

A: Yes, I am. The Soviets are a different kettle from Poland. There we have to be very careful.

There is one issue which is not an issue between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R., but which is a life and death issue to the Soviets. That is their monopoly control over the Communist parties. If that frays, as it did in Czechoslovakia, they'll move. That is a fact which we must accept. We cannot do a thing about it. It is frustrating for us, but we can't. If we did, we could easily get our foot shot. Why go to war over that?

The Soviets are frightened about the Polish events, but I get no comfort from that, because when the Soviets are frightened, they are very dangerous. One has to be careful about those things.

Q: What do you think of Kissinger's *New York Times* proposal?

A: I'll tell you a story about Henry. When I got the news from Oslo that he'd been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, I called him to congratulate him. And I told him, "Henry, I guess now you will be needing to hire a tax expert—because the IRS knows damn well you didn't earn that." No one will listen to him.

Q: What then is the current discussion at the White House on what to do about the problem we've been talking about?

A: I have no idea. I presume Haig is thinking about what I said about Europe, we need to get them to adopt a point of view. I like the idea of a European Defense Community. I assume, it was discussed in the corridors of the European Defense Ministers' meeting.

Do you remember the old Rapacki-Morgenthau plan for the pull-back of all troops from both East and West Europe? Well, given these developments, I'm not sure it's such a bad idea. Especially if we also proposed making Scandinavia, West and East Europe, and the Middle East into a nuclear-free zone.

Q: Sir, why don't we just ask Brezhnev to move to Mars? The Soviets will never accept that.

A: Of course, but I disagree with George Kennan, who says don't make propositions they won't accept. We should lay our own desires clearly on the table.

Q: Isn't this just an extension of the President's "zero solution"?

A: Yes, it's a more extreme version of the zero solution. But some bold, simple proposal might have some value.

Q: Obviously this would have little practical effect on the Soviets. Are you hoping to influence our European allies to come up with, as you said, some sort of European policy?

A: It ought to help in that.

Abscam

Charges confirm FBI-DOJ crimes

by Andrew Rotstein

The Senate leadership has rescheduled to Feb. 2 deliberations on the expulsion motion against Abscam target Harrison Williams, Democrat of New Jersey, amidst a widening scandal which threatens to blow apart the entire Justice Department "sting" operation.

Senator Williams was convicted by Judge George Pratt in May 1980 on nine counts of bribery and conspiracy as part of the Justice Department's entrapment operation against elected officials known as Abscam (for "Arab scam"). FBI agents, who work for the Justice Department (DOJ), posed as Arab sheikhs offering bribes and investment opportunities. In Williams's case, contacts with the "sheikh" were arranged by a convicted criminal, Mel Weinberg, who was paid by the DOJ to "get their man." Four bribe scenarios were mounted over a 13-month period, and Williams still refused the bribes. He was convicted of a supposed disposition to use his influence, i.e., a supposed disposition to commit a crime that was never committed. Williams was viewed by President Jimmy Carter as a political enemy.

Cynthia Marie Weinberg, the estranged wife of the FBI's Weinberg, charged Jan. 16 that her husband perjured himself throughout the Abscam trials of 1980-81, and that FBI Abscam agents also lied under oath. As a result of those trials, half a dozen members of Congress have already been driven from office.

Attorneys representing Williams, a four-term Senate spokesman for the interests of labor and the elderly in particular, have announced that they will submit an affidavit from Mrs. Weinberg in a motion to vacate Williams's conviction. On Jan. 20, a lawyer for Stanley Weisz, who was found guilty in the Abscam trial which also convicted Rep. Richard Kelly (R-Fla.), included affidavits from Weinberg's wife among 300 pages of evidentiary material in a motion to reopen his client's due-process arguments before Federal District Judge William Bryant of Washington, D.C. Meanwhile, on Jan. 21 Williams's attorney asked for a sentencing postponement in view of the Weinberg perjury charges.

The charges were first brought to the attention of the DOJ by columnist Jack Anderson, whose associate Indy Badhwar had conducted exhaustive interviews with Mrs. Weinberg. The department, confronted with detailed

charges and photographic evidence of goods allegedly extorted by Weinberg, was forced to announce an official investigation. Judges and defense attorneys in the Abscam cases were informed of these developments. Weisz's counsel, Michael Dennis of Garden City, New York, sensing that a probe of DOJ and FBI misconduct by the department and the bureau themselves was rather unlikely to probe very deeply, has moved for empaneling a special grand jury and appointment of a special prosecutor to pursue the matter.

