

Published: 06.13.2005

## Kleindienst on Deep Throat, sort of

By **C.J. Karamargin**  
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

The timing wasn't good for **Richard Kleindienst**.

The first and only Arizonan to serve as U.S. attorney general had the misfortune of taking office just five days before a gang of thugs botched an attempt to bug the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate office complex in Washington.

That was June 17, 1972. Kleindienst had nothing to do with the break-in that mushroomed into a constitutional crisis and ultimately forced **President Richard Nixon** to resign. But it did define his tenure as attorney general.

The Notebook got to thinking about Kleindienst recently with the disclosure that former FBI Deputy Director **Mark Felt** was **Deep Throat**, the shadowy source who helped the Washington Post unravel the Watergate scandal. What would Kleindienst, a Winslow-born, Harvard-educated law-and-order man, make of Felt?

"Dad would have felt he did a service to the country," said his son, **Wallace Kleindienst**, an assistant U.S. attorney in Tucson. "In hindsight, knowing the good it did, he would have thought it was an important thing for him to have done."

A former Arizona state lawmaker and chairman of the state Republican Party, Richard Kleindienst died of lung cancer in 2000.

He worked on **Barry Goldwater's** 1964 presidential campaign before helping Nixon win the White House in 1968. Some thought he could be Deep Throat.

The younger Kleindienst laughed at that suggestion, saying his father "never" would have provided reporters with information about a criminal investigation. But Wallace Kleindienst believes his father also would disagree with Felt critics like **Pat Buchanan** and **G. Gordon Liddy**, who consider Deep Throat's leaks a disgrace.

"Dad was appalled" by Watergate," Kleindienst said. "He felt very strongly that Mr. Nixon broke the law."

### Hey, it helps the president

Indictments, arrests and other matters having to do with crime and punishment typically are the focus of press releases that find their way into the media's e-mail in-boxes from Arizona's U.S. Attorney's Office.

Last week was different. Last week the U.S. attorney got political.

As **President Bush** stumped for the extension of the Patriot Act in Ohio last Thursday, the Phoenix outpost of the Department of Justice thought it would be a good time to tell the state's newspapers, televisions and radio stations about a new ABC News/Washington Post poll.

As you might imagine, the poll contained good news for Patriot Act backers. It found that that six in 10 Americans favor continuing the additional investigative authority in terrorism investigations that the act granted to the FBI in 2001.

"We're all advocates of the Patriot Act," explained **Sandra Raynor**, the U.S. Attorney's Office spokeswoman who sent word of the poll to more than 200 people on her media listserv.

Raynor described the poll as "another source of information" that Washington wanted local media to be aware of, adding that "it was important to pass along."

For curiosity sake, the Notebook wanted to know if government computers would be used to spread the word about a poll that found that six in 10 Americans opposed extending the Patriot Act. Raynor didn't want to go there. "I can't answer that question," she said.

### **Kyl touted for high court**

There's new speculation that Arizona's junior U.S. senator could be in line for a Supreme Court appointment.

The Associated Press moved a story over the weekend reporting that **Jon Kyl** is "being talked up by some conservatives" as a possible nominee.

The story described Kyl as "a stalwart pro-business conservative and a senior member of the Senate Judiciary Committee" who could possibly win quick confirmation as a member of Congress.

Kyl himself downplayed his chances. "If I was on the president's short list, I think I would have heard about it by now," the 63-year-old lawmaker said.

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