

AS THE FLOOD FAMILY home, in a quiet north suburban Northbrook neighborhood was being terrorized in the dark of night, by three swarthylooking individuals, they eventually screamed out the name, "Chief Inspector Simon."

Now, one wonders who is Chief Inspector Simon? A check with Cook County Police Department Officers assigned to case report #89-063177 received a "we never heard from him" reply.

CHIEF INSPECTOR SIMON is not known to many people in the Cook County Police Department nor in the entire Sheriff's Office of Cook County.

He is, however, well known to the political operative and chief intimidator of Sheriff James O'Grady's administration - one James Dvorak by name. Mr. Dvorak is now the Cook County Republican Chairman, Undersheriff of Cook County and former Chicago Police Officer now known as a "Buy A Ticket To An O'Grady Affair" muscleman.

JAMES DVORAK WAS, and for all that is known, still might be, a Vice-President of O'Grady's private detective, security and guard outfit known as Special Operations Associates, Inc.

He was a lieutenant and the Commanding Officer of the Prostitution Unit of the Chicago Police Department before joining O'Grady's inept and highly politicized administration of the Office of Sheriff of Cook County. He is the number two man behind O'Grady. The Undersheriff is known throughout the Office as O'Grady's hatchet and point man. He would know all the right people and night people.

Dvorak is a dear friend, Rush Street night life associate and mentor of Chief Inspector Simon who, it has been determined, works about two hours a day out of the Criminal Courts Building at 26th and California.

BUT AGAIN, who is Chief Inspector Simon? What are his credentials? His background? Does anybody know him other than O' Grady, Dvorak and their political cronies who are now part-time deputy sheriffs, under Chief Inspector Simon, within the Sheriff's Office of Cook County?

The answer is yes. A resounding yes. The federal authorities and the Cook County States Attorney's Office know him. He is Richard Simon. They know him well. He has a past, after all, but neither O'Grady or Dvorak want it known. The Chicago news media know him. John J. Flood knows him by his unsavory

reputation and connections to the wellheeled associate of organized crime syndicate figures and ex-convict, Benjamin R. Stein. Mr. Stein is fondly known as "The King of the Janitors." Richard Simon is a good friend of Jim O'Grady, the "Reform" Sheriff and Mr. Dvorak "Reform" Undersheriff. These two men are Cook County's newest, roughest and underhanded political manipulators.

CHIEF INSPECTOR SIMON, before becoming Chief Inspector Simon, was also known to one Karen Lee Koppel. He was known to her as Richard Simon, a Chicago police officer and close friend of Ben Stein. Mr. Stein bestowed his affection on her. It seems that Richard Simon moonlighted as a chauffeur and vice-president of one of Ben Stein's janitor companies back in 1980. He was close to Stein then and he still is now. In 1980, Stein paid \$29,000 a year to Mr. Simon for his services. During this time, Miss Koppel was just one of Mr. Stein's many young girl friends. She is no longer around. She has disappeared. Shades of the Dianne Masters case.

The last known person to see Miss Koppel alive since April 26, 1980 was... you guessed it... Chief Inspector Richard Simon. Mr. Simon was being of assistance to Mr. Stein when he was the last person to see her on the face of the earth.

Miss Koppel had a meeting with Richard Simon at Flapjaw's Saloon, 910 N. Wabash Ave., a wellknown hangout in the Chicago Avenue (18th Police District) where Simon then worked as a police officer.

Mr. Simon was meeting Miss Koppel at the behest and request of the ruthless Mr. Stein. He was offering her \$10,000.00 from Stein to "straighten out her life. "It should be noted here that Mr. Stein hasn't quite straightened out his life after spending eighteen months in jail and having faced charges of tax evasion.

Apparently Miss Koppel feared Mr. Simon because, before going to this particular meeting with him, she handed a guard at her office building a card that bore the name and address of her attorney. She told the guard, "call this number if I don't come back."

MISS KOPPEL DID NOT come back and has not come back as of this writing. Shades of the Dianne Masters case which Shriff O'Grady and his office is well entangled in. O'Grady's security agency was even hired to investigate the Dianne Masters disappearance - to the chagrin of knowledgeable law enforcement officers. Maybe O'Grady, Dvorak, the Special Operations Associates, Inc. Security outfit or Chief Inspector Simon can find Karen Lee Koppel.

