

HOGAN IS STUDYING KNAPP TRANSCRIPT FOR ANY CONFLICTS

He Acts Partly in Response
to a Letter From Troy
Urging Investigation

MAYOR DEFENDS ACTIONS

Says He and Aides Fought
Corruption and Praises
Kriegel and Fraiman

By DAVID BURNHAM

District Attorney Frank S. Hogan said yesterday that he was studying the transcripts of the Knapp Commission hearings and other evidence to see whether there were discrepancies that should be referred to a grand jury.

Mr. Hogan said he had begun the study partly in response to charges by Councilman Matthew J. Troy Jr. of Queens

*Troy letter, excerpts from
Mayor's remarks, Page 39.*

that high officials in the Lindsay administration might be guilty of perjury, malfeasance or misfeasance.

Mayor Lindsay, meanwhile, held a news conference in which he passionately defended his administration's efforts to combat police graft. His defense came one day after the final public hearing of the Knapp Commission, which has been investigating since May, 1970, allegations of widespread police corruption.

Fights for Principle

The Mayor said his aide, Jay L. Kriegel, was a man of "total integrity." He said that former First Deputy Police Commissioner John F. Walsh was a "superb police officer." Finally, he said State Supreme Court Justice Arnold G. Fraiman, the former Commissioner of Investigation, was so tough that he was "thought to be a man that would hang his own mother if he had to."

All three had testified at the Knapp Commission hearing.

Mr. Lindsay also emphasized that his administration had on many occasions fought for the principle of civilian control of the police despite the strong opposition of many New Yorkers.

Asked for a response to a letter sent to him by Mr. Troy, the Queens Democratic leader who has developed into a political enemy of Mr. Lindsay, Mr. Hogan said his office was examining the transcripts of both the public and private hearings

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DEFENDS EFFORTS ON POLICE GRAFT: Mayor Lindsay at news session in City Hall

The New York Times/Neal Boenzi

Hogan Is Studying Knapp Transcripts

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of the Knapp Commission for possible conflicts in testimony of various witnesses.

He added that his office had been getting the transcripts right along. "We probably would have looked into these questions anyway, but Mr. Troy called them forcibly to our attention," Mr. Hogan said.

In his letter to the District Attorney, Mr. Troy, who is backing Senator George McGovern's bid for the Democratic Presidential nomination, called the Knapp Commission hearings "a vulgar, clumsy cover-up."

"Your office," Mr. Troy wrote Mr. Hogan "should commence an immediate, thorough investigation to determine if the serious crimes of perjury, malfeasance and/or misfeasance have been committed in New York County."

No Action Taken

During the Knapp Commission's second series of hearings, which ended Monday, Justice Fraiman acknowledged that he had taken no action after being told by Detective Frank Serpico of widespread corruption in an antigambling unit in the Bronx.

Former Commissioner Walsh also testified he had taken no action after being informed of Detective Serpico's allegation.

Finally, there was testimony that Detective Serpico and Sergeant David Durk had told Mr. Kriegel at a meeting either in April or May of 1967 about the corruption and their feeling that the Police Department was not acting on the allegations.

In testimony given the Knapp Commission in executive session last July, Mr. Kriegel first indicated he had told Mayor Lindsay about both the charges of corruption and the dissatisfaction of the policemen with the investigation.

Troy's Position

On Monday, Mr. Kriegel said he had reviewed his previous testimony, discussed the matter with Mayor Lindsay and now was positive he had not told the Mayor about the policemen's dissatisfaction because of the restrictions they had placed on him about the use of their names.

Commenting on Mr. Kriegel, Mr. Troy's letter said that the "people of this city—it may well be that the people of this nation have a vital interest in this matter, too—do not thirst for the disgrace of a staff man who chooses to protect his boss's image."

"But we do demand that Mayor Lindsay be forced to answer under oath why he failed to report all allegations of serious police corruption to any competent authority," Mr.

Troy continued. "That, as former Police Commissioner [Howard R.] Leary said yesterday, is the \$64 question."

Though Mr. Lindsay declined to comment on Mr. Troy's letter at his news conference, Thomas B. Morgan, the Mayor's press secretary, did respond when informed that Mr. Hogan had said he was investigating Mr. Troy's allegations.

"It is our understanding that the District Attorney has been examining all testimony of all witnesses and it is expected he would do so in accordance with his obligations," Mr. Morgan said. "It would be an exercise in demagoguery to make any inferences from these regular and appropriate procedures."

Questions on Meeting

In addition to requesting that Mayor Lindsay be questioned about the handling of the Serpico allegations, Mr. Troy also said that Whitman Knapp, the commission chairman, and his chief counsel, Michael F. Armstrong, should be examined about what took place at a meeting a week ago Monday with Mayor Lindsay and Mr. Kriegel.

Mr. Troy also said that the District Attorney's office should attempt to obtain all tapes, memos and transcripts that might possibly support "perjury charges against any witness who lied under oath before the Knapp Commission."

At his news conference, Mr. Lindsay said the Police Department might have "dropped the ball" in handling the case and Justice Fraiman may have made an "error in judgment." But he staunchly defended Mr. Kriegel.

"Mr. Mayor, what is your present opinion of Jay Kriegel and what do you see as his future in the light of all that has happened?" one newsman asked.

"I think Jay Kriegel is a —is one of the finest staff men that I have ever had the privilege of working with," the Mayor said. "One of the finest public servants that I have ever known. And a New Yorker of compassion and toughness, he is a man of unbending integrity and decency and I hope very much that he will be with me for a long, long time."

Mr. Lindsay also praised Detective Serpico and Sergeant Durk. "I think they're brave officers who have provided a great service, and I think they're to be commended," he said.