

# **EXHIBIT 23**

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U.S.

# Myles J. Ambrose, Nixon Drug Czar, D.E.A. Midwife, Dies at 87

By PAUL VITELLO JUNE 9, 2014

Myles J. Ambrose, who was President Richard M. Nixon's first drug czar, but who resigned before he could take the helm of the new government arm he had helped shepherd into being, the Drug Enforcement Administration, died on June 3 in Leesburg, Va. He was 87.

The cause appeared to be a heart attack, his daughter Elise Ambrose said.

Mr. Ambrose, a New York lawyer, had been executive director of the Waterfront Commission of New York Harbor, a top Treasury Department official and head of the United States Customs Bureau when Nixon named him in early 1972 to lead the White House Office of Drug-Abuse Law Enforcement, the precursor to the D.E.A.

Nixon established the office to overcome bureaucratic gridlock in the fight against illegal drugs and, by most accounts, to expedite his vaunted war on crime as he sought re-election.

Mr. Ambrose's job, as Nixon's special drug adviser and assistant attorney general in charge of drug prosecution, was to form a pilot program from

competing pieces of government departments and agencies — the Justice, Treasury and State Departments, the Coast Guard, the C.I.A. and the F.B.I. — to “drive drug traffickers and drug pushers off the streets” with a unified approach, Nixon said.

“I hate to rob the Customs Bureau for this purpose,” Nixon said in announcing the appointment, “but Mr. Ambrose is the man who has demonstrated he can handle this problem.”

As Customs commissioner, Mr. Ambrose had run Operation Intercept, a mass monthlong pat-down and vehicle search at the Mexican border in 1969. The effort was criticized for hurting businesses on both sides of the border and damaging relations with Mexico. The administration considered it successful for signaling a new American resolve.

Pointing to Mr. Ambrose, who stood beside him during the announcement, Nixon added awkwardly: “Well, you have your orders. And don’t come back until you’ve done something.”

Mr. Ambrose’s agency, working with local law enforcement, targeted street-level traffickers in hundreds of undercover buy-and-bust operations, some of them successful and some of them criticized for subjecting innocent citizens to illegal raids.

The agency also funded one of the first nationwide methadone treatment programs for addicts and set up heroin hotlines for reporting information to the police.

Nixon considered the project a spectacular success. Based on a proposal written by Mr. Ambrose, he asked Congress in March 1973 to make the agency permanent as the Drug Enforcement Administration, an arm of the Justice Department. Mr. Ambrose was to be its first administrator.

But without official explanation, Mr. Ambrose resigned, in June 1973, before he could take the post. Elise Ambrose said her father, with a wife and six

children, wanted to return to private practice to earn more money. Historians have portrayed his quitting in part as fallout from a turf battle between the Customs Bureau and the Justice Department over drug-law enforcement. The job went instead to John Bartels, Mr. Ambrose's deputy.

Douglas Valentine, author of "The Strength of the Wolf: The Secret History of America's War on Drugs" (2004), said in an interview on Friday that Mr. Ambrose had been tainted by news reports about a visit he made as Customs commissioner in 1971 to the home of a Texas banker who was the target of a weapons-for-heroin smuggling investigation. Mr. Ambrose said he had gone to the banker's ranch to attend a Christmas party and had been unaware of the investigation.

Mr. Ambrose was widely criticized for his response to reports of drug raids at the homes of innocent people. While promising to minimize such mistakes, he said: "Drug people are the very vermin of humanity. They are dangerous. Occasionally we must adopt their dress and tactics."

Myles Joseph Ambrose was born in the Bronx on July 21, 1926, a son of Arthur Ambrose, a Wall Street stockbroker, and Ann Campbell Ambrose, who had a professional singing career before she was married. He graduated from the New Hampton School in New Hampshire; Manhattan College, where he majored in business administration; and New York Law School.

He was an assistant United States attorney for the Southern District of New York from 1954 to 1957, when he was named chief coordinator of law enforcement for the Treasury Department.

In an interview for Mr. Valentine's book, Mr. Ambrose alluded with dark humor to the longstanding turf warfare between the Treasury and Justice Departments. Referring to Treasury agents — in Customs, the Secret Service, the I.R.S. — he said: "I tried to explain to these guys who the enemy was. That the enemy was the F.B.I., not each other."

After leaving government he practiced law in Washington and lived in

Leesburg.

Besides Elise, he is survived by two other daughters, Nora Ambrose and Kathleen Ambrose; three sons, Myles, Kevin and Christopher; his wife, Lorraine; a half brother, Charles Schunk; and 17 grandchildren. His first wife, Elaine Miller Ambrose, the children's mother, died in 1975.

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