

SECURITY RULE HIT BY HOUSE MEMBER

Sieminski Assails Challenge to Loyalty of
Persons With Relatives in Red Lands

Representative Alfred D. Sieminski, Democrat of Jersey City, N. J., has threatened to kill anyone who suggested his loyalty might be questionable because his stepdaughter was behind the Iron Curtain for seven years until she broke out on Christmas Day, 1953.

The dramatic story was disclosed in part today in published hearings of the House Appropriations subcommittee that dealt with the Treasury Department bill. How she escaped will never be told, Mr. Sieminski said.

Representative Sieminski, who was elected to Congress while on active duty in Korea, charged that President Eisenhower's current security order was "vicious, totalitarian, un-American."

The dispute arose after Elbert P. Tuttle of Georgia, the Treasury Department general counsel, said that one of the reasons for separating a man from the Government service as a "security risk" might be the fact that he had relatives abroad, behind the Iron Curtain, upon whom pressure might be brought.

"A man may be a rugged individual and never intend to give in, but he may have a mother behind the Iron Curtain, and it would be a terrible thing to say that person is a security risk because of a subversive contact," Mr. Tuttle told the committee. "That is why we do not break these down as to subversives and others, although in such a case it is a subversive contact that may ultimately make him dangerous."

Stepdaughter Was in Poland

Mr. Tuttle little knew what he was walking into as he explained this to a committee of which Mr. Sieminski was a member.

"For the last seven years I had a stepdaughter behind the Iron Curtain," the New Jersey Representative said. "She broke out this Christmas. Am I to understand by this Executive Order that I have been disloyal to the United States? * * *

"This order as is should be wiped off the books of the United States. I think it vicious, totalitarian, un-American. It shoots from the hip, puts a man out of Government service, classifies him disloyal for nothing over which he has control, puts others in judgment of his heart, conscience and oath. That's un-American."

Representative Sieminski insisted that the Presidential order, if carried to extreme, also would have barred Gen. James A. Van Fleet from continued command of the Eighth Army after his aviator son had crashed behind enemy lines in North Korea. The son now is presumed dead, but for a long time it was believed he might have been a prisoner of the Communists.

Disagrees With Sieminski

Mr. Tuttle interjected that the Executive Order said nothing such as Mr. Sieminski had just stated.

"The implications are there," Mr. Sieminski continued, "and I am telling you if anybody says that because I had a stepdaughter behind the Iron Curtain I was a disloyal Congressman, that I was a traitor, I challenge him to make that charge and expect to get out of this room alive.

"Liberty is life, and no man is going to make that charge against me and leave here on his feet. If anybody makes that charge against me and expects to live after he makes it, he had better have the cops here. I say that for the record."

Mr. Tuttle said that, of course, he had not suggested anything of the sort about Mr. Sieminski.

Mr. Sieminski, a 44-year-old Princeton graduate, told reporters later that he had met his wife in Vienna after World War II while serving on occupation duty in Austria.

She had been married previously, and had one child, Isabella, in Poland, and a second, Christine, in England. After their marriage, the Sieminskis were able to bring Christine to this country, but they were unable until Christmas last year to get Isabella out of Poland.