

State Dept.'s New Loyalty Order Allows 7 to Resign

Position Reversed To Avoid Any Possible Injustice, It Is Explained

By Dillard Stokes

Post Reporter

The State Department last night backed down on the firing without a trial of seven aides whose loyalty was said to be in question.

Now the seven are free to quit their jobs with nothing in the record against them—which is what they have been fighting for since July.

A department statement said this was allowed to avoid any possible injustice to the seven, and promised to see that from now on those who may be accused get the right to appeal to the Loyalty Review Board.

The statement also explained that "inasmuch as the only remedy presently available to them (that of obtaining clearance for employment elsewhere in the Federal Government) is not effective because they do not intend to seek such employment, the department has concluded that in order to avoid a possible injustice to them, they should be permitted to resign without prejudice."

Outline of Case

The department began "loyalty" sifts of its staff last summer, and in July fired 10 record clerks and radio editors. A week later, Secretary of State Marshall said there was evidence some of the 10 had indirect contacts with foreign agents.

Upon review, three of those fired were allowed to resign, but on the other seven the department stood pat, refusing to let them quit, to give them a trial or to tell them what they were charged with.

The seven said the department was giving them a bad name among those who might have hired them. Their lawyers, Thurman Arnold, former justice of the United States Court of Appeals here, former Interior Undersecretary, Abe Fortas and former OPA Administrator Paul Porter, claimed the department was telling people it had a reasonable doubt that the seven were good security risks.

Change in Marshall Stand

A week before last, Secretary Marshall stood pat on the firing, saying the men could not be given hearings because they could not be told what they were charged with. They could not be told, he said, because the evidence was secret, and the secret was that of some other Government agency.

The next statement bearing on the case came from President Truman, who said last Saturday that he meant the civil rights of Government workers to be respected during the "loyalty" sifts.

The State Department's about-face yesterday was seen as a result of Mr. Truman's statement.

*Re: Employees Dismissed
by State Dept.*

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