

# House Ethics Panel Takes Rosy View

By Jack Anderson

From the Olympian heights of Capitol Hill, amid rose-tinted clouds, the House Ethics Committee has been viewing congressional conduct and admiring the view. The Committee has followed the stern admonition of Speaker John McCormack not to lift any rugs nor open any closet doors.



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At one session, Rep. Charles Halleck (R-Ind.) declared loftily that the American people have a high opinion of Congress. The other Committee members happily chorused their agreement.

All the while, the House Post Office Committee was knuckling under the lobbyists who wanted higher pay for postal workers and lower rates for the big mail-order houses. Jerome Keating, the letter carriers boss, boasted to Rep. Morris Udall (D-Ariz.) that he would dictate the postal pay bill. Postal lobbyist Don Kerlin was spotted emerging from a closed session of the Committee that was writing postal legislation. And Rep. Thaddeus Dulski (D-N.Y.) was caught taking testimonial dinner contributions from postal lobbyists.

An unsettling number of

Congressmen have been responsive to overtures and campaign contributions—from lobbyists. Across the street from the House, some Congressmen play poker with lobbyists (though gambling is against the law in the District of Columbia). It would be interesting to know who wins most of the pots.

In gold-papered Suite 512, kept by a number of labor lobbyists, such Congressmen as Joe Pool (D-Tex.), Dominick Daniels (D-N.J.) and Robert Giaimo (D-Conn), play regularly. However, insiders swear that the game has a \$2 limit and that Congressmen often lose to the lobbyists. Some members of the House Merchant Marine Committee reportedly have been more lucky.

Most House members are attorneys with their own law firms. Often they represent clients with considerable interest in what Congress can do for them.

During the summer vacation, dozens of Congressmen took off on "fly now, pay never" junkets at the taxpayers' expense. Dozens more keep relatives on the Government payroll; others have learned how to squeeze the green ink out of the taxpayers' dollars through the various congressional allowances.

Finally, more than 80 percent of the members deposit their money in a Swiss-style

bank which the House maintains for them. A reported \$1 million is now on deposit, and no one's account can be examined, not even by the Justice Department, without the consent of the House.

## KGB Blunder

The Soviet secret police, in their handling of the whole Svetlana Alliluyeva affair, have blundered badly.

As our own intelligence has pieced together the story, the defection of Stalin's daughter caused a crisis inside the KGB (secret police). Premier Alexei Kosygin, who had authorized her trip to India, lost face. But it was the secret police who were blamed for letting her slip away.

Fearing the worst, they concluded that her flight from communism had been arranged by the Central Intelligence Agency to embarrass the Soviet Union. The announcement that her memoirs would be published on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the Russian Revolution helped to persuade them that it was all an elaborate CIA plot.

Apparently, the secret police expected the CIA to doctor her memoirs and turn them into a propaganda document. The purpose, in their conspiratorial view, would be to discredit the Communist revolution.

They tried to thwart this, first, by destroying Svetlana's credibility. No less than Pre-

mier Kosygin, perhaps mindful of the personal embarrassment her defection had caused him, called her "sick" and "morally unstable."

To take the bloom off Svetlana's book, the Russians also rushed out their own translation of her manuscript. Victor Louis, a Soviet journalist, tried to peddle it to Western publishers.

As it turned out, the manuscript hadn't been doctored at all and she had kept scrupulously away from politics. Her recollections of her father were strictly personal and were probably less harsh than the official Soviet line.

Thus, all the secret police accomplished was to focus more attention on Svetlana's defection, itself an embarrassment. For she was a Communist celebrity, fondly remembered in Russia as "Setanochka," the lovable little girl who had been raised in the Kremlin.

Svetlana has complained that the Soviet translation contains material she never wrote, and Victor Louis has charged that she omitted some passages from the version she submitted to her publishers.

The CIA has obtained copies of the Soviet translation and, except for differences in translation and perhaps a little additional material in the Soviet version, neither the CIA nor the KGB appears to have tampered much with the manuscript.