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PASSPORT APPEALS BOARD IN STATE DEPT.,
AUTHORIZED IN '52, READY TO OPERATE

Members picked 17 months after board authorized and rules of procedure now drafted but no cases have yet been handled. Any person Department considers Communist, fellow traveler, or dominated by Communist party will be denied passport.

Washington (AP) — The State Department's new Board of Passport Appeals, set up to protect Americans deemed loyal while denying passports to suspected subversives, is building a docket but so far has decided no cases.

Disclosing this last night, State Department officials declined on security grounds to go any further beyond what already has been made public about the agency.

It was authorized on Aug. 28, 1952, by the then Secretary of State, Dean Acheson. However, no members were named to the board until last Dec. 23 and it was not until Jan. 9 that it adopted its rules and procedure.

Under the regulations, no Communist or fellow traveler or any persons considered likely to violate U. S. laws may be issued a passport. Passport applicants who are turned down are entitled to a hearing by the Passport Division, the Appeals Board and ultimately the Secretary of State.

Creation of the board followed statements by Sen. Morse (Ind.-Ore.) and some other Congress members that persons falsely accused of communism had no recourse to a hearing in which to defend themselves.

Authorization of the board called for at least three members. Secretary of State Dulles last month named Thruston B. Morton, his assistant for Congressional Relations as chairman, and John W. Sipes as counselor.

[para.] The names of the other board members were withheld officials said. This police [sic] is based on the assumption that if they were known they might be subject to undue pressure.

Department officials, asked how many appeals the board had handled to date, said the board had had little time to do much except get organized. However, they said some appeals have been made and docketed for hearing.

These officials declined to say how many cases have been filed, but it was recalled that in 1951, the year before authorization of the board, the department reported issuance of 350,000 passports with 90 applicants being turned down.

Under the board's regulation, no persons who says he is a Communist will be granted a passport. Nor will passports be issued to ex-members of the Communist party who are believed by the department, to be furthering its interest or to persons dominated by the party even though they have no formal affiliation.

If turned down ^{by} the Passport Division, an applicant must be told why in writing. He can then seek an appeal.

The board, in regulations adopted Jan. 9, prescribed private hearings, conducted "in such manner as to protect from disclosure information affecting the national security or tending to disclose or compromise investigative sources or methods."

Any applicant or attorney "guilty of misbehavior...may be excluded from further participation in the hearing."