

The Prosecutors: Good Guy, Bad Guy, Chief

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WASHINGTON, May 2—Seymour Glanzer plays the bad guy, grilling the witness relentlessly. Donald Campbell plays the good guy, gently coaxing the witness. Earl Silbert, the chief, moderates.

The three men, chosen from 148 assistant United States Attorneys in this city, are the prosecutors in the Watergate Case. For 10 months they have tried to wheedle the facts from scores of witnesses in their office at the Court House and before the grand jury.

The witness sits in a blue leather chair in front of the cluttered desk. Mr. Silbert sits behind it, leaning back in his black leather chair. Mr. Glanzer, his leg shaking anxiously, perches on a corner of the desk, only a foot away from the witness. Mr. Campbell slouches quietly in a corner, twirling his silver ball-point pen, waiting to catch the witness in a lie.

The formula is the same for all the witnesses—from the close-mouthed former spy, G. Gordon Liddy, to the frightened secretary for the Republican committee, Sally Harmony—even to the prosecutors' former chief, once the top law enforcement officer in the country, John N. Mitchell, the former Attorney General.

The prosecution's search to find and convict the culprits in the Watergate case has taken them into the White House, to President Nixon's most trusted advisers.

3 Divergent Personalities

The prosecutors, who have been under attack from Congress, prominent lawyers and even Chief Judge John J. Sirica for their handling of the case, are three divergent personalities whose professional backgrounds are somewhat similar.

Criminal law is their passion. None of them plotted his course to the prosecutor's office but

now their appetites for catching crooks is insatiable.

Mr. Silbert, a 37-year-old weekend athlete, is a meticulous man. His mother says that even the heels of his shoes must be lined up perfectly in the closet. His affinity for the precise has generated most of the criticism of the prosecution's strategy.

As the principal assistant United States attorney, Mr. Silbert is aiming for the maximum number of convictions. Thus he has so far refused to "take the risk," as he put it, of granting immunity to some Watergate conspirators in order to get testimony against higher-ups.

For example, if Mr. Silbert does not grant immunity to John W. Dean 3d, the President's former counsel, he might not be able to build a case for indictments against the two chief Presidential aides, H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, who resigned this week.

Another Difficulty

And if he does grant such immunity, it could make it more difficult to win a conviction against Mr. Dean.

A lawyer, one of the prosecutor's severest critics, accuses Mr. Silbert of bending to the pressures from the White House. The lawyer, who does not want his identity known, said:

"He's willing to let Cubans rot in jail while the rest of them [in the White House] walk around free in \$300 suits pontificating about justice."

But the chief prosecutor has his supporters too. Exclaimed one lawyer:

"This is a trial, not an inquest."

In many ways Mr. Silbert, a graduate of the Harvard Law School, who has held on to his white button-down shirts and black loafers, is a textbook lawyer with a streak of idealism. Despite his assignment to the

role of prosecutor he has been known to help defense lawyers when he thought their clients were not guilty.

The criticism wears on Mr. Silbert, who works on the investigation almost full time. He did manage, however, to play on his amateur hockey team this winter.

Of the criticism, he says:

"Naturally, I don't like it. There's no middle ground in this case. They come at you from 15 different directions. There's no way you can satisfy everybody or you're not doing a good job."

The frustration taxes, but it is always spiced with humor, and exaggeration.

"There's no evidence in this case," said Mr. Silbert, while strolling around his desk one day last week, before recent disclosures. "It's all been destroyed. Then everybody lies. Everybody!"

Mr. Glanzer's Brooklyn accent dominates the room as he energetically denounces the "lying." Mr. Campbell and Mr. Silbert laugh and shake their heads as they watch Mr. Glanzer unleash his enthusiasm.

"We call them rounds now. Rounds of testimony," said Mr. Glanzer, his blue eyes flashing and his arms waving.

Strategy Described

"When we call in a new witness now, we tell him to skip his first two rounds of testimony and go to the third. 'We don't get the truth till the third round.'"

At 46, Mr. Glanzer is the oldest member of the team, with a reputation as a "buzz saw" when interrogating a witness.

"He never goes into a courtroom without the handcuffs ready," one of his friends observes.

"He's very careful to wait until he has an airtight case before he comes down on

someone," said a colleague in the United States attorney's office.

Mr. Glanzer is said to have prepared his case so well against four persons charged with defrauding the Navy on defense contracts and siphoning about \$4-million into secret Swiss bank accounts, that Edward Bennett Williams, the defense lawyer, took one look at the evidence and told his clients to plead guilty — an unusual act for Mr. Williams.

Mr. Glanzer's passion for nailing crooks is more evident than that of the two other prosecutors.

In the height of the Watergate investigation — the biggest Government scandal in decade — Mr. Glanzer stopped in the United States attorney's office to talk about a case involving rats in grocery stores, and the case to get sugar out of dietetic ginger ale, to protect diabetics, which he won.

Laughter and Ginger Ale's

"People are being murdered and shooting each other," said Mr. Glanzer, laughing, "and I'm sitting in my office surrounded by cartons of ginger ale."

Donald Campbell, a deceptively mild man with a freckled face and red mustache, is the expert on bugging on the prosecution team. While in the Justice Department, Mr. Campbell learned about bugging while a member of the board that reviewed all the requests for wiretaps.

The 35-year old Mr. Campbell, devised the system for keeping tabs on the events in the Watergate case.

"I keep calendars in front of me," he explained. "Whenever a witness gives us a date I mark it down. It's the only way to keep track of what went on."

Mr. Campbell's trick for fighting the mounting pressures in the Watergate case is to go home and work in his yard.

Mr. Glanzer doesn't need to let off steam; he thrives on it, taking phone calls from nagging reporters until early hours of the morning — a chore the other prosecutors must endure, too.

Mr. Silbert chuckles, when asked how he relaxes, and says, "I take a lot of tranquilizers."



Earl Silbert, left, Donald Campbell, center, and Seymour Glanzer, prosecutors in Watergate case in Washington

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