Richard Simon has been given his opportunity to assist in her disappearance. He was requested to appear before a Cook County Grand Jury by then State's Attorney Bernard Carey's special prosecution unit. However, Mr. Simon, a police officer and Stein front-man, politely refused to testify on advice of

his lawyer. This, however, does not seem to bother former Chief of Detectives O'Grady, former Superintendent O'Grady and now "Reform" Sheriff O'Grady.

SO ON SATURDAY NIGHT, April 26, 1980 at 10:30 p.m., Miss Koppel vanished and has never been found. The last person known to have seen her is Richard Simon, after making the \$10,000.00 Stein-related offer to this close female friend of Stein. Shades of the Dianne Masters case once again. WOULDN'T ONE THINK Mr. O'Grady would be able to see the similarity? Unfortunately, he has not seen too much in his highly political career. He chooses not to as he is well aware that it's not good politics to see and know too much. Especially when one might be called to give testimony on devious matters.

One of Ben Stein's other close friends beside Mr. Simon, now known as Chief Inspector Simon, but not known to Cook County Police Department officers, is Dominic Senese, the notorious Teamster official who barely survived a "hit" attempt at his home earlier this year.

Mr. Stein and Mr. Senese owned the Sherman House Hotel together, purchased with a \$5.25 million dollar loan from the Teamster Pension Fund. This property was then sold to the State of Illinois which then built Republican Governor James Thompson's abortion of a building monument to himself.. It is a structure, now known as the State of Illinois Building, located across the street from the County Building and City Hall. This is the house that Big Jim Thompson built and everyone has been having a good laugh over it ever since. It cost the taxpayers a lot of money.

Joey Glimco, another Teamster union man and outfit guy, is also Stein's friend. Glimco is close to the Hogan Family, the father and son team which controls Local 714, Machinery, Scrap Iron, Metal and Steel, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen, Handlers, Helpers, Alloy Fabricators, Theatrical, Exposition, Convention and Trade Show Employees, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, which controls the workers at McCormick Place, where Stein controlled the janitors and where O'Grady's Special Operations Associates Agency provides services since he became Sheriff. Reformer O'Grady used to bemoan his plight prior to achieving office as Cook County Sheriff. Prior to his election, O'Grady couldn't get his security group any lucrative work at the exposition center. Special Operations Associates has it now.

LOCAL 714 of the Teamsters has long been known for its outfit connections. The people who have worked for them are a who's who of organized crime. It is the only Teamster Local in the country with major inroads into law enforcement. Guess where those inroads were made? You're right. Reformer O'Grady's Deputies and Correctional Officers are represented by Teamsters Local 714. Local 714 didn't get into the Sheriff's Office easily. The "two Jimmys" gave eager but quiet support. That is O'Grady and Dvorak by name.

Oh well, this story keeps going round and round. But there is definitely more to come. The end is not in sight. In retrospect, however, is there any wonder now that John J. Flood has concern for the safety of his family when someone like Richard Simon dispatches three of his part-time deputy goons to his home, in the darkness of night, allegedly to retrieve credentials?

Credentials which O'Grady, while he was undersheriff during the tenure of Richard Elrod, originally gave personally to Mr. Flood, a prominent police officer and union leader. Mr. Flood has and continues to receive threats on his life. Mr. Flood has been told by Teamster people, amongst others, "We'll get you." O'Grady is well aware of this but that does not seem to matter. If Mr. Flood disappeared, there would be one less strong critic of O'Grady's ineptitude and strange relationships.

BY THE WAY, let it be known that O'Grady took back Mr. Flood's star while he, O'Grady, was dealing with the 714 Teamsters people. Mr. Flood personally gave the star to O'Grady and Dvorak in O'Grady's office in the Daley Center. Mr. Flood, to no avail, still pointing out that his life was in danger.

Street rumors have it that the 714 Teamster Hogan Family have Deputy stars and credentials. There are rumors that Ben Stein has a Deputy star also and has been a generous backer of O'Grady.

