the way Korry tells it — teamed up with Chairman Frank Church (Dem-Idaho) to cover up the role of name Democrats like John and Robert Kennedy, President Johnson and former ambassador to Chile Ralph Dungan in the Chilean episode.

(Readers offended by Penthouse, or distracted by its expanses of flesh tones, can clip out the Korry article and send the remainder of the magazine to a recycling center.)

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ANYWAY, KORRY argues that while what Nixon and Kissinger did against Allende was reprehensible, it was President Kennedy who chose Chile to serve as "Camelot's alternative to Cuba," and that Attorney General Robert Kennedy supervised the funneling of millions of dollars to back Christian Democrat leader Eduardo Frei.

Korry says the Kennedys used "illegal and unconstitutional means," as well as legitimate, to defeat Frei's opponent, Allende. President Kennedy also persuaded David Rockefeller to organize big business in an anti-Castro and anti-Allende crusade.

Korry also charges that this liaison allowed ITT to collect \$92.5 million from the U.S. government through an insurance scheme activated by President Kennedy on Rockefeller's request. Korry says ITT conspired with Helms to lie about the connection under oath.

President Johnson, Korry says, reassured the Rockefeller group that he would abide by JFK's commitments and, to prove it, dispatched a squad of CIA hands to Chile, and Ralph Dungan, who Korry says was architect of the scheme.

NYONE WHO has labored through the Amound of information on this unfortunate episode can detect a ring of truth in Korry's arguments.

What bothers Korry now is that the same people who backed those dubious activities are the loudest to deplore them.

Perhaps the cynical in power have learned through Korry that it isn't wise to make an ambassador out of a newspaperman, because he might go around telling the truth after he leaves office.