

'Fair and Square' Hearings Pledged on Lobbying

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WASHINGTON, April 28 — To Senator Strom Thurmond, staunch conservative and Reagan loyalist, "things have got to appear right as well as be right," a dictum that he says he learned from his father.

But these days some things are not appearing right, at least to some people, and the South Carolina Republican has found himself disagreeing with President Reagan on whether the lobbying efforts of Michael K. Deaver, the former White House aide, have been proper.

Mr. Thurmond has scheduled hearings beginning Tuesday on a bill that would restrict lobbying by former high-level Administration officials and would have prohibited some of Mr. Deaver's current activities. But the Senator does not want to appear to be targeting only Mr. Deaver.

"Some people feel it's aimed at Deaver," Mr. Thurmond said of his bill. "It is not. It is aimed at the issue."

Some Deaver Clients

Mr. Deaver, who left the White House about a year ago to start a public relations concern, includes among his clients the Governments of Canada, Mexico, South Korea and Singapore, a steel company in South Korea and business interests in the Philippines. He has also said in a report to the Justice Department that one of his aides had lobbied for the Korean Broadcasting Advertising Corporation in a telephone call to a National Security Council official five months after Mr. Deaver left his job as deputy White House chief of staff. Mr. Thurmond's bill, which is before the Judiciary Committee, of which he is chairman, would prohibit this.

"We don't think that a person who has dealt with foreign governments — at the White House, in the C.I.A. or whatever — should lobby for any for-

eign governments," Senator Thurmond said.

"Our bill would do three things," he continued. "First, a Government official couldn't lobby for one year. Second, he couldn't lobby for a foreign government for two years. Third, a person in a high position could not lobby ever for foreign governments."

When asked whether someone in a position like Mr. Deaver's would come under the proposed law, Senator Thurmond said that he would. Those affected, he said, included some Cabinet members, such as the Secretary of State, the Director of Central Intelligence, the national security adviser and the top 25 officials in the White House.

On the eve of his lobbying hearings, Senator Thurmond pledged that they would be "fair and square, with no bitterness." But he insisted that something needed to be done for two reasons: the citizens' respect for their Government and because of national security considerations.

The respect, he said, came from what his father taught him about the appearance of correctness. Government is wholesome, he said, but there is a need "to improve the confidence of the people in their Government."

Senator Thurmond is an advocate of a strong national defense, and he is concerned that it could be harmed when people privy to secret strategic information in Government then wind up lobbying for foreign governments. "There are national security concerns," Mr. Thurmond said. "There is impropriety, people leaving government and lining their pockets from knowledge of government and from their contacts."

There are times, the Senator said, when an official-turned-lobbyist could take his knowledge and "use it against our interests when lobbying for a foreign government."

Has the attention surrounding the Deaver matter enhanced chances for passage of his legislation? Mr. Thurmond said he did not want to prejudice the former White House aide.

"All I know is what I've read in the

newspaper," he said, adding that both his staff and the General Accounting Office were investigating. The General Accounting Office inquiry began at the request of Representative John D. Dingell, Democrat of Michigan, who heads the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

While some in Congress or in the White House may try to ascribe Mr. Dingell's motives to politics, along with a call for an independent prosecutor issued by the Democrats on the Judiciary Committee, they cannot lay that charge at Senator Thurmond's door.

'I Support the President'

Since becoming chairman of the Judiciary Committee after the 1980 elections, Senator Thurmond has been a strong supporter of White House appointees. When Edwin Meese 3d was moving from counsellor to the President to Attorney General, some Democrats tried to block his appointment, but Senator Thurmond shepherded the nomination through the committee and the Senate.

When William Bradford Reynolds, an Assistant Attorney General, was nominated to be Associate Attorney General, the nomination was rejected, but only after a strong advocacy on Mr. Reynolds's behalf by Senator Thurmond. The South Carolinian also pressed Mr. Reagan's judicial nominations, such as those of Jefferson B. Sessions 3d in Alabama and Sidney Fitzwater in Texas, in the face of strong Democratic opposition.

Senator Thurmond says that although he criticizes what he sees as inappropriate lobbying, his admiration of Mr. Reagan remains intact.

"I support the President," he said. "He has been the best President since I've been in the Senate. I'm not going against the President, but if he was in my shoes, he'd take the same position I am taking."