

Post 11/25/72

Post Office Is Probing Security Unit

The American Security Council, a conservative organization, is under investigation for possible misuse of a low-cost mailing privilege.

A Post Office Department spokesman said yesterday that his agency "has reason to believe" that the council violated postal regulations.

At issue is the mailing of about 1.5 million circulars sent out by the council during the election campaign. The circulars praised and damned congressional candidates depending on whether they supported or opposed outlays for weapons systems and investigations of "subversives."

Some of the circulars were mailed under a special rate given to non-profit educational institutions. The council has never applied for such a rate, but its allied organization, the Institute for American Strategy, received a low-cost mailing permit last September.

The reduced rate enables a permit holder to send out literature in bulk for 11 cents a pound or 1.6 cents for each piece. The regular bulk rate is 22 cents a pound or 3.8 cents each for the first 250,000 pieces and 4 cents thereafter.

If the council is found to have used the institute's permit improperly, it is liable for the difference in postal charges. This could be as much as \$35,000. Should the council wilfully misused the privilege, the institute could lose its permit.