COULD THE STAR that Mr. Flood was forced to turn in by O'Grady, thus removing Flood's ability to defend himself have been given to one of these close friends of "Mr. Clean," Mr. "Reformer," Mr. "I Don't Know Anything" O'Grady

Ben Stein, an ex-convict whose firm United Maintenance Company, supplied janitorial services at McCormick Place and illegal gifts to union officials in violation of the Taft-Hartley Act, was romantically linked to Karen Koppel who mysteriously vanished the night of April 26, 1980.

The relationship between the (then) 34-year-old Koppel and the 67-year-old janitorial czar went sour after the troubled young woman realized that she had been deceived into believing that her wealthy boyfriend was estranged from his wife. Stein's promises of marriage ended very quickly after Koppel became pregnant and was coerced to undergo an abortion. Shortly before her disappearance Koppel penned a note describing her mental anguish and some very real concerns about her own safety. "So now I understand how he hopes to hide behind the skirts of matrimony and/or the muscle of his colleagues. He has threatened that I don't know what trouble is, that in defending myself I should take my best shot because it will be my last shot."

Koppel turned up the heat on her paramour. Reportedly, she told her friends that she wanted \$50,000 in return for her promise to get out of Stein's life. If anything were to happen, she added, it could be blamed on one Rick Simon, a moonlighting cop then assigned to the East Chicago Avenue Station. Simon worked for Stein as a chauffeur and was positioned as a vice-president of one of the janitorial companies. Stein took Ricky Simon under his wing at a youthful age and the relationship that developed over the years was like that of a father to a son. The tough and street-wise Simon prospered through his acquaintance with Stein. He also was the last person known to have seen Karen Lee Koppel alive.

In a final attempt to mediate matters of the heart, Simon met with Koppel at Flapjaw's saloon, 810 N. Wabash Avenue, the night she disappeared. According to published reports Simon offered Koppel \$10,000 of Stein's money and the free use of a Lake Shore Drive apartment in return for her agreement to exit quietly.

Koppel has never been seen before or since roaming God's green pastures.

There was speculation at the time that the woman was murdered and dumped in the middle of Lake Michigan. However, the murky depths off of McCormick Place where the foul deed was alleged to have occurred, never yielded the body and this case, like so many others in Chicago's lusty history still hangs out there.

Karen Koppel is a forgotten victim. Ben Stein however, made sure that his cash donations to a renowned orphanage and other acts of self-perpetuating generosity did not go unnoticed in the press.

Ben Stein's company held the lucrative contract at McCormick Place in the 1960s. During this period the janitor king enjoyed close personal ties to syndicate hoodlums like Joe Glimco (nee: Giuseppe Glielmi), the long-time boss of Teamster's Local 777 of the Taxicab Driver's Union. Glimco was the outfit's top labor czar who muscled into at least 15 different Teamster locals in the 1950s and 1960s. He was a power in the jukebox and coin machine industry for many years, with a well-deserved reputation for vicious cunning and ruthlessness. In a 30-year slant of Joey's life he was arrested 38 times on a variety of charges stemming from armed robbery to murder. Appearing before the Kefauver Committee of the U.S. Senate in 1950, Glimco took the Fifth Amendment 80 times. Proving this was no fluke, Joey clammed up before another committee of note - the Senate McClellan Committee, citing his Fifth Amendment privileges 152 times.

Stein's association with the diminutive and now deceased Glimco is well-documented. The U.S. Government indicted the janitor king in 1964 after it was revealed that he rewarded Glimco with a television set. Free airline tickets were given to Edward "Red" Donovan of Local 755 of the Teamster's Union, and a health club membership was purchased for Harold Hawkins, business agent of Local 25 of

the Janitor's Union. Judge Richard B. Austin reviewed the evidence and found Stein guilty on six of the 10 counts listed in the indictment, and sentenced him to 18 months in a Federal prison.

Stein remained steadfastly silent and fiercely loyal to his pal Glimco throughout his court battle with the Feds. Wisely so. He rejected an offer of immunity in return for his testifying against Joey and decided instead to serve his time in Sandstone, Minnesota for violation of the Taft-Hartley laws.

In a published editorial, the Chicago Daily News called Stein a "...gambling fixer, an ex-convict and a recognized figure in hoodlum circles," who "...testified that he got his job as chief of janitors in McCormick Place by sauntering into General Manager Edward Lee's office and offering to help him. Evidence "...showed that Stein's firm received \$1,200,000 while Stein personally received another \$120,000 in fees."