Marie Weinberg's affidavit states: "I make this affidavit because I feel that my husband committed perjury with the knowledge of the FBI which injured a number of innocent people and I want the truth to be known." She charges that her husband • lied throughout his testimony, specifically when he denied having received gifts and payoffs from potential Abscam targets;

- "squirreled away" in their Florida condominium tapes which were later claimed to have been lost, believed by defense attorneys to contain exculpatory evidence;

- altered a tape to change the appearance of his own whereabouts at a certain time;

- secretly taped conversations with FBI agents as leverage against them should his own misconduct come to light;

- intercepted a \$75,000 payment intended for Kenneth MacDonald, a former New Jersey state official, and split the loot with Abscam target Angelo Errichetti, former mayor of Camden, New Jersey. MacDonald is now facing trial for allegedly accepting the bribe;

- gave or sold valuable merchandise, including furniture, clothing, furs, and a \$4,000 organ to FBI agents, including John Good, an Abscam agent in Chicago, and Anthony Amoroso, whose pose as an Arab sheikh trying to buy American politicians has been viewed by a credulous television audience of millions. FBI regulations strictly forbid any such activities.

Even more significant than the misdeeds of the obsessive con artists are the implication of the FBI agents, whose testimony corroborated Weinberg's on points challenged by the latter's wife. If the government operatives who staged the sting can be shown to have netted some expensive trinkets from the affair, in addition to perjuring themselves to cover for Weinberg's extracurricular doings, the government is left with very little case indeed against Senator Williams and others.

Nor have the new scandals only hit the DOJ's underlings. Jack Anderson writes that when his expose of Abscam misconduct began, some months back, FBI Director William Webster subtly attempted to quash the series. Webster summoned the columnist to a private meeting and assured him that he was "misinformed" and that the investigation had been carried out accord-

ing to the strictest standards.

In another instance, Brooklyn Organized Crime Strike Force Prosecutor Thomas Puccio produced in court, as proof of Weinberg's credibility, a phony sales receipt for a microwave oven Weinberg is accused of having received from Errichetti's nephew. FBI agents working directly under Puccio knew the receipt from a Florida store to be a fraud.

The outrageous conduct of the DOJ in the affair would be downright laughable if the intentions of Abscam's architects—smashing allies of labor on Capitol Hill and discrediting Congress as an institution—were not so treacherous. For example, FBI agents apparently lost 44 tapes of conversations when the evidence was left in a rented car the group used in a "night on the town." More recently, after the Justice Department learned of Mrs. Weinberg's charges, it dispatched eight FBI agents to "guard" her in her home. Being only too familiar by then with the Bureau's methods, she immediately requested local police to protect her from the Feds!

Turning point for the Williams case?

On Jan. 21, ABC's national television program 20/20 featured not only Mrs. Weinberg and her charges but evidence of tampering with the serial numbers on Weinberg's ill-gotten goods. Moreover, former Watergate Prosecutor Samuel Dash appeared on the program characterizing Abscam as illegal and unconstitutional. The overall effect of such coverage could parallel Edward R. Murrow's belated but powerful 1954 challenge to Sen. Joe McCarthy's methods.

Mrs. Weinberg's charges intersect a growing realization among more sober Republican elements that the ongoing attempts to destabilize the Reagan administration through controlled scandal-mongering around the cases of Richard Allen, William Casey, and Raymond Donovan—not to mention the rumored cases being prepared against Sen. Paul Laxalt and the President himself—show the same handiwork as the Carter DOJ's Abscam. In fact, the current troubles of Labor Secretary Donovan are being orchestrated by Abscam Prosecutor Puccio, who is using one Mario Montuoro, a convicted heroin dealer turned union dissident, as his informant—spouting information which Puccio knowingly sat on during Donovan's confirmation hearings last year. The Laxalt affair is run by similar networks in the Organized Crime Section of the DOJ which date from the Robert Kennedy era.

Thus, the overzealousness of the media and DOJ may backfire in the Williams vote. With a two-thirds vote of the Senate needed to expel him, an act of conscience and prudence by even 34 Senators could mortally wound this phase of the operation against constitutional government.