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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

conducting for months into Maryland's scandal-racked savings-and-loan industry. With striking frequency, the pursuit has wound from the thickets of finance to the brambles of politics. Late last year, for example, indictments were handed down against two Democratic congressmen, Frank Boykin of Alabama and Thomas Johnson of Maryland, charging them with conflict of interest and conspiracy in involved dealings with Maryland savings-and-loan firms.

The Charge: Democratic Speaker Boone and five codefendants were charged with helping set up the Security Financial Insurance Corp. of Baltimore in a scheme to defraud investors in S&L firms insured by the company. A grand jury said Security Financial used the mails to palm off demonstrably shaky S&L institutions as solid enterprises. Security Financial is now defunct—and so are twelve of the 27 associations it purported to insure.

The indictment alarmed many of Boone's fellow delegates. Insiders estimate that roughly a quarter of the 142 House members have interests, of one sort or another, in savings-and-loan operations. In fact, both the S&L industry—and the scandals—proliferated in Maryland primarily because the ever-sympathetic legislature enacted no meaningful rules in the field until 1961.

Given this history, the reaction of the Maryland House to Boone's indictment was not surprising. Announcing a "leave of absence" from the speakership, Boone ceremoniously turned over the gavel to delegate Marvin Mandel, professed his innocence to the packed chamber ("I will be vindicated"), then strode to his regular Baltimore County seat on the floor where he expects to continue to serve pending the outcome of a trial.

As he stepped down, fellow delegates gave The Bear a standing ovation.



Boone: The Speaker steps down.

JFK's McGeorge Bundy— Cool Head for Any Crisis

The note was handed to President Kennedy at 9:30 one night last week, just as he settled down in the White House projection room with Mrs. Kennedy and some guests to watch a screening of "The Ugly American." He rose promptly to return the call. The urgent caller was McGeorge Bundy, his Special Assistant for National Security Affairs, with first details of the week's most dramatic turn: the Cuban MIG attack on a U.S. shrimp boat.

How should the U.S. react? Should the news be released immediately?

"It's more important to get the story straight than to put it out at once," said the President. From his home, where he had received the "hot" message from his duty officer at the White House Situation Room, Bundy then gave the news to Secretary of State Rusk, Defense Secretary McNamara, and CIA Chief McCone. With each, he explored the implications; all were against making a "midnight judgment." Bundy phoned the President again, and the decision was taken to wait until morning for the "take all necessary action" order.

By habit forged in crisis after crisis, the President looks to "Mac" Bundy, boyish-looking at 43, for the first word of the tough, sometimes awesome; questions posed by cold war in the nuclear age—and a firm grip on all the possible answers. With his pink cheeks, sandy hair, springy step, and faintly quizzical expression behind plain glasses, Bundy could easily pass for a Washington junior civil servant. Yet he is one of the most influential men in the U.S. Government.

Along with his role as the President's adviser on crunching global problems, Bundy is director of the National Security Council and boss of its high-

powered staff. From the White House, he coordinates the many arms of government involved in "national security"—State, Defense, Treasury, Atomic Energy, Disarmament, Central Intelligence, Foreign Aid, even Agriculture—slashing across bureaucratic lines to deal with Cabinet members and agency heads. As a speechmaker (and a persuasive interpretive source for the press), he helps to transmit as well as shape U.S. policy, as in Copenhagen last year when he expressed U.S. disapproval of "small, separate, national deterrents" and support for a unified, multilateral European nuclear force.

Subliminal: Above all, Bundy's growing prestige and power flow directly from the source of all executive power—the President of the U.S. Mr. Kennedy has come to respect him, trust him, and communicate—almost subliminally—with him. "They think alike," explains an NSC staff member. "Bundy knows the President's mind. He knows what the President wants. The President's intensity is perfectly complemented by Bundy's ability to move things."

Although uniquely a product of his own relationship with the President, Bundy's role stems from an old political tradition—the "kitchen cabinet" dating back to Andrew Jackson's backstairs cronies—and the latter-day need to cope with the complex, crushing burden of the U.S. Presidency.

John F. Kennedy has no Colonel House, Harry Hopkins, or Sherman Adams. In the Kennedy inner circle, Bundy shares a place with a handful of advisers, all of whom—like the man they advise—are tough, brainy, and energetic. They are Robert Kennedy, Defense Secretary McNamara, and Presidential aides Theodore Sorensen and Kenneth