Mr. Neal should have taken note - and exercised proper caution when writing about public figures linked to organized crime operatives. It is important not to downplay the significance of gangster relationships. The "outfit" can only flourish in an environment of passive unconcern. It feeds upon its contacts with the press and the friendship and support of the politicians.

The Chicago Crime Commission, which closely monitored Steins' dealings at McCormick Place back in the late 1960s, recounted his lavish lifestyle in one of their annual reports on organized crime activity in Northeast Illinois. "During the heyday of Stein's regime at McCormick Place he frequently came to work in his private yacht which he docked near the 23rd Street hall," the Commission reported.

Ben Stein emerged from prison unscathed and resumed his mercurial career as the head of United Maintenance Service. In 1980, Stein's company was rewarded with a \$1.27-million dollar contract to perform janitorial work at the Kluczynski Federal Building at the very same time the Feds were allegedly delving into his holdings for improprieties. No-one in the "G" saw anything wrong with the odd arrangements, nor did they seem to mind that Stein's work crews had access to top secret areas within the building. United Maintenance work performance was deemed "satisfactory."

The high-living Stein jetted around the country with his favorite baseball team, the Cubs, and was feted by the Variety Club of Chicago. Benny was a real man about town, who boasted of his humble beginnings. He liked to say he "pulled himself up from the bootstraps," and "enjoyed" making large contributions to worthwhile causes. Except, that some of his business practices and choice of personal associates were highly questionable and the large cash "endowments" were not given without receiving something in return - in this case, prestige, social status, and image to help cover up Stein's more unsavory associations.

In the mid-1970s for example, Stein and Dominic Senese, the mobbed-up boss of Teamster's Local 703 dipped into the pension fund of Local 710 for several million dollars which they used to invest in the boarded-up, soon to be demolished Sherman House Hotel in order to provide a tax shelter that allowed them to pay no federal income taxes between 1970-1973. The site was later sold to the State of Illinois for development as a government office building. The James R. Thompson center today stands on Ben's cash-fertile grounds.

Once again Stein profited from his association with Glimco. In the 1950s, Senese was a labor "slugger" and an underling to Glimco at the Fulton Street Market.

Rick Simon also profited from his ventures with Stein, whose various cleaning corporations contributed heavily toward James O'Grady's campaign for Cook County Sheriff in 1986. Shortly after "Jimmy the Reformer" was swept into office, County Republican Chairman Jim "the Bohemian" Dvorak added Simon to the Sheriff's payroll as a supervisor of part-time deputies. He was the perfect addition to an administration heavily tainted by the influence of organized crime, political chicanery, and ghost payrollers. Simon, quizzed by the Feds concerning several unsolved gangland hits, has been linked to the S.O.A. management team, the private security firm once spearheaded by the tainted O'Grady.

It would be interesting to hear what Simon has to say about several notorious gangland hits including Philip Goodman, a 73-year-old gambler and outfit "wannabee" who was found murdered at the Admiral Oasis Hotel in Morton Grove some years back. Philly was a fringe player - an associate of Tony "the Ant" Spilotro, who found employment in Las Vegas as a casino host at the Stardust.

Goodman was savagely beaten to death. The severity of the crime left no doubt that this was a pre-meditated mob hit. The motive for the crime was quickly established. Goodman had been a secret informant for the Chicago Police Department's gambling unit. The information he supplied led to the arrest of Lenny Patrick, boss of the North Side gambling and bookmaking rackets. His murder was seen as retribution for the trouble caused the aging Patrick, Philly's former friend and mentor. Regarding the Karen Koppel case, Simon simply refused to testify before the grand jury investigating the disappearance on the advice of his attorney. And that was that.

Ben Stein enjoyed his twilight years in the company of his old friends and new found respectability. His money bankrolled several posh Gold Coast restaurants including the Acorn On Oak. United Maintenance is under the direction of Ricky Simon, reportedly still on leave from the Chicago Police Department. .

The Variety Club's "Standing Tall Award" bestowed upon Stein in 1987 - nine years before his death at age 82 in 1996 - is a gentle reminder that money can indeed give one social status, protection, and political clout. Karen Lee Koppel might still be around today if only she possessed but one of these attributes - in abundance.

And How Does O'Grady Explain His Past?