

Marshall Plans Study of Ouster Of 7 as 'Risks'

Counsel for Discharged Employees Pushes Fight for a 'Real' Hearing

By Bert Andrews

WASHINGTON, Nov. 12.— Secretary of State George C. Marshall said today that the State Department will "study" the enigma presented by the cases of seven dismissed employees whose only present chances of "appeal" lie with one body which has no legal jurisdiction over the cases or another which has no authority to order their reinstatement.

Secretary Marshall's statement was made at a press conference at which he was asked five questions about the now famous issue growing out of the fact that the seven were fired as "potential security risks" without ever being told the nature of the charges against them.

His promise of a "study" was followed by indications that the firm of Arnold, Fortas & Porter, which is representing the seven without fee because it believes the civil rights of the men have been violated, will again demand of Secretary Marshall that the men be granted a "real" State Department hearing and allowed to resign without prejudice.

The first question on the subject at Secretary Marshall's press session was:

"Last week you said the department would make available to the Civil Service Commission or the new loyalty review board the department's files with respect to any of the employees appealing to those bodies. But you left the

Secretary Marshall replied that that would be a matter between the commission and the F. B. I. He said that the F. B. I. had original copies of all its information in its own files. He said the questioner must remember that he, the Secretary, did not say last week that all the material not under the State Department's clearance control came from the F. B. I.

"Did it come from the Army or Navy?" a reporter asked.

Secretary Marshall's attention was caught by another question on another topic and he did not answer the one about the Army or Navy.

"The loyalty review board appears to have no jurisdiction in the cases of the dismissed State Department men and the Civil Service Commission does not have the power to reinstate them," another reporter said. "Is it fair procedure, then, to submit their cases only to those bodies?"

Secretary Marshall replied in these words—We will study the matter.

"You mean there will be a reconsideration of these cases in the light of the limitations of the commission and the board?" a reporter asked.

Secretary Marshall said that no, he did not say the cases would be reconsidered. He said he would tell department officials what the reporter had said about the limitations on the commission and the board, and would have a study made of the matter. He said that after all, it was not just a question of the dismissed men, but how far the matter went. Presumably he

was implying that in his opinion the case might have ramifications extending beyond the men.

The reason the loyalty review board has no jurisdiction in the case of the dismissed State Department employees is that they lost their jobs before Oct. 1, 1947, and the board is empowered to hear the appeals only of those persons dismissed since that date.

"Do you expect to talk person-